

**Village of Folsom
Public Hearing
March 10, 2014
7:15 PM**

Present:

Mayor Phillip Bickham

Alderwoman: Jill Mathies

Alderman: Lance Willie

Alderman: Donald Burris

Attorney: Delbert Talley

CPA: Minda Raybourn

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Phillip Bickham and a quorum established. Invocation lead by Alderman Burris followed by Pledge. The Public Hearing agenda was amended to take revoking of Willow Street off agenda due to the fact it wasn't advertised, but Mayor Bickham stated if anyone has any questions, we can clarify them during announcements. Motion carried by Alderman Burris to exclude the ordinance revoking dedication of Willow Street from agenda, second by Alderwoman Mathies. (3 Yeas, 0 Nays) The motion carried.

Public Hearing:

Item 1 = Ordinance No. 2014-1:

Execute debt and issuance of \$150,000 of Activity Center Loan:

Mayor open floor for Public to express their concerns about the Execution debt and issuance of \$150,000 of Activity Center loan. Alderman Burris stated that the activity center will not be a burden on the village, and Mayor Bickham agreed. "We are ready to build this building," Mayor Bickham stated. Alderwoman Mathies responded, "I'm not in that, we."

Village Attorney Mr. Talley stated that the board is not canceling the building of the Activity Center, but they are just not ready to build and want to stop the continuation of paying interest until then.

There were several questions and comments from public (PLEASE REFER BACK TO AUDIO RECORDING OF PUBLIC HEARING ON MARCH 10TH, 2014 - VILLAGE MEETING).

Executive Director Mary Toti COAST (Council on Aging St. Tammany) representative chided officials and urged them to rethink the project and its economic viability.

Public comments went beyond the 15 minutes allotted for the public hearing and continued into General Meeting. Meeting was adjourned by Mayor Bickham and motion by Alderman Burris to continue into General meeting, second by Alderman Willie. (3 Yeas, 0 Nays) The motion carried.

**Village of Folsom
General Meeting
March 10, 2014
7:30 PM**

Present:

Mayor Phillip Bickham

Alderwoman: Jill Mathies

Alderman: Lance Willie

Alderman: Donald Burris

Attorney: Delbert Talley

CPA: Minda Raybourn

The meeting was called to order and a quorum established. The invocation and pledge were led during the Public Hearing. The Agenda was amended by Alderman Burris Item 2 = Ordinance revoking the dedication of Willow St., second by Alderman Willie. (3 Yeas, 0 Nays). Mayor also asked board to approve financial statements that was emailed to them ahead of meeting motioned by Alderman Burris and second by Alderwoman Mathies. (3 Yeas, 0 Nays) The motion carried.

New Business:

Item 1 = Ordinance No. 2014-1:

Execute debt and issuance of \$150,000 of Activity Center Loan:

There were several more questions and comments from public (PLEASE REFER BACK TO AUDIO RECORDING OF GENERAL MEETING ON MARCH 10TH, 2014 - VILLAGE MEETING).

More discussion was discussed by residence in reference to how the activity center could be a possible money maker but yet if we return loan funds then we will lose invested money. We should think about having a cost analysis done to determine this. Alderwoman Mathies said one of her concerns about the project is that a cost analysis was never done, in which she requested for several months ago. "How do we intend to get positive funds to sustain it, and what do we want to use this for other than seniors?" she asked. "Who will be in charge of clean up and who will rent this out?"

COAST Executive Director Mary Toti and the organization's Board President, Pastor Kathleen Javery-Bacon, both addressed the board. Toti said in terms of the building's "bottom line," that COAST would pay \$400 a month in rent to use the building for its senior center. "We'd love to put it in our four-year plan," she said. "We've watched seniors leave this world awaiting what could be. You all have the opportunity to make a difference." Among the uses discussed for the activity center was that it would serve as home base for COAST's Folsom Senior Center, which provides meals and activities for area senior citizens. The center's current location has been deemed inadequate and unsafe, and its clients have been lobbying for many years for a new location. Pastor Javery-Bacon called Alderman Willie and Alderwoman Mathies "selfish and self-centered" in not supporting the activity center. "It's about the seniors," she said. "I admonish you to do the right thing for the seniors. It's not the mayor's building. It will belong to the community of Folsom." Folsom resident

Greg Boggs agreed that cost projections on the project are needed. "Tamp down the emotional rhetoric and tell us what we can afford," he said. "Crunch the numbers and bring it to us in black and white."

Alderman Willie explained that he is not opposed to the building, but that he thinks it has been "poorly planned." "I look at it as a business and have to ask can we support this building?" Alderman Willie said. "I have pushed for (Folsom employee) raises, but can't get them because we can't afford them. Then how can we afford the building?" Alderwoman Mathies stated, it's not that we can't afford to pay back the \$150,000 loan; my question is bigger than that, can you prove why I need to vote for it. Alderman Willie then stated, I agree can you all show me how we can afford this, show me the plans, and show me the numbers. Mayor stated that we can meet and discuss the financial aspects of it. Alderwoman Mathies stated, the only way she would agree to table this would be that we have a cost analysis done with, maintenance expenses, from electric, to how we will get positive funds, what do we plan to use it for other then our seniors. I still feel we need to return this money while we determine our finances with a cost analysis. Mayor Bickham requested board members give him a list of concerns so that he can research them before they meet and that yes they can do a cost analysis.

Alderman Burris motioned to table the revoke ion of \$150,000 on the loan cancellation ordinance until next meeting, with the stipulation that a cost analysis be prepared by village CPA Minda Raybourn, as per Alderman Willie & Alderwoman Mathies, second by Alderman Willie. (3 Yeas, 0 Nays)

Item 2 = Adoption Section 31.7: Ordinance revoking the dedication of Willow St.

A few Folsom residences asked for an explanation about this revocation. A brief explanation was made by Planning and Zoning member Mrs. Bettye Boggs. Mayor stated that residents should return back to our General Meeting next month to discuss any further concerns.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on motion of Alderman Burris, seconded by Alderman Willie. (3 Yeas, 0 Nays) The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip Bickham, Mayor

I attest that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes taken at the Public Hearing and General Meeting held March 10, 2014.

Attest:

Susan Willie, Municipal Clerk