

**CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Cook called the Special Meeting to order at 5:41 p.m.

**COUNCIL PRESENT** The following members of the Board were present: Mayor Virginia Cook, Council Members Brenda Banks, Wendell Hildebrand, Jamie Hollowell, Barbara Lowman and Lee Lowman.

**STAFF PRESENT** The following staff members were present: Finance Officer Fredrick Rankins, Town Clerk Alice Sanders and Administrative Assistant Rebecah Isenhour. Attorney Redmond Dill arrived at 6:11 p.m.

**CITIZENS PRESENT** See attached list.

**MEDIA** No media attended the meeting.

**OPEN SPECIAL MEETING** Mayor Cook opened the Special Meeting at 5:41 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** Council Member Hildebrand made a motion to adopt the agenda. All voted in favor.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:  
FUTURE PROJECTS  
AND PLANS FOR  
THE TOWN**

Council Member L. Lowman stated that he would like to discuss projects and plans for the Town within the next two to four years. The first item of discussion was the Town Hall facilities. Council Member L. Lowman stated that he and Council Member B. Lowman recently toured the facilities and he would like to renovate the upstairs of the current Town Hall building. He suggested after making the renovations, moving Communication Workers of America (CWA), who currently rents a room on the ground floor of Town Hall, upstairs and then making four offices in the room. He mentioned that he was told that HHDA might be willing to help with the renovations.

Council Member L. Lowman discussed the old school building located beside the Town Hall building. He stated that in his opinion, he felt that it would cost the Town too much money to try to renovate the building and stated it was a safety and fire hazard.

Council Member Hollowell requested that the Town acquire a quote to demolish the old school building and a quote to renovate the building in order for a decision to be made. Mayor Cook stated that she had gotten a bid to demolish the building and the cost was \$300,000. Mr. Hollowell requested hard copy bids for both scenarios. It was suggested to contact Hickory Construction, Moss Marlow and Lail Builders for quotes.

Council Member Banks suggested the Town build an exercise facility.

Mayor Cook stated that she is working on obtaining grant money to either demolish or renovate the old school building.

Council Member Banks asked about the current situation with the bats. Council Member Hollowell stated that there are bats entering the auditorium chimney. Mayor Cook stated there are bats upstairs at the Town Hall office. Mayor Cook suggested waiting until all three buildings can be addressed at the same time to prevent moving bats from one building to another.

Council Member Hollowell stated that he would like to look for grant money to put a senior center and youth center at the concession stand building at the back of Town Hall at the ball fields. He stated he would like to see a community center in that building. He suggested a partnership with the County to help fund the facility.

Mayor Cook stated that she met with the Burke County Manager and one of the Commissioners in response to the East Burke Senior Center Association, Inc.'s (EBSCAI) request that the Town donate \$50,000 to purchase property in Town for a new Senior Center. She stated that she was informed by the Commissioner that if the EBSCAI purchased property in the Town limits, the County may not use that land for a new senior center. Mayor Cook asked Bryan Steen about starting an activity building at the current concession stand building. She stated that the County is saving \$250,000 each year for the senior center and library project. She stated that Mr. Steen and the Commissioner asked if the Town would be willing to work together on this project. She informed them that she felt the Council is willing as long as the Town has the property available.

Council Member Hollowell stated that Bert Smith informed him that he would be able to bring in more ball tournaments to the ball fields but needs a better facility with restrooms. Mayor Cook stated that the Town needs to work with the School Board as well since they own the ball fields. She stated that she has contacted Mike Stroupe with the Burke County School System to repair shingle tiles on the dugouts and the fences as well as other minor repairs at the ball fields. Mr. Hollowell stated he would like to see a building that youth and seniors can use year round.

Attorney Dill suggested Council appoint a small committee to work with the County Commissioners on this project keeping the EBSCAI involved and informed. Council Members Hollowell and B. Lowman, along with Mayor Cook, volunteered to be on the committee.

Council requested Attorney Dill to respond to the EBSCAI at the Council meeting that night.

Administrative Assistant Isenhour polled Council regarding participation at the Christmas parade which will be held on December 6, 2014. Three members and the Mayor will be available and it was the consensus to ride in vehicles which Ms. Isenhour will acquire.

Council Member Hollowell informed Council that all proceeds from the parade is donated to the Children’s Burn Center. It was the consensus of Council to donate \$200 to the Hildebran Fire Department.

Christmas Light decorations to be placed on the power poles were also discussed. It was the consensus of Council for Ms. Isenhour to provide a handout with examples of lit decorations, wreaths and banners. Mayor Cook stated that the routes for hanging lights need to be reviewed for next year.

Ms. Isenhour informed Council that the Town would like to show a movie in the auditorium on October 25, 2014 for Halloween at no charge. Ms. Isenhour stated that kids can come with costumes and water, popcorn and candy will be provided. She stated she will try to get the projector and screen at no cost. Mr. Hollowell will be able to provide a popcorn machine at no cost. Mayor Cook stated that all the funds budgeted for events in the auditorium for the year have been used and Council agreed to provide the necessary funding to support the movie function, if needed. The estimated costs would be \$500-\$600. Mr. L. Lowman requested Ms. Isenhour to contact the area churches to see if the movie event would be competing with church Halloween events. It was suggested to contact the local churches and schools for advertising.

Ms. Isenhour and Mayor Cook suggested providing the auditorium at no charge for local churches to combine choirs for a Christmas cantata. Ms. Isenhour and Council members will contact local choir directors. Mr. Hollowell suggested contacting Bruce Long Orchestra.

ANNOUNCEMENTS None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT All business being concluded, Mayor Cook closed the Special Meeting and Council Member Banks made a motion to adjourn at 6:58 p.m. All voted in favor.

I attest these are the approved minutes of the Board.

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Alice Sanders, Town Clerk

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Virginia Cook, Mayor