Town of Mt. Pleasant  
Board of Commissioners  
Regular Town Board Meeting  
May 3, 2010  
7:00 P.M.

Members Present:  Commissioner Eudy, Commissioner Barringer, Commissioner Chapman, Commissioner Eberhardt, Commissioner Burleyson.

Staff Present:  Mayor Troy Barnhardt, Town Administrator Adrian Cox, Vagn Hansen of Benchmark, Assistant Clerk to Board Joy Eudy.

Visitors Present:  Rev. James White, Samantha Moose, Glenn Jones, Jim & Sharon Senecal, Tammy Jones, James Johnson, Mark Rowell, Fire Chief Chris Honeycutt, Public Works Director Dave Fargo, Dennis Testerman.

CALL TO ORDER:  
Mayor Barnhardt called the meeting to order.

QUORUM:  
Mayor Barnhardt stated there was a quorum present.

PUBLIC FORUM:  
Dennis Testerman spoke about a Proclamation of Natural Resources and a Stewardship Festival that will be coming up and the will be celebrating 55 years of service.

CONSENT AGENDA:  
Mayor Barnhardt asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the consent agenda. Commissioner Burleyson said he would like to add to the agenda Habitat Week. Commissioner Burleyson stated that the Counsel Field should be changed to McAllister Field. With those changes made, Mayor Barnhardt entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Eudy made the
motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Eberhardt seconded the motion with all members in favor 5-0.

RECOMMENDED BUDGET:
YEAR 2010-2011:

Town Administrator Adrian Cox gave a brief presentation on the Recommended Budget for the year of 2010-2011. He stated that a 5.3% decrease from the Budget adopted on June 30, 2009. This decrease is due to an decline in state collected revenues, which are tied to consumer spending and some reduction in property tax collection rates.

Town Administrator Adrian Cox said there were many changes in personnel expenses this coming year, but the operations of the Town are not expected to change dramatically in the coming year.

Town Administrator Adrian Cox said a Capital improvement plan was included with last year’s budget. Unforeseen expenses have lead to a complete revision of this plan. To support this plan he said he recommended the use of a Capital Reserve Fund as a savings mechanism for service critical expenses. This will ensure that service critical capital is not neglected. Adrian Cox said the capital improvement plan, and reserve funds are explained in further detail within the Budget Document.

We will need to replace two HVAC units, equipment for snow removal and leaf collection, pump station maintenance and large water meter replacements. We just recently replaced a police patrol vehicle. These are some of the items in the Budget for the coming year of 2010-2011.

REPORTS:

Police Report – Written
Fire Department – Written
Public Works – Written
Planning Department – Written
Finance Department – Cathy Whittington still on medical leave, on track with budget.
Town Attorney Christy Wilhelm– No report
Town Administrator Adrian Cox – Reported on meetings he had attended.

Ongoing and Upcoming Projects:
CMAQ Sidewalk Projects, FEMA AFG, Town Hall Office, Recycle and Street Lights. Town Administrator Adrian Cox said the new police vehicle has been put into service.

OLD BUSINESS:
McAllister Park Repairs

Town Administrator Adrian Cox gave a report on the repairs that are needed for McAllister Park. He said that staff presented the Board of Commissioners with some repair needs and since that time, several electricians and a Cabarrus County Building Code Inspector have examined the parks electrical system. Town Administrator Adrian Cox presented the Commissioners with a list of repairs that needed to be done and also bids that were taken on these repairs. A motion was made by Commissioner Eberhardt to award the bid to Clay Electric with a bid of $1,600.00 and that includes all supplies and materials. Commissioner Eudy seconded the motion with all members in favor 5-0.

Adrian Cox said that Cabarrus County offers a 50% matching grant to nonprofits on a competitive bases, but to compete for this grant, the nonprofit must have the matching funds in their bank account. He said that applications were accepted by Cabarrus County between May 3rd and June 11th.

Town Administrator Adrian Cox said he is just looking for directions as to which way to go.

McAllister Park Use Agreement:

Town Administrator Adrian Cox said at the February Budget Retreat, the Board of Commissioners requested that staff develop an agreement with nonprofits regarding the use of town park facilities. Adrian Cox presented a draft copy of an Agreement between the Town of Mt. Pleasant and the Mt. Pleasant Youth Athletics Association. Commissioner Barringer asked Town Attorney if we needed something like this agreement and Town Attorney Christy Wilhelm said yes, for protection of the Town, we do need something. Mayor Barnhardt said we need to share this document with the leaders of Parks and Rec and set up a work shop.

Consider Petition for Annexation:

Town Administrator Adrian Cox said the Town of Mt. Pleasant received a petition for annexation from the owners fo GMAX automotive for the property located along Highway 49. He said the process for approving a voluntary annexation requires that the Board direct the Clerk to investigate the petition. The Clerk must present a Certificate of Sufficiency to the Board. The Board may hold a public hearing, and vote to accept or deny the annexation. Town Administrator Adrian Cox said the if annexed, the existing zoning becomes invalid after 60 days. The Planning Board should establish a zoning prior to that time, and any uses on the property are considered existing uses and considered vested rights. Any new construction, use, or activity on the property would be subject to the Town’s ordinances.

Mayor Barnhardt entertained a motion to consider the Petition for Annexation. Commissioner Burleyson made a motion to Consider the Petition for Annexation.
Commissioner Eudy seconded the motion with all members in favor 5-0. Town Clerk Cathy Whittington will check into this petition when she returns to work.

NEW BUSINESS:

Employee Assistance Program

Town Administrator Adrian Cox explained about the Employee Assistance Program and said that Carolina Medical offers an Employee Assistance Program that is designed to serve small employers. This service is ideal for the town as it provides comprehensive services for one annual fee of $1,560.00 for the entire staff. Adrian Cox said this rate will provide service for up to 60 employees and their immediate family members.

Some of these benefits include,

1. Six sessions of counseling for each covered employee, spouse, and dependent children under 8 years of age.
2. Unlimited access to the education groups and quarterly manager trainings.
3. Two onsite trainings per calendar year (you choose topic)
4. Unlimited onsite response to critical incidents (death or traumatic event to which you would like a counselor onsite at your location.
5. 24 hour call center access to counselor via telephone
6. Unlimited management consultation
7. Onsite orientations for employees and Supervisors to explain program and benefits
8. Brochures, poster, wallet cards and marketing supplies

Town Administrator Adrian Cox said this program pairs well with the town’s health insurance which currently covers many behavioral health issues. He said the cost for this service has been included in the FY 2010-2011 recommended budget.

Commissioner Burleyson asked if the Administrator was saying we go ahead and enter into this contract. Mayor Barnhardt said yes, we are looking for a motion for staff to go ahead and enter into the contract.

With no more discussion, Mayor Barnhardt entertained a motion to enter into the Contract with Carolina Medical for the Employee Assistance Program. Commissioner Burleyson made the motion to enter into the contract with Carolina Medical Assistance Program. Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion with the vote 4-1. Commissioner Eberhardt opposed.

Review Draft Ethics Policy

Town Administrator Adrian Cox said in 2009, the North Carolina General Assembly adopted G.S. 160a-86, a law requiring governing boards in North
Carolina to adopt a code of ethic. He said this requirement applies to several types of public governing boards, and it must be met by January 1, 2011. Town Administrator Adrian Cox said there were 5 areas that must be addressed on the code of ethics and these are as follows.

1. The need to obey all applicable laws regarding official action taken as a board member.
2. The need to uphold the integrity and independence of the board member’s office.
3. The need to avoid impropriety in the exercise of the board member’s official duties.
4. The need to faithfully perform the duties of the office.
5. The need to conduct the affairs of the governing board in an open and public manner, including complying with all applicable laws concerning open meetings and public records.

Town Administrator Adrian Cox said in the packets was a draft of the Ethics Code for the Board of Commissioners, but it was only a draft and the training did not have to be completed until 2011. He stated the model code of ethics was recently written by Fleming Bell at the UNC School of Government. Adrian Cox said to make sure you look over the code of ethics and study it and we will review again next month.

Set Public Hearing

A Public Hearing was set for FY 2010-2011 budget. It will be held on June 7, 2010 at 7:00 PM. The adoption date was set for June 28 at 7:00 PM.

Mayor Barnhardt entertained a motion to set the Public Hearing for June 7, 2010 at 7:00 PM. Commissioner Barringer made the motion to have the Public Hearing on June 7, 2010 at 7:00 PM. Commissioner Eudy seconded the motion with all members in favor 5-0.

A Budget workshop was set for May 19, 2010 at 7:00 PM at Town Hall.

Mayor’s Report – Written

Commissioner’s Report

Commissioner Chapman stated there had been several break-ins in Oldenburg. Commissioner Burleyson said he was glad to see the traffic signs in place along the highways. Commissioner Eberhardt complimented Public Works Director Dave Fargo on picking up brush. He said they had done a very good job.
Executive Session:

Commissioner Eudy made a motion according to N.C.G.S.143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, condition of appointment of a public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee, 
(OR)
To hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against a public officer or employee.
Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion with all members in favor 5-0.

Reconvene:

Mayor Barnhardt entertained a motion to reconvene from closed session. Commissioner Eudy made the motion to reconvene from closed session N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6). Commissioner Barringer seconded the motion with all members in favor 5-0

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Barnhardt entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Barringer made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Eudy seconded the motion with all members in favor 5-0.

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Mayor Troy W. Barnhardt                                    Assistant Clerk to Board Joy Eudy