

## **Minutes Regular Monthly Meeting December 8, 2014 at 7:30 PM**

Mayor Horace Reid called the meeting to order. Commissioners present were Carlton Davenport, Mayor Pro Tem Lillian Holman, Ed Lane and Sid Eley. Others present were Brandon Shoaf, Cindy Sharber, Elsie Wilson, Sara Winslow, Fran Ownley, Pam Hurdle, Jeff Best, Drew Woodard, Peter Williams, Ed Muzzulin, and Nancy Theodore.

Mayor Reid led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a moment of silent prayer.

Motion by Carlton Davenport and seconded by Sid Eley, and passed 5-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Carlton Davenport, and passed 5-0 to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2014 regular meeting as presented.

### **Schedule Business Appointments**

Jeff Best with Carr, Riggs and Ingram presented the 2013-2014 audit.

Sid Eley said that even though we have a significant fund balance a hurricane such as Isabel could wipe that out.

Motion by Carlton Davenport and seconded by Lillian Holman, and passed 5-0 to accept and approve the Audit for 2013-2014 as presented.

### **Administrative Concerns**

On behalf of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce Sid Eley wanted to thank the town employees for getting everything ready and cleaned up before and after the events on Friday and Saturday.

On behalf of the downtown beautification committee Lillian Holman wanted to emphasize thanks to the town employees also.

Mayor Reid thank all that made the events a success. Mayor Reid said at the Road Side Cemetery on Edenton Road Street has a grave that sits out front that has a section missing.

Brandon Shoaf said he would get the grave fixed tomorrow.

Ed Lane said he and Brandon Shoaf had talked about getting the retention pond on Edenton Road Street mowed. He thanked Jeff Best for coming to their work session and reviewing the audit details with council. He asked Brandon Shoaf when the paving/patching will begin.

Brandon Shoaf said they would be paving/patching this this week if the weather permits.

### **Citizens Concern**

Elsie Wilson was concerned about getting the retention pond cut in front of her house. She said she has seen snakes, snapping turtles and rats. Brandon Shoaf said he had spoken with the owner and it would be cut after Wednesday.

Nancy Theodore read the following and asked to have it added to the official minutes:

*I wrote to each of you recently about the bridge project and hopefully you read Peter Williams article in the Perquimans Weekly.*

**Alternative D-Mod** – *The State Historic Preservation Office has determined that Alternative D-Mod will have an adverse effect on the Historic District itself, not just the historic bridge. NCDOT doesn't seem to care about this, but I'm sure you do.*

**Alternative B** – *It's now very clear that NCDOT was never serious about this as a real option. They never intended to go with Alternative B because of the high cost of construction and the high ongoing maintenance cost. Also, the State Historic Preservation Office has determined that Alternative B will also have an adverse effect on the Historic District itself.*

**This leave Alternative E** – *Much has been said about the need to keep traffic coming down Church Street and the Alternative E would hurt businesses in the downtown area and increase traffic on Edenton Road Street.*

**Who is actually using the S-bridge right now?**

- **Folks headed to Elizabeth City for work, shopping, etc.:** *This includes everyone in Hertford proper and everyone who lives west of town along Center Hill Highway. If you are headed north, you have to go up North Church Street and cross the S-bridge. But for everyone living west of Covent Garden, Alternative E would be a more direct and shorter route. It would save time and gas for half the town.*
- **Buses and parents traveling between Hertford and Winfall to the schools:** *For vehicles crossing the river to go to the high school and the grammar school, Alternative E would be the more direct and shortest route, saving time and gas.*
- **North county residents and others coming into Hertford to conduct business at the County offices, to shop, go to the library, go to church, patronize businesses, or use the boat ramp:** *They will still come into Hertford, no matter where the bridge is.*
- **Personal and business vehicles traveling from north county to head west out Center Hill Highway toward Highway 32:** *They also will come through Hertford no matter where the bridge is, but Alternative E would provide a quicker, easier route.*
- **Belvidere and Winfall residents who cut through Hertford rather than going out Wiggins Road or Creek Drive to head south on Highway 17 Bypass.** *This is drive-through traffic heading to Edenton or other points south.*
- **Visitors who have no connections to Hertford and are simply sightseeing:** *Alternative E will not prevent these visitors from coming to the Downtown area. It would only be a ½ mile detour to get to Church Street. Attractive signage, like that used in other towns, could be used to direct visitors down W. Grubb Street to the Historic District and the Historic Downtown area.*

**Where is the Protected Increase in Traffic on Edenton Road Street Coming From?**

*I just gave you a breakdown of who is using the S-Bridge. If you bring the bridge in at the Harris Shopping Center, how will that generate more traffic past the high school? You will still have buses and parents on Edenton Road Street, but all the people going to the Historic District, the downtown area, the*

*County Offices, Don Juan Road, or out Center Hill Highway will all come off the bridge and turn at Grubb Street.*

*If you look at the traffic projections from NCDOT, the key to determining the projected increase in traffic past the high school is the change in the number of vehicles coming from the south off of Highway 17 Bypass. NCDOT projected that 600 vehicles would turn off of Highway 17 Bypass onto Edenton Road Street under Alternative E, instead of continuing north on Highway 17 Bypass and turning off onto South Church Street under Alternative D-Mod and Alternative B. So, under Alternative E we would have a change of 600 vehicles traveling up and down Edenton Road Street that would have traveled up and down Church Street under Alternative D-Mod or Alternative B. Of those vehicles, NCDOT projects 100 vehicles would turn off onto Dobbs Street, so that would mean a decrease of 500 vehicles on Church Street between Grubb and Dobbs Streets under Alternative E.*

*Now, who would be traveling up and down the length of Edenton Road Street under Alternative E, instead of traveling up and down Church Street? Highway 17 Business is not a short cut. The only group that would make this change as a result of Alternative E is the group from Belvidere and Winfall who are cutting through Hertford to go south. Remember, this is primarily drive-through traffic. We know that any residents of Belvidere, Winfall, or other north county areas who do business in Hertford will continue to do business in Hertford.*

*So, please don't let the NCDOT numbers mislead you. If you think about it and look at the current traffic patterns, you'll see that Alternative E would not take business away from the downtown area.*

### **Continued Business**

Brandon Shoaf said that work is still being done on the next two agenda items and hopefully will be ready for the January meeting.

Commercial Minimum Standards

Historic Hertford Inc. – Missing Mill Park Building.

### **New Business**

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Carlton Davenport, and passed 5-0 to accept the recommendation of the Hertford Fire Department members to appoint Drew Woodard as Fire Chief for 2015.

Motion by Ed Lane and seconded by Carlton Davenport, and passed 4-0 to appoint Mayor Horace Reid to the Chamber of Commerce Board. Sid Eley asked to be excused from voting because of being the Chamber director.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Lillian Holman, and passed 5-0 to accept the recommendation of reappointment of Joe Towe White, Jr. to the Planning Board and recommend to the County Board of Commissioners to do the same.

Motion by Carlton Davenport and seconded by Ed Lane, and passed 5-0 to proceed with the Substandard Properties Code Enforcement of 329 King Street and 112 Covent Garden.

Brandon Shoaf presented a copy of Electricities Hertford Performance Indicators showing Hertford's performance and days of outstanding balances of 2010 of 79.2 and for 2013 of 36.5. Brandon pointed

out that we did better than Edenton, Elizabeth City and Belhaven in comparison in outstanding balances owed. He mentioned Belhaven because they have about the same number of customers as Hertford and are roughly the same size.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Lillian Holman, and passed 5-0 to contract with Mr. Pender as a consultant to review NCEMPA/Duke Asset Sale not to exceed a cost of \$5,000 per town.

Mayor Reid presented the November 2014 ABC report showing a 1.12% increase over November 2013.

Motion by Lillian Holman and seconded by Carlton Davenport, and passed 5-0 to order meeting adjourned.