

**MINUTES OF CLOSED SESSION HELD  
OCTOBER 2, 2007**

Mayor Starling opened a closed session of the council meeting held October 2, 2007 to discuss economic development and personnel. In attendance were the mayor, all councilmembers, the city attorney, city manager, city clerk, deputy clerk, police chief, and Sampson County Industrial Developer John Swope.

City Manager Connet stated John Swope will present a proposal for economic development incentives for a biofuels producer.

Mr. Swope reported the industry considering locating in Sampson County is a producer of biofuels produced mainly from animal fat. The company needs a five acre site with rail access and is proposing to build a 10,000 sq. ft. facility plus storage tanks. The estimated investment will be \$8,500,000. Twelve to fifteen jobs are proposed at an average yearly salary of \$35,000. Total state and local incentives suggested are \$527,000 and would be paid over an eight year period after local taxes are paid.

The mayor and council expressed concern with possible odors coming from the operation, the aesthetics of the facility, the number of jobs created in relation to the economic incentives received and if this is a good use of one of the remaining properties with rail access.

Mr. Swope offered for the city manager and he to contact city officials in towns where similar operations are located to get feedback on odor levels and aesthetics before the public hearing on the incentives scheduled for October 10, 2007.

Mr. Swope thanked council for their concerns and left the meeting.

Police Chief Brim joined the meeting.

Mayor Starling informed the group of a recent incident at the high school where the school resource officer arrested a parent due to disorderly conduct, and the city received a complaint regarding the action of the officer. He added he wants the council to know of the city's exposure when SRO's do what school administration tells them to do.

Police Chief Brim stated the contract between the city and the school system calls for SROs not to enforce Level 1 offenses but to enforce Level 2 and 3 offenses, to deter crime, and to prevent students from being victims of violent acts. He said while he is concerned over ways the officers have been utilized, with the recent incident, the parent was arrested due to the fact that others present were being incited to react negatively. In response to a question from council, he explained Level 2 and 3 offenses being enforced are behaviors such as, fighting, cursing, assaults, tobacco use, gambling, and disobedience to staff. Level 2 offenses not being enforced by the SRO include: Dress

Code and not observing school officials search school lockers. If there is probable cause, a search warrant is obtained.

City Attorney Johnson added that SRO's should only become involved in disorderly conduct incidents when it was done in the officer's presence.

Upon a motion duly made, seconded and passed, council exited closed session at 9:05 p.m.

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Clerk

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Mayor