

Approved 3/15/2010

Village of Simpson  
Council Meeting  
February 15, 2010  
7:00 PM

The Village of Simpson Council held it's monthly meeting on Monday, February 15, 2010 at 7:00 PM in the Village Town Hall.

**Council Members Present**

David C. Boyd, Jr., Mayor  
Brenda G. Hawkins, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Willie Sumerlin, Councilman

**Other Staff Present**

Keen Lassiter, Attorney  
Sandra Jones, Village Clerk/Finance Officer

**Call to Order**

Councilman Sumerlin gave the invocation and Mayor Pro-Tem Hawkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Quorum Present**

Sandra Jones stated there was a quorum present

**Agenda Review**

The Mayor asked if there were any additions to the agenda and there were none.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Pro-Tem Hawkins motioned to approve the December 14<sup>th</sup> 2009 and January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 minutes. Councilman Sumerlin seconded the motion. All voted "aye". The motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Reports**

Mayor Pro-Tem Hawkins motioned to approve the financial reports for December 2009 & January 2010. Councilman Sumerlin seconded the motion. All voted "aye". The motion carried.

**Discussion Items**

**Audit, 2008-09**

Ken Chilcoat, Auditor for the Village of Simpson presented his report on the 2008-09 Audit. He stated that at this time the financial status was good. There were no questions or comments from the citizens. He stated that he knows we will be going through some

growing pains in the near future but said that the Village would not be able to grow without sewage. Mayor Pro-Tem Hawkins motioned that we accept the auditor's report. Councilman Sumerlin seconded the motion. All voted "aye" and the motion carried.

### **Sewage**

The Mayor commented there has been no news about the sewage grant although it continues to look promising.

### **Burning Ordinance**

The possibility of a burning ordinance has been discussed. This issue has been turned over to the Planning Board. Their next meeting is scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010. The burning ordinance will be on the agenda. The Planning Board Chair, Mary Miller, had no comments at this time.

### **250<sup>th</sup> Celebration**

Pitt County is celebrating its 250<sup>th</sup> County Celebration this year. Simpson will be celebrating a 35th anniversary. No plans have been made. All ideas are welcome.

### **Ethics Training**

Governor Perdue and the N. C. Legislature passed a law requiring all elected government & law enforcement officials to have ethics training during the year of 2010. Councilman Sumerlin and Mayor Pro-Tem Hawkins will attend a session on March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6-8:00 pm. Registration is \$25. Mayor Board has already completed his training.

### **Mayor's Comments**

None

### **Council Comments**

None

### **Planning Board Comments**

None

### **Citizen's Comments**

Hugh Mills, Jr. asked if the Planning Board members are elected. Mayor Boyd stated they are appointed by the Council. To be appointed, one must submit a letter stating interest. When an opening occurs, the Council will consider and approve the applicant for appointment. Currently, one vacancy exists due to the representative from the ETJ having resigned. The list of interested citizens has been given to the Pitt County Board of Commissioners who will appoint the ETJ representative. Mayor Boyd encouraged anyone who lives in our ETJ and is interested in being on the Planning Board to notify the Council.

Mr. Mills asked how the burning ordinance would affect the ETJ. At this point the Mayor has only asked the Planning Board to review the matter. No decision has been

made. This issue will not go before the Council until the Planning Board has discussed it. They could recommend an ordinance be developed. Any ordinance would be reviewed by the Attorney before the Council would take action on it. The Council is not bound by what the Planning Board suggests but will consider their recommendation.

Mr. Mills stated the Mayor had previously said that the meeting agendas would be posted on the Village of Simpson website and in the newspaper. He stated he couldn't find the information in the paper.

The mayor stated it was a planned joint meeting between the Planning Board and the Council only to discuss concerns which had been presented to the Mayor concerning citizens burning debris in the city limits. No action was taken at that time.

Ms. Jones stated it wasn't required for the regular meeting agenda to be published in the paper nor shown on the website. It is a state requirement that if the Council has a called meeting an announcement of the meeting including the agenda must be posted at the Village of Simpson entrances and on the website. At a special or called meeting, the only items that may be discussed are those posted on the agenda. The attorney confirmed Ms. Jones' statements.

Emily Corbitt asked Attorney Lassiter when the people would have a vote about a burning ordinance. He said the town has the option of receiving public comment at either a Public Hearing or at the Town Meeting. Each town meeting is required to have citizen's comments portion during the meeting. Mrs. Corbitt stated that at the Planning Board meeting last week there was opposition. She has 24 signatures stating they are opposed to the burning ordinance. She feels the Planning Board should take the feelings of these citizens into consideration. The Mayor stated that they certainly would be taken into consideration. Mrs. Corbitt will be glad to bring the oppositions to the next Planning Board meeting. She read aloud one such letter stating that the person is an advocate of clean air and also that of free choice. The letter writer stated they had rarely smelled smoke in this community in the 15 years they've lived here. The letter stated that we are not a municipality where rules and regulations are required due to population, but a small community where people enjoy individual decision making. The letter writer felt that we should allow those who deem it necessary to burn to do so at their discretion. Mrs. Corbitt did not feel that we need regulations in Simpson as this is the reason that people are moving to our area. Even in the city of Raleigh, she stated, people burn in their back yards.

The Mayor stated that these concerns will be addressed at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Planning Board meeting. No action has been taken on this subject as of yet. Mrs. Corbitt felt that we should know the wishes of the town's people. Mayor Boyd stated that he brought it up initially because of complaints from citizens. He must honor their requests to review and discuss this matter with the Council. Everyone should have the right to make their comments. The Mayor asked for further discussion on this matter, there was none.

Attorney Comments

None

Adjournment

Councilman Sumerlin Mayor motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Mayor Pro-Tem Hawkins seconded the motion. All voted "aye" and the meeting were adjourned.

Approved *B. G. Hawkins*  
*Willie L. Sumerlin*