

**TOWN OF HOPE MILLS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2018 6:30 P.M.
WILLIAM F. "BILL" LUTHER, JR. AND DORIS LUTHER MEETING ROOM**

Mayor Warner called the special meeting of the Hope Mills Board of Commissioners to order on Wednesday August 1, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Jackie Warner, Mayor Pro Tem Mike Mitchell, Commissioners Jessie Bellflowers, Pat Edwards, Meg Larson, and Jerry Legge.

STAFF PRESENT

Town Manager Melissa Adams, Town Clerk Jane Starling, Finance Director Drew Holland, Interim Public Works Director Don Sisko, Fire Chief Chuck Hodges, Police Chief Joel Acciardo, Stormwater Administrator Beth Brown, Development & Planning Administrator Chancer McLaughlin, Executive Assistant/Deputy Town Clerk Tiffany Gillstedt and Human Resources Director Laticia Daniels-Black. Also present was Town Attorney Dan Hartzog, Jr.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was led by Commissioner Jerry Legge, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Jackie Warner.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA-ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell, and passed unanimously, to approve the agenda with the addendum of an item for the consideration and discussion of the Oct. 17, 2018 9:00 a.m. date for the Walking work session to tour Town properties at the Golf Course, Heritage park, and Lakebed #2.

2. Consideration of a Resolution Waiving Inspection Fees for Related to Damages from Hurricane Florence.

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-18

**RESOLUTION WAIVING INSPECTION FEES RELATED TO DAMAGES
FROM HURRICANE FLORENCE**

WHEREAS, Residents of the Town of Hope Mills were affected by Hurricane Florence; and

WHEREAS, in the past the town has waived building inspection fees resulting from hurricane damage; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hope Mills desires to assist its citizens in their recovery; and

WHEREAS, Cumberland County has determined to waive some building inspection fees until December 30, 2018;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Town of Hope Mills will waive the inspection fees for reconstruction permits for all verified hurricane related damages for a period of no longer than; thru December 30, 2018.

3. Consideration and discussion of the Oct. 17, 2018 9:00 a.m. date for the Walking work session to tour Town properties at the Golf Course, Heritage Park, and Lakebed #2.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell, and passed unanimously, to hold the walking work session to tour Town properties at the Golf Course, Heritage Park, and Lakebed #2 on Friday Oct. 19, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

4. Presentation and Discussion of the Draft Power Point Presentation, by Rachel Cotter with the McAdams Co.

Ms. Rachel Cotter, Assistant Director, Public Sector at McAdams Company presented a PowerPoint report of the company's initial results. The report covered demographics and trends, community engagement, scientific survey results, benchmarking, level of service, and key focus areas. The key focus areas included; parkland, programming, finances, and operations.

The preliminary community engagement summary included three public input sessions at; the Parks and Recreation building, Carlie C's grocery store, and a food truck rodeo. A SWOT meeting with staff was held and a mailer was sent to religious organizations in Hope Mills and received over 100 responses.

It was determined that a scientific survey was a necessity. Ms. Cotter stated, "A scientific survey ensures that the results of the survey and the people participating in the survey match your demographic. We received 521 responses, which are more than I have received in any other community that I have worked in."

Ms. Cotter went on to explain the charts for prioritizing types of programming. These showed priorities to be; aquatics, swimming, outdoor music, natural trails, indoor exercise and exercise facilities, outdoor adventures, special events/family festivals, walking/ jogging, and water based programs. Sixty eight percent of respondents believed that parks contribute to the overall quality of life and that Parks and Recreation is an essential service. Seventy percent believe that Parks and Recreation needs investment over other priorities.

Ms. Cotter described the Level of Service in terms of: existing parkland, additional parkland, joint-use and special use parkland, other Town-owned properties, and other recreation opportunities.

Ms. Cotter listed the reasons stated by residents answering the scientific survey that they don't use Town parks and how her company will provide strategies to addresses those issues. After the company has completed its summary of findings, a visioning session will be held with staff to develop a vision for the next ten years.

Commissioner Bellflowers questioned why the entire list of Town's property wasn't included in parkland and additional parkland. Ms. Cotter answered that as far as she is aware there is no master plan for the other Town owned properties to be used as recreation or any other use. Until those are dedicated for use and a developed master plan adopted for those properties there isn't any basis for including it under the umbrella of parks and recreation.

Commissioner Larson stated that the Southwest Land Use Plan designates the Lake number 2 property as parkland. Ms. Cotter responded that she understands the question but the criteria they use for this report and across all communities place this as other Town owned property.

Commissioner Legge questioned how the survey responses were distinguished as Town residents. Ms. Cotter responded that the survey company was given a GIS file with addresses inside the town limits. He said his daughter doesn't live in the Town and she filled out a survey at Carlie C's grocery store. Ms. Cotter explained the questionnaire at the store was not part of the scientific survey; the residents inside the town limits were mailed a survey which had a code that is only good for one use and has to be used to enter any information. There were 521 responses from the scientific survey. A separate questionnaire was sent to religious organizations and received around 120 responses. Ms. Cotter referred the commissioners to a report on survey methodology to explain all the procedures used.

5. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Legge and carried unanimously, to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Warner adjourned the meeting at 8:51 p.m.