



**Town Council  
Special Meeting Minutes  
October 4, 2023 – 1:00 p.m.**

Mayor O’Cain called the Special Meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. on October 4, 2023, electronically through Zoom and in person.

The following attended in person at Town Hall, 441 White Pine Drive, Laurel Park NC 28739:

- Mayor Carey O’Cain
- Mayor Pro Tem Hansen
- Commissioner George W. Banta
- Commissioner Kristin Dunn
- Commissioner Deb Bridges
- Town Manager Alex Carmichael
- Town Clerk Tamara Amin
- Assistant to the Town Manager Jordan Jones
- Parks Technician Bryan Hensley

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Dunn moved to approve the agenda. Mayor O’Cain asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**LITTLE LAUREL GREEN RENOVATIONS PROPOSAL**

Town Manager Carmichael said on September 28<sup>th</sup> the Parks and Greenway Board voted to use its funding to contract with Black Hawk, Inc to renovate the “castle” at Little Laurel Green. The contract for this project requires Council approval.

Council reviewed and discussed the project proposal from Black Hawk, Inc.

Mayor Pro Tem Hansen asked about the railing outside of the perimeter of the tower. He asked if Staff could make sure that is done. He also asked about digging out the electrical and putting in a conduit before the park opens, as well as the new water fountain.

Commissioner Dunn said lots of individuals are concerned about the safety of the park that were brought to Staff’s attention since Mr. Todd was Manager. Things like the swinging bridge and the sandbox issues.

Commissioner Bridges said Laurel Park stresses quality of life and that needs to include all of the residents. This is one of the big reasons the Town needs an accessible playground. Commissioner Bridges said the state just passed a \$10.8 million budget for better access inclusive to parks last Friday. Commissioner Bridges said it is an 80/20 split and the Town needs to get an idea of what we want to do.

Mayor Pro Tem Hansen said there are recommendations from Mr. Todd on accessible parks somewhere in the Town's files.

Mayor O'Cain asked Staff to look at what Mr. Todd has already done, get a consultant recommendation on the sand box, and have Mr. Hensley find the manufacturer to replace parts to make the equipment safe.

Commissioner Dunn said Mr. Todd recommended Harper's Playground.

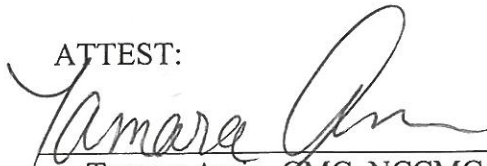
Commissioner Banta asked Commissioner's Dunn and Bridges to take on the task of researching grants and accessible playgrounds. Commissioner Banta said Parks and Greenways has stressed maintaining the current footprint not bigger.

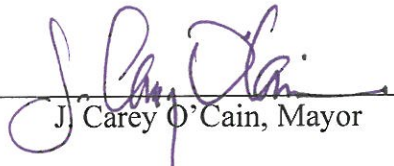
Mayor O'Cain asked Staff to meet with Black Hawk to identify the things that are not on the estimate like the sand box and the railing Commissioner Hansen talked about and get recommendations. Mayor O'Cain asked Town Manager Carmichael to look at consultants Mr. Todd has recommended. Mayor O'Cain asked Commissioners Dunn and Bridges to contact Representative Balkcom on what the Town needs to apply for the State Funds.

Commissioner Bridges moved to approve the project proposal from Black Hawk, Inc. for \$11,800 and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a contract based on said proposal. Mayor O'Cain asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor Pro Tem Hansen moved to adjourn at 1:25 p.m. Mayor O'Cain asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

ATTEST:  
  
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Tamara Amin, CMC, NCCMC  
Town Clerk/Deputy Tax Collector

  
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J. Carey O'Cain, Mayor  
  
10/17/23  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date