

TOWN OF STOKESDALE
PO BOX 465
STOKESDALE, NORTH CAROLINA

A Special Meeting of the Stokesdale Town Council was held on Tuesday, January 29, 2008 for the purpose considering issues relating to the Town Park Project.

Mayor Randle L. Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The following members of Council were present: Mayor Randle L. Jones Mayor Pro Tem Mickie Halbrook, Cheryl Steele, James Attaway, and Norman Cook.

Others present included: William B. Trevorrow, Town Attorney; Philip Fieler, Stewart- Cooper-Newell Architects; and Carolyn Joyner, Town Clerk/Finance Officer.

Mayor Jones said that the purpose of the meeting was to consider issues relating to the Stokesdale Town Park and specifically dealing with information necessary to file a grant which is due this week. He noted that if the Town applies and gets turn down, it usually takes a couple of trys and there is a learning curve. Mayor Jones noted that Mr. Fieler has a cost estimate which the Town would have to match the grant funds should the grant be awarded and the Town accept it.

Mr. Fieler said that the since about a year ago, a master plan for the 25 acre parcel and a smaller scope of what could be a phase one plan for the project was presented. Interest meetings were held in June and July to gather public input. The results of those meetings along with the results from a survey that was mailed out to about 1,600 residents of the Town have been considered in planning for the project. A goal of the long-range finance committee was to make sure that the park was asked for by the citizens and it reflected their recreational needs. The scope of the project is similar to the Phase 1 plan and includes a cost estimate of \$1,000,467.40. The Park would be implemented in stages. The items included with the first phase would include restrooms and storage area to accommodate the recreational maintenance needs of the park. The cost would be about \$237,600. The bathrooms are sized according to the NC Building Code for what is required to operate a park of this size and to accommodate the estimated number of people that would attend events. The park shelter would not have bathrooms in it since it is close to the main restroom building. The septic system is required to accommodate the restroom building. Various recreational activities and their costs along with grading, paving and site work make up most of the budget for the project. An asphalt greenway trail was the number one requested recreational activity of the needs survey and it has been included. Storm drainage and erosion control is not optional but it is regulated as a part of site development. At this time the project budget will only allow a gravel drive to the rear of the site with most of the parking area being gravel. Approximately five spaces will be paved to meet the handicap requirements of the NC Accessibility Code. There is an allowance for landscaping and some contingency funds. Design fees for the property, soil borings and permitting fees are included as a part of the budget. The remainder of the PART F application is the documentation and details that are required. The approval of this grant application would mean an expenditure of about \$500,000 by the Town to match the grant amount.

Mr. Fieler noted that the map is color coded as required for the PARTF grant application. Someone asked the cost of paving the parking lot and the driveway. Mr. Fieler estimated that it would cost about \$58,000. Mr. Fieler pointed out that there is a contingency fund of 5% included in the proposed budget for the project. Should those contingencies not be required, it would be the Town's discretion as to how to spend it. The walking trail would be asphalt over gravel which is required for accessibility and it is required by Building Code. The trail is ten feet wide. As the most requested activity, it was felt that it should definitely be included in this phase of the park.

A member of the audience encouraged Council to find funds to pave the parking area. Mr. Fieler said that if there were local companies that would like to contribute to the project, their contributions would be

considered a part of the matching funds for the grant. Mayor Jones said that the proposal was trying to provide items based on the survey without going into tax money. Mr. Fieler said that a civil engineer may be the person to handle some questions regarding the paving of areas. He said there are different opinions as to how a gravel vs. a paved surface would present itself. By nature, a park is organic and respective of the environment and the trees and by paving you are creating more impervious surfaces. In some respects gravel is more fitting surface. Ms. Steele expressed concerns over breathing the dust from the road. Mr. Fieler said that contracts could be added and modified to include items such as this.

Tim Jones asked for the number of parking spaces and how many baseball diamonds are included and how many simultaneous games could be played. Mr. Fieler indicated that there are approximately 85 parking spaces shown. There are no baseball diamonds shown. During the park workshops, there was a call for multi-purpose fields with specific needs for soccer and football and perhaps more baseball ability. The Stokesdale Parks and Recreation representatives identified that baseball was being cut short because of infringing schedules for soccer and football. They felt it would free up their facility to accommodate baseball.

Mayor Jones mentioned that practice fields are needed for both football and baseball. Mayor Jones noted that this is the package and there are no assurances that the Town will receive a grant. If the Town does get the grant, it can be accepted and matched with the budget or it can be turned down. If the Town does not get it, then Council will know how many points the Town received and how it can be improved.

Mayor Jones made a motion to approve the application and adopt the resolution for the PARTF grant application and authorize the appropriate signatures on the documents. Ms. Halbrook seconded the motion. The Clerk pointed out that there is some addition documentation such as the minutes of meetings cover sheets, and announcements in the local newspaper that is not included in Council's package. Mayor Jones said that his motion would include addendums sited by the Town Clerk. Mr. Cook asked if the motion would include the paving of the driveways. Mayor Jones indicated that it could be added or paving could be considered if the contingency fund was not used. Mr. Attaway said that he would like to see it paved. Mr. Fieler suggested that the package should be submitted as presented. If approved, when the construction documents are prepared, have an add alternate which would give definite prices for the costs for the item.

Mayor Jones called the question on the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Mr. Attaway made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Jones seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Carolyn L. Joyner, Town Clerk

Randle L. Jones, Mayor