

APPROVED & RELEASED AT FEBRUARY 14, 2012 COUNCIL MEETING

**CLOSED SESSION MINUTES
MOREHEAD CITY, N.C.**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011

The Council met in CLOSED SESSION in the Municipal Chambers at 202 South 8th Street, Morehead City, N.C., during a Special Meeting of the Town Council held on Thursday, December 8, 2011, at 9:00 a.m., as per G.S. 143.318.11[a][5][i] to discuss the acquisition of property. Those in attendance were: Mayor Gerald A. Jones, Jr., Councilmen George W. Ballou, Paul W. Cordova, David Horton, John F. Nelson, Demus L. Thompson, City Manager R. Randy Martin, Public Utilities Director Daniel Williams and City Clerk Jeanne M. Giblin.

Acquisition of the Sammie Ballou Property at 1545 Country Club Road for Public Utilities Expansion

Manager Martin and Public Utilities Director Williams reported that all contingencies had been satisfied to allow closing on the purchase of property for water facilities as previously authorized to be put under contract via an offer to purchase by the City Council. Manager Martin reported that in an effort to respond to area resident questions about the proposed project for the site, City staff sent notices and held a public meeting. He further advised that 50+ individuals were present at the meeting held at the Blair Farms Clubhouse last evening for a presentation and discussion of the proposed construction of a water tank and treatment facility on property owned by Sammie Ballou on Country Club Road. There were some property owners in attendance in support of the project based upon input received and some against the project.

Morehead City has done its due diligence to locate this water utility project at the best location possible. The City has spent more than a year pursuing options for siting these essential utility facilities. The water treatment facilities, well, lift station and elevated tank are necessary for the future growth of Morehead City and to help with fire protection and water service concerns in that area. There will be many benefits including: improved water pressure, easy access to City water and sewer utilities extended from existing utility lines, and the water quality benefits from the treatment process. The location of the property is 1545 Country Club Road just past the Brooke Woods subdivision on the south side. It is 1,700 feet deep by 200 feet wide. City Manager Martin and Utility Director Daniel Williams recommend that the Council authorize the purchase of the property.

Councilman Ballou commented that he would like to see the tank and building placed as center to the property as possible and to leave as much of a vegetation buffer as possible.

Public Utilities Director Williams advised that it would be a two [2] year construction project and the City will try to place the landscaping before the project begins.

Councilman Thompson commented that in addition to and not in conflict with the water utility improvements on the site he would like to see any undeveloped portion of the property considered for other public purposes in the future once the project is complete such as a park.

Councilman Thompson MOVED, seconded by Councilman Horton, and carried unanimously [Councilman Ballou absent], to return to OPEN SESSION.

Gerald A. Jones, Jr., Mayor

Attest:

Jeanne M. Giblin