

**REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE VILLAGE OF CLEMMONS COUNCIL  
MARCH 10, 2014**

The Village of Clemmons Council met on Monday, March 10, 2014 at 7 p.m. The meeting was held at the Village Hall, Clemmons, North Carolina. The following members were present: Mayor Nelson and Council Members Denny, Lawry and Roark. Council Members Cameron and Rogers were absent so they could attend the National League of Cities Conference in Washington, D.C.

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comments**

None.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Council Member Lawry moved to amend the minutes of the February 10, 2014 meeting as follows:

The following was added to Item D, "Councilman Lawry argued for a detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) to be presented to all the candidate website development companies so that the Council and the Village would know when the project was completed whether it was completed to specification (including information, media, ease of navigation, ease of information management, training for staff, development and hosting costs, etc.). Manager Looper and various Council members responded that this was not necessary and that since he found no fault with the GovOffice examples that the project should move forward. They indicated that there would be several rounds of input from Council and others to make sure the project proceeded to a successful conclusion."

Council Member Lawry wished to attach his prepared statement that he read at the January 27, 2014 Council meeting as a response to Ms. Kay Stocking's public comments.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Roark and unanimously approved.

Council Member Lawry moved to add "to" to the second line in Item H, in the minutes of the February 10, 2014 minutes. With the addition the sentence now reads, "Council Member Cameron stated **to** open them with the exception of eight sets of the minutes dealing with the same subject that she felt ought to remain closed."

Attorney Kasper interjected that the function of the minutes is to reflect the discussion, consideration and action taken at a particular meeting, not to respond to something that occurred later.

Mayor Nelson asked for concurrence from the attorney to remove the attachment from the previous motion and have Council Member Lawry enter that attachment in tonight's minutes.

Attorney Kasper concurred.

Council Member Roark moved to remove the attachment from the minutes of the February 10, 2014 and approved the minutes of the February 10, 2014 and February 24, 2014 regular meetings. The motion was seconded by Council Member Denny and unanimously approved. The attachment will be entered during tonight's Council's Comments.

In addition to the insertion of "to" in the second line of Item H in the February 10, 2014 minutes, Council Member Lawry moved to correct the typographical error in the Planner's Report, Item 2, last sentence from "bed" to "bid." The corrected sentence now reads, "The **bid** opening is scheduled for February 28, 2014 at 9 a.m. at Public Works." The motion was seconded by Council Member Roark and unanimously approved.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Council Member Roark moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lawry and unanimously approved.

### **Announcements**

None.

### **Business**

A. Signal Timing in the Lewisville-Clemmons Road Corridor. J.P. Couch, NCDOT Traffic Engineer, answered questions from Council members regarding signal timing in this corridor. He discussed platoons of cars traveling through cycle links at the various signalized intersections along Lewisville-Clemmons Road from Hwy 158 to Hwy 421. The cycle links change with weekday and weekend travel and during various times during the day and night. "No Right Turn" signs at West Forsyth High School and Marty Lane were also discussed. Mr. Couch offered a hands on demonstration along the Lewisville-Clemmons Road corridor to any Council member who chose to take advantage of this opportunity.

B. Portable UHF Radios Purchase and Reimbursement. Mayor Nelson noted that he has not yet purchased his radio, so Council has the option if they want the Mayor's office to maintain a radio. Public Works Director Kirby provided the following radio needs and budget information:

Fiscal Year	Equipment	Cost
2014-2015	6 mobile radios, antennas, etc. (includes 1 mobile radio & 1 portable radio for the Stormwater Dept.)	\$6,315
2015-2016	6 mobile radios, antennas, etc.	\$3,825
	Subtotal	\$10,140
	Plus 2 spare portable radios & a mobile radio for the Mayor	\$2,250
	Total	\$12,390

After discussion, Council Member Roark moved to approve \$12,390 and buy the radios needed by the Village. The motion was seconded by Council Member Denny and unanimously approved.

C. Funding Request from Senior Services, Inc. Manager Looper clarified that the request is actually for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget.

Council Member Roark moved to postpone this item. The motion was seconded by Council Member Denny and unanimously approved.

D. Attorney's Report. Nothing new to report.

E. Planner's Report.

1. *Update on Traffic Signal at Allegacy Drive/Towncenter Drive and Lewisville-Clemmons Road Intersection.* This project will be advertised this Wednesday and bids will be opened on March 26, 2014 at Public Works.
2. *Update on Village Point Greenway.* This project has been readvertised and bids will be opened on March 21, 2014 at Public Works, as well.

F. Manager's Report.

1. *2014 Council Retreat Agenda.* Manager Looper thanked Council members for speaking with the retreat facilitator and presented the final draft agenda. Agenda packets will go out Thursday.

G. Council's Comments.

The following is a statement made by Council Member Lawry in support of his motion to do away with the prohibition of firearms in the Village Hall at the January 27, 2014 Council meeting. This statement is being entered at his request and in response to Ms. Kay Stocking's public comments during the February 10, 2014 Council meeting where she stated that the manner in which Council Member Lawry delivered his opinion was arrogant and disrespectful to anyone who didn't see eye-to eye with him, the result being divisive.

"Nowhere on the political landscape are more lies told than within the churning bowels of the gun control industry. Fighting America's revolutionary reluctance to submit and the public's continuing fear of criminals not currently incarcerated in Congress, voters have resisted legislative agendas proposed by The Brady Campaign, Violence Policy Center and the Clinton [and incidentally the Obama] administration. For decades, significant victories have eluded their ilk, leaving only one strategy with which to sway voters – lying."

Shooting the Bull by Guy Smith

As some of you know back when I lived in Virginia I was instrumental in liberalizing concealed carry there. By 'liberalizing' I mean I helped convince the Legislature to take discretion away from the activist judges in Northern Virginia who uniformly turned down any applicant for a Concealed Carry Permit. Those judges didn't think anyone needed a gun to protect themselves. But because of our work the bill passed through the legislative process fairly quickly and was scheduled for a reading in the full House before it came to the notice of the 'gun grabbers' and that's when the 'fun' started. Typical were newspaper stories and editorials that begged a 'No' vote in the legislature because of the alleged 'certainty' that there would be "Shootouts at the OK Corral" over minor traffic incidents, etc. if otherwise legal citizens were allowed to carry concealed firearms.

Well the short version of the conclusion is that the legislation passed and was sent to the Governor and the 'fun' began again and continued until the Governor signed it and then again until the law went into effect. Gun grabbers may be spreading lies and fear but they must be given their due for persistence.

So as to perform my own private 'Due Diligence' I tracked crime by Concealed Carry Holders in Virginia for 10 years and during that time there was one possible infraction and it's 'possible' because it was unclear whether the LEO was covered by his Department or his CHP at the time he brandished his firearm outside a bar where he had been drinking.

Now, there are two main ways to come to a decision: emotional, or data-based/scientific - regardless of how a decision is reached the consequences are always felt.

I'm a former 'Rocket Scientist'. I helped with the Apollo program and some of my finger prints and designs went to the moon - Hence my respect for scientific data.

More Guns Less Crime - Why mention another 'book'? Well, because it makes the scientific/data-based case for guns providing much more protection than ordinances and signs. It was written by John Lott an academic economist at the University of Chicago.

His treatise published in 1998 in the Journal of Legal Studies probably has a long academic name but the conclusion to his peer-reviewed work and the title to his book is short and to the point: "More Guns Less Crime". Yes, mental health, background checks, population density, waiting periods, permitting processes, training, etc. - all have some impact but the data and the logic and the results remain the same: "More Guns Less Crime" and now the NRA endorses the book form of his treatise. And even though the University of Chicago management may be anti-gun they are apparently sufficiently profit motivated because they still publish his book.

So what's the point of having an ordinance that prohibits weapons in the Village Hall? Clearly if we are to believe our emotions and the story of Bambi guns are evil and we should outlaw them. But do emotions lead us to good choices? If our national marriage statistics are to be believed maybe we need different criteria. And I would declare that emotions don't get us to the best place with respect to firearms either.

Practically speaking we have a low probability of ever having a firearms incident here in the village hall. Unfortunately, that's a comparable probability for having a firearms incident in an elementary school or a university or a movie theater or even an army base - all protection-free i.e. gun-free zones.

Clearly, our hopes and desires and signs don't stop bullets.

The county of Cherokee recently dropped their ordinance prohibiting firearms in county buildings for much of the same reasons I have covered here and they encouraged employees to bring their own weapons to work. Besides the reasons I've already presented they thought that it would be arrogant for a county to infringe on the Second Amendment, second they didn't want an otherwise harmless individual to get ensnared by a local law that they were unfamiliar with and third because they just don't like to have local ordinances.

Since then, according to one of their Commissioners, the county got a threat: "I'm coming to shoot you!" The building was shut down. The perpetrator arrived first and then law enforcement. A scuffle ensued and the perpetrator was taken into custody – no shots fired. The key point this Commissioner wanted to make to me was the attitude inside the building. It was not citizens and employees acting as victims and hiding under desks but one of confident responsible citizens willing to fight back.

So really what is the 'gun control' debate all about? It must be about more than just guns. Apparently the larger issue is 'CONTROL' - exactly the kind of control that brought our forefathers to the point of revolt from the King of England and allowed us to become the freest and consequently the most prosperous country on earth.

Now the much of the media and many of the anti-gunners may lie to you and tell you that the King isn't dead and should be respected even obeyed but the history of the United States demonstrates otherwise.

There is one big reason that the Second Amendment is second and that is because our founders knew that our first right, our Right to Free Speech – especially political speech had to be protected.

Council Member Roark reported on his review of the Leaf & Limb Program. He stated the December – January down time is needed to do a more in-depth maintenance on our vehicles. We have a 98% satisfaction rating from our citizens who are impressed with the quality of service they receive. He also recognized Public Works Director Kirby and his staff for the great job they did during the recent ice storm.

### **Adjournment**

Mayor Nelson entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Denny so moved. The motion was seconded by Council Member Roark and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

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Nickolas B. Nelson  
Mayor

Attest:

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Marsha E. Sucharski, CMC, NCCMC  
Village Clerk