

Town of Tyrone Council Meeting Minutes

October 21, 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

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Rehwaldt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The invocation was given Mr. Erik Henrickson of Operation Mobilization. The invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Furr made a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Young seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

Approval of Minutes: October 7, 2010 Regular Town Council Meeting

Council Member Matthews made a motion to approve the October 7, 2010 Council meeting minutes. Council Member Dial seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION: None.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Consideration and action on a Transportation Enhancement (TE) Grant Amendment.**
Richard Newbern, Town Manager

Mr. Newbern stated that the Town Council is asked to consider sending a letter of amendment to Moreland Altobelli Associates concerning the Town's existing \$512,000 TE grant project. The Town's cash match for the grant is \$128,000 which is 20% of a total budget of \$640,000. Moreland Altobelli Associates is the engineering firm that Georgia Department of Transportation is using to administer the Ga. DOT TE project. The Town Council needs to decide what projects, if any, they would like to include in a letter of amendment. The Town currently has a federal TE grant of \$512,000 from Georgia DOT to construct a pedestrian path from Handley field, down Handley Road, and then eastward down Tyrone to Julie Road. There have been right-of-way issues with several of the commercial sites along Handley Road, which could cause delays and jeopardize the grant money. There is no "deadline" for use of the TE funds, but Ga. DOT would like to see some movement on this project during 2011. Mr. Newbern presented the Town Council with a list of seven suggested projects that could be included in the letter of amendment. Council Member Dial asked what kind of time table could be expected for work to get underway. Mr. Newbern replied that it could be approximately the summer of 2011; due to awaiting cost estimates, designs, and approval of the projects. This is all part of the process. Mayor Rehwaldt asked if the match money would be funded from the 2011 budget. Mr. Newbern confirmed the match money would have to be included in the FY 2011-12 budget.

Council Member Young made a motion to authorize Town staff to send a letter to Moreland Altobelli Associates to modify our TE grant projects. Council Member Matthews seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

2. Discussion on HB 277 – To amend Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to highways, bridges, and ferries, so as to provide for a short title; *Don Rehwaldt, Mayor*

Mayor Rehwaldt asked for discussion on HB 277, and asked the Council to make it known if they want to consider a future action on this issue in the form of a resolution to send to the Fayette County Commission. Mayor Rehwaldt stated that Marion Wells had requested permission to speak on this item, and introduced him, and invited him to speak at the podium and address the Town Council. Mr. Wells stated he was a Tyrone resident and resident of Fayette County for more than 40 years. Mr. Wells said he was a small business owner and feels he has a vested interest in whether the County remains with ARC (Atlanta Regional Commission) or moves to the Three Rivers Commission. Mr. Wells said he was a member of the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce and wanted to share some insight as to why we should stay with ARC. Mr. Wells said the ARC is not just a planning agency it is also engaged with the Aging Services, Workforce Services, and Transportation Planning. Mr. Wells stated that no decision of this magnitude should be made without consulting with the agencies that work closely with the ARC. The facts and figures need to be studied and we need to learn the ramifications of what could happen through such a change. Mr. Wells stated that 73% of Fayette County residents work outside of the County, and as a result, we are dependent on the roads. Only 5% of Fayette County residents work in the Three Rivers Commission area. When comparing the quality of life between the two commissions we have the highest rate of employment, highest level of educational attainment and the 2008 County census listed 92% of our high school students graduated. If we move to the Three Rivers we would lose \$1.7 million annually. It is critical to remain a part of the ARC, and encourage all elected officials to consider carefully. Mr. Wells concluded by stating that the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce supports remaining with the ARC.

Mr. Bob Reeves, Chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee of the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce addressed the Town Council. Mr. Reeves stated that the facts and figures are listed on the Chamber web site, and encouraged everyone to review the statistics, and thanked Mayor Rehwaldt for giving him the opportunity to address the Town Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Furr stated she was concerned about the Senior Citizen issue and asked Mayor Rehwaldt how pulling out of the ARC and moving to Three Rivers would affect funding the Senior programs. Mayor Rehwaldt stated that Three Rivers also had senior programs and most of the funding comes from State and Federal monies. Council Member Dial stated he believed that the funding would be approximately cut in half for senior programs. Mayor Pro Tem stated that would be devastating. Mayor Pro Tem Furr stated she was also concerned about the Rapid Transit and asked if it would be coming to Fayette County. Mayor Rehwaldt stated that MARTA was 190 million dollars in debt, only 25% of MARTA's revenue comes from the fares, and the remaining 75% comes from Federal, State and Local taxes. Council Member Young stated that those figures were inaccurate, and said he had pulled MARTA's budget for FY 2010 and under revenue 70-75% comes from paying passengers, in addition the 1% sales tax, is for Fulton and Dekalb Counties only. Council Member Young stated there had been no side by side comparisons of ARC and Three Rivers; we do not know what Three Rivers would give us. Council Member Young asked Mayor Rehwaldt if he had asked Three Rivers if they would even accept us. Mayor Rehwaldt responded he had not. Council Member Young stated he believed this was a power play, and stated the median income for Fayette County was around \$85,000 and the counties in the Three Rivers region had a median income of half that figure. Mayor Rehwaldt stated that most of the services provided by ARC would be duplicated by Three Rivers. Council Member Young stated the ARC web site has a wealth of information and the Three Rivers web site has very limited information. Council Member Dial stated that Fayette County received \$642,000 from the ARC for the Workforce Development program in 2010, and stated it was his understanding that figure would be cut to zero. Council Member Dial stated he thought we were talking about huge sums of money that would disappear. Council Member Matthews stated that if we do convert to Three Rivers it would be setting us back monetarily a minimum of at least ten years. Council Member Dial stated appreciation to Mayor Rehwaldt for presenting this item to the Council for discussion and appreciated the time and effort he had put into presenting. Council Member Dial stated that he could not support withdrawing from the ARC.

Mayor Rehwaldt stated it was clear we have a consensus that no one wants to adopt a resolution in support of withdrawing from the ARC, and thanked all Council Members for their participation in the discussion.

3. Consideration and action on lowering the Briarhill subdivision speed limit from 35 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour. *Richard Newbern, Town Manager*

Council Member Matthews recused himself from the dais and discussion of the item. Mayor Rehwaldt stated that Police Chief Perkins was originally going to present this item, but he was not available this evening. Mayor Rehwaldt stated that Chief Perkins was in full agreement of reducing the speed limit, and several residents had requested the speed reduction.

Council Member Young made a motion to lower the Briarhill subdivision speed limit from 35 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour. Council Member Mayor Pro Tem Furr seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0.

4. Consideration and action on setting up an advisory committee for Shamrock Park.
Richard Newbern, Town Manager

Mr. Newbern stated the Council is asked to consider establishing an advisory committee for Shamrock Park in the form of six to eight members that would work towards initiating a master plan and vision for Shamrock Park. The committee members could meet once or twice per month. Mayor Pro Tem Furr stated the Town Council voted to put \$50,000 in a line item for Shamrock Park, and she did not think that any of the money should be spent on a rendering; the money could be used towards getting something actually done at the park. Mr. Newbern stated he had not received any quotes back on how much a rendering would cost. Mayor Pro Tem asked what the plans for the fountain were. Mr. Newbern stated the fountain could be aerated for an approximate cost of \$2,500 or we could purchase a new fountain for approximately \$5,000 - \$5,500.

Council Member Young made a motion for the Town Manager to seek quotes for the purchase of a new fountain for Shamrock Park. Mayor Pro Tem Furr seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

Council Member Young stated he was not opposed to establishing a committee, but thought we should establish rules for the advisory committee. Mr. Newbern stated he could return to the Council with a resolution establishing rules of operation. Mr. Davenport stated it would be helpful to specify the rules of operation, and asked for direction and level of expectation of what Council members would like to see in the resolution.

5. Discussion on setting up an advisory committee for the Centennial Celebration.
Richard Newbern, Town Manager

Mr. Newbern stated the Council is asked to consider establishing a Tyrone Centennial Advisory Committee to assist with planning activities for Tyrone's centennial in August 2011. This could either be a separate group from the Founder's Day committee or an extension of it; this is a point for discussion. Mr. Newbern stated that the Town Clerk had a list of three people who have expressed interest in serving on such a committee. Council Member Dial asked if a staff or citizen would chair the committee. Mr. Newbern stated that could go either way. Council Member Matthews stated he thought the committee should be a sub-committee of the Founder's Day Committee rather than a stand alone committee. Mayor Pro Tem stated she thought a stand alone committee would produce some new ideas from some new people, and stated the committee could have a chair person that would co-ordinate with the Founder's Day committee. Council Member Young stated he would go along with a separate committee as long as they co-ordinate with Founders Day. Mr. Newbern suggested that the committee appointments could be made at the next Town Council meeting, and stated this could be done by way of adopting a resolution. Mr. Davenport stated he would look to the Town Council for direction of how they want the committee to be made up, and draft resolution that captures the requests of the Council members. Mr. Davenport stated the final document could be acted on the second meeting in November.

CONSENT AGENDA: All matters listed under this item are considered to be routine by the Town Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will not be separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered separately.

None.

6. Financial Reports for the months ended July, August and September. *Richard Newbern, Town Manager*

Mr. Newbern stated that the Town Council had been provided with the finance reports for the months ending in July 31, August 31, and September 30. The reports summarize revenue and expenditures for the past quarter. Mr. Newbern stated we are 25% into the new fiscal year. Mr. Newbern stated that effective January 1, a police officer position would be opened, which had purposely been kept vacant for the first six months of the fiscal year to meet budget requirements. Mr. Newbern stated that no cash reserves have been transferred so far.

Public Comments

Mr. John Woody 215 Chimney Springs Drive, Tyrone

Mr. Woody stated he believed the proposed Centennial Advisory Committee should be a separate committee from the Founder's Day committee.

Mayor Rehwaldt

There were no further comments from the Mayor.

Staff Comments

Town Manager, Richard Newbern

- River's Alive is scheduled for Saturday, November 6th at 10:00 a.m. beginning at Town Hall parking lot. All you need to do is show up, and any questions, call Beth Vaughn.
- Christmas Tree lighting ceremony is scheduled for December 3rd in the evening.

Council Comments

Mayor Pro Tem Furr

Requested Mr. Newbern provide additional keys for the lights at the Redwine ball field to staff members or the police department. Mr. Newbern stated he would follow up and establish a protocol for the keys for Redwine Park.

Council Member Matthews

Asked if there had been any further news from the Veterans Park committee, and asked if a letter had been submitted. Mr. Newbern stated they (the committee) had not submitted a letter. Mr. Newbern stated that back in early 2008 the Town Council adopted a motion that allowed the Veterans Park committee to oversee maintenance of the park. Because this was a motion of the Council, the Council can now withdraw that motion if it so chooses, and put the oversight of the maintenance under the Town. The Town can have under its jurisdiction the irrigation system, the plants, location of the flags etc. The non-profit status of the Veterans Park committee is an issue the Town has no control over.

Council Member Matthews made a motion that the Town take over the oversight and maintenance of Veterans Park, effective immediately. Mayor Pro Tem Furr seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Adjournment

Council Member Young made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Matthews seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

The Town Council Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

By: _____
Don Rehwaldt, Mayor

Attest: _____
Pamela J. Megill, Town Clerk

