

The Smithfield Town Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, April 1st, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Members present were Mr. T. Carter Williams, Mayor; Mr. Andrew Gregory, Vice Mayor, Mrs. Denise N. Tynes, Ms. Connie Chapman, Mr. Michael Smith, Dr. Milton Cook, and Mr. Randolph Pack. Staff members present were Mr. Peter M. Stephenson, Town Manager; Mr. William T. Hopkins III, Director of Planning, Engineering, and Public Works; Ms. Lesley King, Town Clerk; Ms. Ellen Minga, Town Treasurer; Mr. Steven Bowman, Chief of Police; Ms. Amy Musick, Smithfield Center Director; Ms. Judy Winslow, Director of Tourism; and Mr. William Barlow, Acting Town Attorney. Council candidates Mr. Douglas Jett and Ms. Vivian Evans were present. There were ten (10) citizens present. The media was represented by Ms. Abby Proch of The Smithfield Times.

Mayor Williams – Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the Smithfield Town Council meeting of April 1st, 2014. We welcome everyone for coming tonight. At this time, Councilwoman Tynes will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Mayor Williams – We will move to the Informational Section. Our Town Manager will give us the Manager's Report.

Town Manager – Thank you, Your Honor. Good evening everyone. The March Activity Report was included in the electronic posting on the website on Friday. I really do not have anything to add unless there are questions. I would like to briefly highlight the meetings for this month. We have a Planning Commission meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, April 8th at 7:30 at the Smithfield Center. The Board of Zoning Appeals has been cancelled for this month. We do not have any items for the Board of Historic and Architectural Review at the moment. We have Council Committee meetings on April 28th and 29th at the Smithfield Center. We do not have any other meetings to note for the month of April.

Mayor Williams – Next we have Public Comments. At this time, anyone is invited to come up and speak. We do not have any sign ups for tonight. Hearing none, we will move to a Briefing by Mr. Al Casteen, Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors, Smithfield District.

Supervisor Casteen – Thank you, Mr. Mayor and members of Council. The Board revised the Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) for the calculation of Stormwater

Management Utility Fee from 2,050 square feet up to 3,200 square feet which has the impact of lowering all non-residential stormwater fees by 35%. As part of this revision the County will not grant additional credits for the first year. Since we have a 35% across the board reduction, we thought this would be the best solution since we could not come up with a different number without knowing what all the credits were going to be. We felt that this would grant the most relief to everyone in an equitable manner. I hope that we will have credits in future years. This is a good start since it has lowered the starting point for those people that will get stormwater fees. The Board voted to revise the septic pump-out ordinance to bring it in line with state regulations. The revisions will continue the five year pump-out requirement for most septic systems. It will allow for inspections in lieu of pump-out and exempt from pump-out those septic systems equipped with effluent filters. The Board voted to suspend the PACE Program until such time as funding is available. We do not have the funding to pursue that at this time. The Board will hold a series of special meetings to deal with the budget during April. The first meeting will be Thursday, April 3rd at 10:00 a.m. The public will initially receive the proposed budget for the County. Mr. Albert Burckard, Jr. on behalf of the Carrollton Civic League and the Isle of Wight Civic Association extended an invitation to the Board to attend a public forum on Stormwater Management on April 14th at the Smithfield Center. It is a nice invitation but I suspect it will turn into something else. The Board will hold a public hearing on the Capital Improvement Plan at our meeting on April 17th. Does anyone have any questions?

Councilman Dr. Cook – I wanted to ask about the Intergovernmental meeting. I will bring it up every month until we have it. This past month we had a date set but then it was cancelled by the County.

Supervisor Casteen – I did not know anything about it.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Were you approached about a date at all last month?

Supervisor Casteen – No.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Can you pass the word along that we would like to have an Intergovernmental meeting? I am going to ask you every month. I also ask the Town Manager every month.

Town Manager – The request has been made. Obviously, we were not able to have it last month.

Supervisor Casteen – Right now the budget has got us. It has been quite an exercise.

Councilman Dr. Cook – I understand that the budget takes quite a bit of time. I know that it is a problem this month but I have been asking for three months now. I will continue to ask.

Supervisor Casteen – I have seen a correspondence just in the last month. I have not seen one prior to that.

Mayor Williams – Thank you, Supervisor Casteen. At this time, we have a Resolution of Appreciation to present to a former member of the Board of Historic and Architectural Review, Mr. Cecil Gwaltney. When Mr. Gwaltney started he knew a lot about historical issues but he knows a lot more now. He took a lot of knowledge with him. He will be missed. He did an excellent job. I have seen him in action and really admired what he did for the town. The town appreciates all of his time and effort. We have a Resolution of Appreciation that states:

WHEREAS, Mr. Cecil W. Gwaltney, Jr. a longtime resident of Smithfield has proudly served the citizens of Smithfield as an appointed official for the past twenty (20) years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gwaltney was appointed by Town Council to serve on the Board of Historic and Architectural Review on October 4th, 1994. He proudly served on this board until January 31st, 2014; and

WHEREAS, during this time Mr. Gwaltney demonstrated excellent leadership qualities in local government during his role on the Board of Historic and Architectural Review with his numerous accomplishments to benefit the Town of Smithfield; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, T. Carter Williams, Mayor of the Town of Smithfield on behalf of the Town Council wish to formally extend to Mr. Gwaltney on this 1st day of April 2014 our sincere appreciation for his dedication and loyal service to the Town of Smithfield as a member of the Board of Historic and Architectural Review for the past twenty years; and

BE IT FURTHER, RESOLVED, that this resolution will be spread upon the permanent records of the Town of Smithfield and that a suitable copy thereof be delivered to Mr. Cecil W. Gwaltney, Jr.

Mayor Williams – Congratulations Mr. Gwaltney. Next is Council Comments. We would like to appreciate Mr. William K. Barlow for being here tonight to fill in for our Town Attorney. We appreciate you taking the time to come out. We appreciate all that you have done for the Town of Smithfield and the years that you have been here. Mr. Barlow has been involved in a lot of things. He works a lot in the background. Does anyone else have a comment?

Councilman Smith – This pertains to our Committee meetings that we had last week. We have had several issues at the Parks and Recreation Committee to adopt something for Windsor Castle Park. There was some debate about the survey that was taken. There were questions and a lot of talk about that. I did not have any problem with it. I think it is good to have comments from the public. What concerned me the most is that the next day I had an individual approach one of the staff members and questioned the validity of the study that was done and how it was conducted. They actually accused staff of skewing the results to benefit the possibility of the Council being swayed to make a decision. The staff has worked hard on this. I support staff and will continue to support them. I think that if the public needs to talk about this situation then it needs to be brought up to someone on Council or the Town Manager. I think that would be an appropriate way to handle it. We really do support our staff. I would like to continue to do that in the proper way.

Mayor Williams – Does any other Council member have any comments? Hearing none, we will move to our Consent Agenda Items. We have five items tonight. We usually discuss these and vote on them in Committee meetings. I like to have a summary of the consent agenda items. We will start with the Police Committee Chair, Ms. Denise Tynes.

Councilwoman Tynes – Police Committee Summary. Thank you, Mayor Williams. Our first item is a resolution to amend the Olden Days Festival street closure request. We approved it last month. They want to amend it to closing North Mason Street starting Friday, June 27th at 7:00 p.m. until Saturday, June 28th. They are planning to set up a vintage type market.

Mayor Williams – Next we have Finance Committee Chair, Mr. Randy Pack.

Councilman Pack – Finance Committee Summary. Any invoices that the town receives over \$10,000.00 require Council authorization. This evening we only have one.

Robinson Farmer Cox Associates for \$23,000.00 for the audit services performed for the town. Our Town Treasurer was pleased with the new audit company. We had about a \$22,000.00 savings from last year's bill. We interviewed and decided on this new company. We would like to move this forward for approval this evening.

Mayor Williams – Next we have the Parks and Recreation Committee Chair, Ms. Connie Chapman.

Councilwoman Chapman – Parks and Recreation Committee Summary. Our first item on the consent agenda tonight is a motion to approve a request to use Clontz Park for the annual fireworks display on Thursday, July 3rd, 2014. The next item is a motion to move forward with restrooms, children's play area, and additional parking at Windsor Castle Park. Basically it means that we would give the Windsor Castle Park Foundation authorization to start fundraising for those three items.

Mayor Williams – Next we have the Public Works Committee Chair, Mr. Mike Smith.

Councilman Smith – Public Works Committee Summary. I have one item on the agenda. It is a motion to award the street maintenance contract to Blair Brothers Inc. We had other people respond but the most responsible bidder in this particular situation happened to be Blair Brothers Inc. Their work has been excellent in the past. The other bidders seemed to sub a bit more of the work out which concerned us. Blair Brothers has the ability to do a lot of things without leaving things undone for someone else to do the next day.

Mayor Williams – Does any Council member have any comments on any of these items?

Councilman Dr. Cook – I would like to pull item C-4.

Vice Mayor Gregory – I would like to make a motion that we approve the consent agenda with the exception of item C-4.

C1. Resolution to Amend Olden Days Festival Street Closure Request.

C2. Invoices over \$10,000 Requiring Council Consideration:

a. Robinson Farmer Cox Associates \$23,000.00

C3. Motion to Approve Request to Use Clontz Park for Annual Fireworks Display, Thursday July 3rd, 2014.

C4. Pulled from Consent Agenda.

C5. Motion to Award Street Maintenance Contract to Blair Brothers Inc.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Are there any further comments? Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilwoman Chapman voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – Next we will move back to item C-4 – Motion to Move Forward with Permanent Restrooms, Children's Play Area and Additional Parking at Windsor Castle Park.

Councilman Dr. Cook – I wanted to pull item C-4 from the consent agenda because it is an explosive item. I wanted there to be a specific vote on this instead of being voted during the consent agenda. Sometimes people do not really understand what was passed. It is similar to the school board and the band going to Washington D.C. there is confusion sometimes. I wanted to be very clear on what we are passing and what is going on. At the Committee level, after looking at the results from all of the surveys with public input, we came up with these items. This would authorize the Windsor Castle Park Foundation to start fundraising efforts. I just wanted to make it clear that these items are essentially in a queue to be done but the money needs to be raised first by the Foundation. What we are doing tonight is essentially starting the ball rolling with this. I just wanted to make sure that people were clear on what is going on. This item is so important or controversial that it needs to have its own vote. I make a motion to accept item C-4.

Vice Mayor Gregory – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Are there any more comments?

Councilwoman Tynes – Since Councilman Dr. Cook pulled item C-4 to discuss I would like to ask Councilwoman Chapman to explain why we chose those three items and how it came about.

Councilwoman Chapman – The most recent survey that we completed was done by Ms. Amy Musick, Director of the Smithfield Center and our outdoor venues. She

created a wonderful survey online that we ran from February 15th, 2014 until March 15th, 2014. We also had paper copies available at a couple of locations in town for people who did not have internet access or were not able to go to the library to use a computer. We did this at the Visitor's Center on Main Street which is open seven days a week as well as the Smithfield Station which is open seven days a week. We received 314 responses. The reason that we picked the permanent restrooms, children's play area, and parking for the Foundation to proceed to raise funds for is because those were the top ranked items on all of the surveys not just the recent online survey. Everything up to date was ranked in order of popularity. Most people want to see restrooms; children's play area, and additional parking at the park. The other items continued down the line with less popularity. We decided as a Council after receiving all of the various input from all surveys over the past year that we would proceed with these three items because that is what the community wanted. The rest of the items are tabled. It will be a Council decision maybe later down the road or years down the road. This is what Council has decided to go with. We are still trying to maintain the passive nature and still have some active things like kayak rentals. We wanted to appease as many people as possible. Those three items were the most popular.

Mayor Williams – Are there any further comments or questions? We have a motion on the floor to move forward with restrooms, children's play area, and additional parking at Windsor Castle Park. Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilwoman Chapman voted aye, Councilman Smith voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – We move now to the Action Section. We have an Ordinance to Adopt VML/VACo Investment Pool Trust Fund. We will hear from our Finance Chair, Mr. Randy Pack.

Councilman Pack – Before our Council meeting, we had a special meeting today that was open to the public where VML/VACo Finance representatives came and discussed with us what VML/VACo was and how the funds were made up and what it entailed. Part of the idea here is that currently any additional money that the town has is tied up in money markets has very low return on the money. What we are trying to do is

to make better use of that with our investment policy that we recently adopted. VML/VACo is a safe way of investing with other communities in the state of Virginia. It is highly regulated and has a lot of stipulations. In the past sixteen years, not this particular fund but the index that they have that they use to gauge this one with averaged about a 4% return. This is considerably better than what we are seeing in the money market. We have prepared an ordinance to adopt the VML/VACo Investment Pool Trust Fund for the purpose of investing monies belonging to or within the Town of Smithfield's control other than sinking funds in certain authorized investments in accordance with Section 2.2-4501 of the Virginia Code. I would like to make a motion that we approve this ordinance tonight to allow us to begin investing with the VML/VACo Investment Pool Trust Fund.

Councilwoman Chapman – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Is there any further discussion?

Vice Mayor Gregory – I just wanted to thank our Town Treasurer, Ms. Ellen Minga. She has been very diligent about not only handling everything else that she does but also keeping this in front of the Finance Committee and making sure that we do everything that we can to maximize the return on the silent money that we rely on for future need. I thank her very much for her efforts. I appreciate it.

Mayor Williams – Are there any other comments? Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilwoman Chapman voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – Next we have a Motion to Approve the Town Council Meeting Minutes of March 4th, 2014.

Mr. Barlow – Mr. Mayor, I recommend that the minutes of March 4th, 2014 be approved as revised.

Vice Mayor Gregory – So moved.

Councilwoman Tynes – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes has voted aye, Councilwoman Chapman voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilman Smith voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – We will move to New Business. I would like to discuss the museum. I am going to read something that I think every Council member has received and read. This is from the President of the Foundation Board of the Isle of Wight Museum. I am just going to read one paragraph. It states “Ann Seward has been to the Town of Smithfield and asked them if they were interested in running and funding the museum. They have not responded as of yet. You will remember the action that we got when we asked them to help us reopen the museum after the flood and help provide storage. I am not holding my breath.” I want to be clear here Ms. Ann Seward has not been to the Town of Smithfield. We have not heard anything about it except from Mr. Peter Stephenson and Ms. Judy Winslow. Second of all, if you are going to ask someone for something I think you need to come to ask for help and not be so negative about it. That was an arrogant assumption criticizing this Town Council. I just want to let you know that in lieu of this biased comment I am not going to let it affect my decision about what I am personally going to do to try to take care of this museum situation that we are involved with. I am here for the citizens of the town. I want to do everything that I can to keep this town a very nice, beautiful place and open to the public. As far as my opinion is concerned, I am going to work with whomever but someone has to come to us first. We will continue this discussion starting with Councilman Dr. Cook.

Councilman Dr. Cook – We were made aware that the County was going to cut the budget for historical resources only a week ago and this would include the museum. It would pretty much cut all funding. We were made aware that if we wanted to step in and take it over that we were invited to do so. We were given no information as far as what it would take. We knew what the overall budget was from historical resources. We did not know how much the museum would cost. We were not going to make a decision then and there, blindly and irresponsibly for our citizens to spend money without an amount. We had no idea what the total amount would be. Apparently, this was not a good enough answer for the County Administrator. Our Town Manager spoke with her and she wanted a yes or no answer. We did not give her one so she was going to move

on. The museum as everyone here knows pulls in a lot of people every year. I have heard ten to fourteen thousand people per year. It is very important to tourism and the town. We would love to see it open. We would like for the County to continue to fund it. It is a County service currently and they are looking to cut it. We first implored the County to rethink their decision. We know that there are financial troubles in the County and that there will be some sacrifices. I am glad I am not in their shoes because there are some hard choices to be made. We need to start to think about the future and what is going to happen with cuts. I would like to start by directing our staff to start data collection in the museum to find out what it takes to run it. What is their budget? It is my understanding that \$212,000.00 is not just for the museum but for all historic resources. I am not interested in funding all of the historic resources. We might entertain the thought of helping the museum out but we need to know the amount. The County is going to cut funding this fiscal year which is the last weekend in June. Olden Days would be the last weekend that it would be open. We need to direct our staff to start finding out how much it is going to cost. How many personnel will they need? How many days will it be open? We need to figure out what it will cost and whether or not we are willing to pick it up. As far as the Mayor reading that letter, I hate for people to hold their breath about what we are going to do about tourism in this town. We have shown time and again that we stand behind tourism in Smithfield one hundred percent. Al Casteen's quote in the Daily Press states "The thought is that we can get the town to expand their partnership with the County in the tourism area." I just want people to know that the town last I heard funds fifty-five percent of tourism in Isle of Wight. I do not know how much more of an expansion he would like us to do. We pay the Lion's share as it is. We have some ideas about that. If we could have an Intergovernmental meeting then we might be able to talk about this but I will stick to new business. I know a lot of other people have some things to say. You can believe that all of Council is on the same page about this. We stand united on trying to keep that museum open. We need to figure out how much it is going to cost. It will be a burden on Smithfield's taxpayers. If the County is not going to fund it and they do not want to spend taxpayer's dollars. They are just passing it on to us. It is an unfunded mandate so to speak which means it is another burden that we are going to have to take on. We are going to have to figure out how we can make money to pay for it. Where is the income stream going to come from?

There are a lot of things that we need to decide which is why we need to start today. We are two months from it closing down. It is not a lot of time the way government works.

Mayor Williams – Are there any other comments from Council?

Councilwoman Chapman – Regarding the article today in the Daily Press, it was titled “The Partnership Proposed to Fund Museum”. It is a great idea but no partnership was proposed to my knowledge. It is a great idea. We should all pitch in. It is our museum not just the County’s museum. This article is not accurate. We have not been informed of a partnership. We were informed that the museum was closing. Do not always believe everything that you read. We get a lot of flack sometimes about what is in the paper. People will give us a hard time and sometimes it is not accurate. If anyone has questions then I would encourage them to talk to Council before you believe every single thing that you read. It might be accurate but it might not be.

Vice Mayor Gregory – As everyone in this room knows and many of my constituents continually remind me everybody that lives in the Town of Smithfield pays County taxes. This council over the last few years and I think rightfully so has gone to bat for the town residents about funding inequality or tax inequality. We have really tried to take a stance on behalf of our citizens for things that the County is providing and that everyone pays the same amount should be an equal and shared sacrifice. To me that is part of what makes this County so great. For example, I have never personally felt that the Intermodal Park was a negative for the town just because it was not in the Town of Smithfield. I think the Intermodal Park is great for the entire county. It will benefit Windsor more than it will benefit everyone in the county yes but I do not begrudge Windsor for that. I think rising tides flood all rooms. I believe that is the right thing to do. I encourage the county to continue down that path. All partnerships are not created equal. We have good and bad examples of that with the county. The good is Fire and Rescue. We backed out of that somewhat but we have still worked to help fund equipment, large equipment, fire trucks, and EMS. There are things that we would like to continue to do but we do not fund an annual part of their budget every year anymore because everybody in the Town of Smithfield already pays their piece of that pie. I agree with one time infusions where we are buying something that is going to benefit everybody involved from both sides. The ball fields would be the most recent example of that which is public and private but not permanent. It would be a onetime deal that we

hope will be a benefit for years to come. On the opposite side of that equation, we have the library. We were funding thousands of dollars every year but with no say as to where that money went. We did not even know if what we were giving would go to our branch. We fund fifty-five percent of tourism and all we get is an advisory role. We do not get a vote on who works there and what the activities will be. We get to be informed. If they decide that half of their budget gets cut then we do not have a vote in that or an option. My encouragement to this Council whether it is the museum or anything else is that we entertain anything but that whatever we commit to the citizens of the town get a voice for what they are contributing. Contributing annually and permanently to something that you have no control over or a voice in how it is administered is irresponsible in my opinion. I do not think it is the right thing to do. I do not think the museum cuts will save their budget. There are going to be other things that come up. I have all the respect in the world for the new County Administrator. I think she has a good background and will do a good job. There are some new Board of Supervisor's members. As Dr. Cook said, "I do not envy their position". I appreciate their service. We will work together to accomplish some of these things. I just want people to know how we evolved to this point and what our stance has been in the past because to know where you are going you have to know where you have been and you have to know where you are. Otherwise you might not make the best decisions for the future.

Mayor Williams – Are there any other comments from Council? Hearing none, do we have any other new business? Hearing none, we move to Old Business. Does any member have any old business?

Councilwoman Tynes – This spring will be five years where we had a grand opening for Windsor Castle Park. At that time, former Mayor Dave Hare presented Mr. Joseph Luter III with a large plaque and resolution from the town and the citizens of Smithfield thanking him for his donation. The park is utilized every day by many people whether it is Smithfield citizens or people from surrounding areas. The Mayor just told us at a previous meeting that they have a counter across one bridge. They counted over one thousand citizens going across just that one bridge. A lot of the people who utilize the park on a daily or weekly basis signed a petition wanting to thank the donor again for donating the park to the Town of Smithfield. The park allows them to keep themselves healthy. We discussed this in the Committee meeting. I like to be a

peacemaker. I do not want anyone to think that we as Council just want to ignore the petition. Over four hundred people signed it and we want to recognize that. In doing so I would like to make a motion that the Council have staff write a letter to send to the donor thanking him and letting him know that four hundred people who signed the petition wanted to thank him again for allowing them to have some place where they can go to be healthy that is safe. We used to have to go a bit of distance to get to any type of track to do any type of walking. Now we can do it right in Smithfield. Thanks to our police department they can do it in a safe environment. I make a motion that we send Mr. Joseph Luter, III a letter thanking him again and letting him know that four hundred citizens or more wanted to thank him for giving them a place to be healthy and happy.

Councilman Pack – I will second the motion.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Is there any discussion?

Councilwoman Chapman – I would like to add on to Councilwoman Tynes statement that it would be a nice opportunity to maybe give some usage statistics in the letter as well.

Mayor Williams – He has that already.

Councilwoman Chapman – Okay. So is this just a repetition?

Mayor Williams – I think what Councilwoman Tynes is alluding to is supporting the petition that went around where people had signed letting Mr. Luter know that it is a place that is making people healthier.

Mayor Williams – Is there any further discussion?

Councilman Mr. Smith – During the conversation about this, Mayor Williams spoke to him personally and he did not want any more recognition. Do you get to a point where you offend somebody by continuing to thank them? We all like to be thanked and patted on the back but he has said that he does not want the recognition. I can understand that. He is not looking for the praise. I am not sure what is appropriate and not appropriate. I would not want to offend him. I had the impression that the petition was sort of his wishes. I do not know whether the petition added any validity to his support which is my concern.

Councilwoman Tynes – I was present that day when Mr. Luter made the remarks. It was his wish that the community be happy and healthy. It may not have been his exact words but that was his wish. The community is happy and we are healthy.

Councilman Pack – We are getting ready to go to a vote on this. I want to make it clear that when I vote on this I am not voting the way that I do because I am unappreciative of the park or anything along those lines. It is my opinion that he has been thanked. He is happy with the thanks that he has received. Any additional thanks would be more than he is looking for. I am very thankful for the park myself. I think that thanking a gentleman for a donation every five years or so is probably more than he is looking for. What I do believe would be appropriate is possibly continually sending him something saying that we just had a great festival; people were married, pictures of people exercising, and other things along those lines. The motion is not for that so when I make my vote I just want to make it clear why I was voting the way that I will be voting.

Mayor Williams – Is there any further discussion?

Councilman Dr. Cook – I do not know the proper rules or protocol for this. If I wanted to make a motion to table this until our Committee meeting so we can discuss Councilman Pack ideas would we have to vote on Councilwoman Tyne's motion first?

Mayor Williams – Yes, we have to vote on her motion.

Councilman Dr. Cook – In that case, I am going to echo Councilman Pack's thoughts and ideas. No one can argue that Council does not appreciate what has been given to us. I made a comment to the Committee that we needed to have a festival every year thanking Mr. Luter for his contribution. At what point is it enough? My vote is coming from a practicality stand point. At some point we are just making proclamations to make proclamations.

Vice Mayor Gregory – I would like to say that Councilwoman Tyne's heart is in the right place. I also think with my interaction that I have had with Mr. Luter personally that he would probably be upset that we spent fifteen minutes discussing this. He would call that inefficient business. I would echo Councilman Pack's thoughts also as far as updates on what is going on in the park. He knows that we are thankful. He appreciates that.

Councilman Pack – I have one last comment. Recently I gave my mother a photo book of all of her grand children. She called me yesterday to tell me that she was looking at it for the fifteenth time in two days. The park could be viewed as Mr. Luter's grandchild. A photo book with pictures of events could be very appropriate especially in the spirit of this petition reminding us to be thankful for what we have.

Councilwoman Chapman – It would be a great thing to do. Perhaps we could celebrate it at the 5th Anniversary of the park which would be next May.

Councilwoman Tynes – This year is the fifth year in May.

Councilwoman Chapman –No, I think it is next May. It opened right after I was elected.

Mayor Williams – We do not have to call it a 5th Anniversary but I like the concept of the healthy part. Mr. Luter is all about that. I know that for a fact because he loves Central Park. He sees a lot of people there having activities and that is where this idea was born from. I also like the idea of pictures of the activities at the park. I would think someone could do a photo book. It could include a letter in there thanking him. We have a motion on the floor and a second. We are going to vote on this motion and then we will have another motion to take it to committee.

Vice Mayor Gregory – Councilwoman Tynes does not have to but she could withdraw her motion so that we could just take it to committee?

Councilwoman Tynes – I do not see a reason why we need to take it to committee. You all just love to procrastinate for whatever reason. All I have to do is amend my motion to agree with what Councilman Pack has said. At this point, I would like to amend what I have said. I said healthy and we are going to add the photo book and have staff construct the photo book.

Mayor Williams – We have a motion and a second. We have an amended motion and I need a second on that.

Vice Mayor Gregory – Second.

Mayor Williams – Is there any further discussion on the amended motion?

Councilman Smith – How often are we going to do this?

Councilwoman Tynes – This is it.

Mayor Williams – There is a motion on the floor to send Mr. Luter a letter of appreciation for the park in that the people of the Town of Smithfield are healthier by his

donation including a photo album of current activities that have happened in the park.

Staff can work on the letter. Council will get a copy to approve and amend. Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, Mayor Williams voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilwoman Chapman voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, and Councilman Smith voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – The motion passes unanimously. Is there any other old business? We do not have a Closed Session tonight. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for coming out tonight. We appreciate it. We are adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.



T. Carter Williams
Mayor



Peter Stephenson, AICP, ICMA-CM
Town Manager