

Town of Milton
Town Council Special Meeting Minutes
Milton Mariner Middle School, 16391 Harbeson Road
September 15, 2006

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Mayor Post.

Mayor Post called the roll.

PRESENT: Councilman Jack Frey
 Councilman Ed Harris
 Councilman Gene Dvornick
 Councilman Noble Prettyman
 Councilwoman Ronda Melson
 Councilwoman Leah Betts
 Mayor Don Post

Mayor Post: informed everyone that this is a business meeting, anyone who makes loud outbursts, loud comments, side remarks, or sidebar conversations will be removed.

Additions/corrections to the agenda

Amended the Executive session to include land acquisition and pending litigation.
Councilwoman Betts made a motion, Councilwoman Melson seconds it. All in favor, “Aye”.
Motion carried.

Town Manager Contract

D. J. Hughes: read Section 19c of the Charter that states the Town Manager shall hold office for an indefinite term and may be removed by majority vote of Town Council or the Town of Milton. Councilwoman Betts made a motion to move the contract under Executive Session, Councilman Dvornick seconds it. All in favor, “Aye”. Motion carried.

Setting of a Resolution of Referendum

John Brady: read the resolution into record. Article 34 was interpreted by Mr. Brady and copies are available for the public. Article 34 states a public hearing must take place and a second resolution pursuant to section 34a 3 would be considered by the Town Council at a special meeting to be held after the public hearing. Ten days notice must be given for the public notice, the special meeting notice must be give thirty days and no more than sixty days. The amount borrowed cannot exceed 30% of assessed real property. The resolution reads, “The maximum amount the Town can borrow is up to twenty-million dollars (\$20,000,000). The public hearing could be held on September 25, 2006, followed by the special election that will be held on October 28, 2006. The special election is for voters that include every citizen and partnership owning property in Milton. The procedures will be followed exactly. Councilman Dvornick: asked about general obligation bonds. Mr. Brady: stated it is indebtedness for the Town, which are done by bonds, loans, or a combination of both.

Councilman Dvornick made a motion to accept the resolution as read in special meeting tonight, Councilman Frey seconds it. All in favor, "Aye". Motion carried.

Executive Session

Councilwoman Betts made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:14 p.m., Councilman Prettyman seconds it. All in favor, "Aye". Motion carried.

Councilman Prettyman made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:25 p.m., Councilman Dvornick seconds it. All in favor, "Aye". Motion carried.

Unifirst Contract

Councilman Harris made a motion to reinstate the contract with Unifirst and also pay them the amount owed of seven-hundred ninety-four dollars and sixty-five cents (\$794.65), Councilman Nobleman seconds it. All in favor, "Aye". Motion carried. John Brady: stated the settlement proposal is available in Town Hall.

Town Manager Contract

Councilman Frey made a motion to table the Town Manager Contract until the Town Solicitor makes a few changes, Councilwoman Betts seconds it. All in favor, "Aye". Motion carried.

Chestnut Property – Dr. and Mrs. White

Councilman Dvornick made a motion that someone needs to contact Dr. and Mrs. White that Council is withdrawing the previous correspondence that was sent to their property and that they need to resubmit their plans, Councilwoman Betts seconds it. All in favor, "Aye". Motion carried.

Revisions to the FY 2007 Budget

Town Manager George Dickerson read over the budget changes. The changes were a result of the public hearing held on September 5, 2006, and changes that the Town Council requested. He read Sombar's opinion that the asset list should be annually reviewed but not included in the budget document for the public. Councilman Harris made a motion to accept the budget as presented, Councilwoman Betts seconds it. Ann Yarborough: stood and spoke. Stated that she realizes that the Mayor has said he would take her out in handcuffs if she speaks. She wanted to express her opinion of the fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) being removed from the budget for the expansion of the historic district and did not think that it was removed due to "public outcry". The extension has nothing to do with the Historical Society rather it was initiated by her as a citizen. She and her husband moved to Milton for the love of the old historic houses. She feels she is not alone and that downtown Milton will be revitalized because of its historic charm. She stated she is speaking as a citizen of the Town and not a member of the Historical Society. She sees that the \$15,000 is not included in the budget and she asks that it be included into the budget at this time. If it cannot be added she would like each council member to explain why. John

Brady: at workshops an official vote cannot be taken, only at times when a particular item is noted on the agenda for discussion can an official vote can take place. Tonight is the final vote for the budget. Councilman Dvornick: asked what revenue item was removed to cover this \$15,000 being removed. Mayor Post: stated he thinks it was vast things such as the training issues of the Code Enforcer, the street sweeper, the Goshen Hall acquisition, etc. The biggest issue was about the survey. He feels that it is not a district that will save and preserve this town; it is the zoning and governance of the structures. Councilman Harris: stated he was the one to bring the original \$15,000 to the table. Numerous people have contacted him and let him know that they do not want this and he is voting in the majority of the way people spoke. All in favor of existing motion, "Aye". Councilman Prettyman and Councilman Dvornick both opposed the motion. Motion carried. Councilman Dvornick: feels the most important asset is the historic character and charm. Also, that it was a tragedy that \$15,000 could not be found any where in the budget. Councilman Harris: responded by saying that he has heard from numerous residents that it doesn't benefit the all residents as far as tax base and that they weren't living in a historic houses. Councilman Prettyman: stated that he is a native of the town. "Milton is unique within Milton." He does not understand why we wouldn't want to move forward with the survey. Mayor Post: feels a large group should get together and that the Town needed a guarantee that those homes being surveyed would be added to the National Registry. Ann Yarbrough: stated Rebecca Shepherd gave that guarantee. Councilwoman Betts: asked if the individual owner could obtain an individual registration. Ann Yarbrough: stated no it couldn't be obtained on an individual basis. Also that the survey is more sophisticated and that a volunteer group from the Town would to do this. Councilman Dvornick: reiterated his statement given after Rebecca Shepherd had spoken. He stated they identified characteristics of the community that not even long-time residents of the community were aware of. Paul Yaneucci: asked if the houses, once they are registered within a historic district, are restricted on what they can do to those houses. Mayor Post: answered yes and no. Paul Yaneucci: felt that maybe we should have someone working with the Historic Society on the town government side. Councilman Harris: stated again there is a large number of people that are against this issue, however, maybe lack of education is a factor. Mr. Welu: feels that the process of the budget is upsetting. At the public hearing there was no opposition on the issue. Thinks that a council member that makes a rationale on the decision that a lot of people came to him but there was no public objection is a bad policy. Mayor Post: stated that the council represents all members of the town not just the ones who come to the meetings. These are the people who want to come to a meeting a deal with the issues and not bring personal agendas. Stated that public comment is over for tonight. Councilman Prettyman: asked about salary increases. Mayor Post: stated that the increases are higher this year because they were not adjusted last year correctly.

Adjournment

Councilman Frey made a motion to adjourn, Councilwoman Betts seconds it. All in favor, "Aye". Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Coulbourne