

# **Town of Tyrone Council Minutes**

February 4, 2010

## **Present:**

Mayor Don Rehwaldt  
Councilman Tracy Young  
Councilman Eric Dial  
Councilman Ken Matthews  
Mayor Pro Tem Gloria Furr  
Town Manager Richard Newbern  
Town Attorney Dennis Davenport  
Town Clerk Pamela Megill  
Finance Manager Penny Hunter

## **Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Rehwaldt called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The invocation was given by Pastor Billy Rowe of First Christian Church and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Public Comments**

Mr. Jerry Jacobs, 240 NE Crestwood Road, Tyrone.

Mr. Jacobs stated he had witnessed some workers surveying the road he lives on, and asked if the Town had plans for the road. The Mayor and Public Works Director, Renee' Holt, both stated that the Town had not done the surveying and they had no knowledge of another authority conducting a survey on Crestwood Road.

## **Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Rehwaldt announced that Council Member Dial would be arriving in approximately 15 minutes and requested that New Business be discussed before Old Business.

Council Member Young made a motion to approve the agenda with the following amendments: New Business to be discussed first, followed by the Public Information Session and an additional item to discuss the Employee Handbook. Council Member Matthews seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0.

## **Approval of minutes: January 21, 2010.**

Council Member Young made a motion to approve the minutes. Council Member Furr seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0.

## **PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION:**

There were no presentations or recognition.

## **PUBLIC HEARING:**

There were no public hearings.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 2. Consideration and action on approval of an Inclement Weather policy. *Don Rehwaldt, Mayor***

No comments were made on this item. Council Member Young made a motion to approve the Inclement Weather Policy to be incorporated into the Employee Handbook. Council Member Matthews seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0.

- 3. Consideration of a request for the use of Shamrock Park and waiver of rental fee for the annual “Tyrone Back to School Bash”, to be held on July 31, 2010. *Heather Trompke, Community Outreach Director – Way of Life Community Church***

Heather Trompke stated this would be the third year the Way of Life Community Church has sponsored the “Back to School Bash”, and stated the event would have zero costs to the Town. Council Member Young expressed his appreciation to Heather Trompke and the Way of Life Community Church for organizing the event.

Council Member Young made a motion to grant use of Shamrock Park and waiver of the rental fee for the annual Tyrone Back to School Bash to be held on July 31, 2010. Council Member Matthews seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0.

- 4. Consideration of a request for use of Shamrock Park and waiver of rental fee for the annual Town of Tyrone Easter Egg Hunt, to be held on Saturday, March 27, 2010. *Heather Trompke, Community Outreach Director – Way of Life Community Church***

Heather Trompke stated the Easter Egg Hunt would have zero costs to the Town, and Way of Life Community Church would be sponsoring the event.

Council Member Dial apologized for arriving late to the meeting.

Council Member Young made a motion to grant use of Shamrock Park and waiver of the rental fee for the annual Easter Egg Hunt to be held on March 27, 2010. Council Member Furr seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1. Public Information Session on a proposed agreement between the Town of Tyrone and the Department of Transportation, State of Georgia (GDOT) pertaining to the potential closure of the Valleywood Road railroad crossing. *Richard Newbern, Town Manager***

Mayor Rehwaldt asked for any members of the audience that wished to speak in favor of the proposed agreement between the Georgia Department of Transportation and the Town of Tyrone to step forward. No citizens came forward. Mayor Rehwaldt asked if any members of the audience wished to speak in opposition of the proposed agreement. The following citizens spoke in opposition:

Nancy Caulder, 360 West Crestwood Road, Tyrone

Ms. Caulder stated she had lived on Crestwood Road for a period of two years and was concerned about the increased traffic since GDOT re-paved the road, and suggested the Police Department monitor the amount of motorists speeding and running stop signs. Ms. Caulder was also concerned that property values will decline if the proposed changes are implemented, and stated she was totally opposed to the proposed road.

Kay Williams, 320 West Crestwood Road, Tyrone

Ms. Williams stated that she had a copy of the five year capital improvement plan and the budget stated that there was six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) for the proposed change, and stated it would be two hundred and fifty thousand dollars each year for three years, and did not believe the Town had that amount of money for this proposed change.

Emily Pyron, 748 Senoir Road, Tyrone

Ms. Pyron stated she was a life long resident of Tyrone and stated her property would be affected by the proposed turn lanes, and believed the reconstruction would greatly devalue her property. Ms. Pyron submitted a copy of an e-mail she had sent on January 6, 2010, to Council Member Matthews; in it stating that she was asking Council to vote against the proposed re-routing of East Crestwood Road. The e-mail copy is on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

Daniel Nebergall, 516 Bavarian Drive (not Tyrone resident)

Mr. Nebergall stated he was not a citizen of Tyron, but did know a few people that live on North East Crestwood. Mr. Nebergall stated his major concern was for the property values and making sure that residents were given proper compensation for what their property is really worth.

Steven Mikel, 133 East Crestwood Road, Tyrone

Mr. Mikel asked if the citizens would have a voice after the GDOT presentation. Mayor Rehwaldt assured Mr. Mikel they (the citizens) would be given another opportunity to speak.

Jerry Jacobs, 240 North East Crestwood Road, Tyrone

Mr. Jacobs stated his biggest concern was the budget and to what extent the burden would be placed on the tax payer. Mr. Jacobs also stated his concerns regarding the increased traffic in the area.

Peggy Roberts, 110 North East Crestwood Road, Tyrone

Ms. Roberts stated she had lived in the same house since 1951, and stated she did not think we needed a new road, because she likes it just the way it is.

Reba Curlee, 355 Crestwood Road, Tyrone

Ms. Curlee stated she had lived in her home for 37 years, and stated that she did not want the proposed road because of all the increased traffic, and stated she was very much opposed to the changes.

This concluded the session of citizens speaking in opposition.

Town Manager, Richard Newbern, stated that the Town would continue to review and evaluate the proposed agreement and would be making a decision over the next 30-60 days. Mr. Newbern stated the three options that were being proposed; the first being the closure of Valleywood railroad crossing and the relocation of East Crestwood crossing and the extension of Park Drive. The second, to close only Valleywood railroad crossing and extend Park Drive, but not relocate

East Crestwood crossing, and the third option is to do nothing. Mr. Newbern stated that the project could cost around two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars (\$225,000). Mr. Newbern stated he had spoken with CSX representatives and they indicated that they (CSX) would make no monetary contributions towards this project, but they were willing to donate right-of-way.

Assistant State Utilities Engineer, Mike Bolden, explained in further detail the three options. Mr. Bolden stated he did not believe that traffic volume would increase as a result of the proposed agreement. He also stated that the justification for putting in a turn lane is to make the area safer. Railroad Crossing Program Manager, Mr. Phillips, stated the reason this project was originally initiated was a direct result of the double fatality at the crossing and stated that CSX does have a strong interest in the project. Council Member Dial asked if installing crossing arms was an option. Mr. Phillips stated that the preference for a double track and high speed trains was to close the crossing. Mr. Phillips stated that if the closure could not be achieved the installation of crossing arms would be another option to review.

Mr. David Handley stated he owned property that would be affected by the closure and realignment. Mr. Handley expressed his concerns for public safety should the crossing be closed and the proposed realignment and extension of Park Drive not take place. He stated he believed public safety should be served.

Linda Brown, 160 Regal Oak, Tyrone, stated safety was her main concern for the residents that lived in the duplexes next to the railroad crossing, and thanked the public works department for the constant depositing of gravel on the back road from the duplexes, and said she would like to see an armed crossing at the very least.

Mayor Rehwaldt concluded the Public Information Session, and thanked all participants.

Council Member Young stated that the Employee Handbook had been approved for it to be effective February 1, 2010, and as of yet the handbook has not been distributed to the employees and asked if the date could be extended out. Town Attorney, Dennis Davenport, said the dissemination of the handbook as quickly as possible would be the way to approach the issue. Council Member Young stated that the handbook was still in need of changes to be made.

### **Public Comments**

None.

### **Staff Comments**

Town Manager, Richard Newbern stated that the upgrade of the drainage pipe at Laurel Circle would begin the week of February 9<sup>th</sup>, and stated that the delay was due to the amount of rainfall.

### **Mayor Rehwaldt**

No Comments.

### **Council Comments**

No Comments.

## **Executive Session**

Council Member Matthews made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session for one item of personnel. Council Member Furr seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

Council adjourned into Executive Session at 7:59 p.m.

**Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4 (b) of the Open and Public Meetings Act, Council will meet in Executive Session to deliberate:**

### **1. Personnel**

**Reconvene into open session for possible action resulting from any items posted and legally discussed in Executive Session**

Council Member Dial made a motion to reconvene into regular session. Council Member Matthews seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. The Town Council reconvened into Open Session at 8:30 p.m.

Mayor Rehwaldt announced that Executive Session had been for information purposes only, and no action would be taken.

## **Adjournment**

Council Member Dial made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Matthews seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

The Town Council Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Don Rehwaldt, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pamela J. Megill, Town Clerk

