

Town of New London
Board of Commissioner's Meeting
March 7, 2023

Mayor Tate Daniels welcomed everyone and opened the Public Hearing. Present for the hearing were Mayor Daniels, Commissioners Bill Peak, Richard Kimmer, Johnny Chestnut, Sid Lanier, Timothy Higgins, and Town Manager Susan Almond. Visitors present at the meeting were Jonathan Crowder, Jody & Farrah Cook, Danny & Christi Buchanan, Jimmy & Donna Turner, John & Cathy Kimmer, Tim Higgins, Morgan Higgins, Heath McDonald, Mitzie Lanier, Bill Rogers, Tony Giles, Elizabeth Chestnut and Derek Starnes.

The purpose of the Public Hearing was to consider a proposed Annexation Agreement with the City of Albemarle regarding Efird Farms (tax record 7061). This parcel is 145 acres of land that is located on Hwy 52, next to the town limits of New London. Efird Farms requested to be annexed into the City of Albemarle, but due to annexation laws and the close proximity to New London's town limits, there has to be an interlocal agreement between the two towns before Albemarle can proceed with the annexation.

Public Comments- Mr. Danny Buchanan, Mr. Jody Cook and Mr. Heath McDonald, who are all residents that live close to the property, spoke against this agreement. They all expressed concerns about a future development of potentially 400 houses on 145 acres of land that would put added strain on the school system, utilities, fire and police protection. Mr. Jonathan Crowder, Landscape Architect representing Lennar Homes, spoke in favor of the agreement.

There being no further discussion, the Public Hearing was closed and Mayor Daniels opened the Commissioner's Meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Chestnut. Mayor Daniels asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Commissioner Peak made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Kimmer. Motion carried.

Mayor Daniels asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes from the February meeting. There being no corrections, Commissioner Kimmer made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Lanier. Motion carried.

Items from Visitors: Mr. Bill Rogers presented a survey regarding the town abandoning the street right of way at the east end of Depot Street where the town limits ends. Following discussion, Commissioner Peak made a motion to table this issue until further review, seconded by Commissioner Kimmer. Motion carried with a 3-1 vote.

Decision about Proposed Annexation Agreement- Following discussion, Commissioner Chestnut made a motion to deny the proposed Annexation Agreement with the City of Albemarle regarding the Efird Farms property, seconded by Commissioner Kimmer. Motion carried unanimously.

Sewer Report- Commissioner Peak reported that the sampler at the Spring Street pump station will need to be replaced and he will be researching options.

Code Enforcement- No new issues to report.

Hinson Parker Cemetery- Commissioner Chestnut suggested we continue to pursue getting the 1 acre of land that Hinson Parker Cemetery is on donated to the town.

Museum Update- Commissioner Lanier reported that the museum is open the first Sunday of each month. We had 2 visitors last month and 5 visitors in March. We appreciate Ms. Shirley Baity volunteering at the museum the last 2 months and we are looking for more volunteers.

Mrs. Almond reported on the following:

- Land Use Survey- The town is working with Centralina Council of Government to update our comprehensive land use plan to capture the vision and goals for New London's future. We have sent out survey notifications to all the town residents and are reminding everyone to complete the survey to provide the town with their feedback. The survey link is accessible on the town's website (newlondonnc.org) and hard copies are available at the Town Hall.
- ARP (American Rescue Plan) Policies-
 - a. Eligible Use Policy recommended by the UNC School of Government outlines the eligible use of funds and procedures for the ARP money received by the town. Commissioner Chestnut made a motion to approve the Eligible Use Policy for the expenditure of ARP Act of 2021, seconded by Commissioner Kimmer. Motion carried unanimously.
 - b. Allowable Costs/Cost Principles Policy – This policy ensures that the recipient is responsible for the effective administration of federal funds. Commissioner Chestnut made a motion to approve the Policy for Allowable Cost and Cost Principles for Expenditure of ARP Act, seconded by Commissioner Higgins. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Daniels gave an update on the following:

- Asbestos Removal at Coggins Property- asbestos abatement has been completed and the New London Volunteer Fire Department can begin using the properties for training.
- Municipal Parks & Recreation Grant Opportunity from Stanly County- the county will accept applications until April 15th for a matching \$10,000 grant. The Board is considering applying for more amenities at both of our parks.

The agenda being accomplished, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Minutes submitted by Susan Almond, Town Manager.