

**MINUTES
CITY OF DUNN
DUNN, NORTH CAROLINA**

The City Council of the City of Dunn held a Special Call Meeting on Thursday, December 27, 2007, at 8:30 a.m. in the Dr. P.K. Vyas Recreation Center, 209 Jackson Road, Dunn, NC. Present was Mayor Oscar N. Harris, Mayor Pro Tem N. Carnell Robinson, Council Members Buddy Maness, Billy Tart, Chuck Turnage and Joey Tart. Also present was City Manager Ronnie Autry, Police Chief B.P. Jones, Police Lt. Rodney Rowland, City Attorney P. Tilghman Pope, City Clerk Debra West, and Daily Record Reporter Steve Reed.

Council Member Bryan Galbreath was absent.

INVOCATION

Mayor Harris opened the meeting at 8:34 a.m. and gave the invocation. Afterwards the Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION

**AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY
FOR GOVERNOR'S CRIME
COMMISSION GRANT TO
PREVENT GANG VIOLENCE**

This is a second grant through the Governor's Crime Commission to Prevent Gang Violence. The time frame of this grant will be from July 1, 2008 until December 31, 2009.

Police Chief Jones explained that after the last council meeting, it was learned that this grant application must be submitted by December 31, 2007. The grant will be requesting three (3) temporary full-time non-sworn employees under the Dunn Police Athletic/Activities League as follows: 1 – Community Coordinator, 1 – Youth Coordinator and 1- Youth Services Officer. The Community Coordinator will be working with call-ins of repeat offenders under the forming Harnett Community Action Committee, contacting the community, churches, civic groups, parents and citizens to become involved in prevention/intervention programs at the Dunn Police Athletic/Activities League along with other duties. The Youth Coordinator will be working with youth to become involved in various programs through the Dunn Police Athletic/Activities League, checking on school grades, becoming involved in various other after-school programs throughout the county that Dunn PAL may not offer along with various other duties. The Youth Service Officer will be working directly with youth that are drop-outs, suspended from school, involved in gangs and other criteria and coaching these youth into becoming involved in school, Dunn PAL and various other programs to turn from their current lifestyle as well as other job duties.

The grant will also request instruction materials, education materials, personnel training and youth activities funding to help with continuing training of staff, assisting with helping further the education of youth and assisting with providing more youth with athletic opportunities.

The grant will also request for equipment for the following agencies to further assist them in collaborating with all agencies as it relates to gangs and assist in all suppression efforts of those agencies: Dunn, Erwin, Coats, Lillington and Benson Police Departments. The grant will include seven (7) wireless broadband internet access cards for laptops, 18 laptops to be distributed to the agencies listed along with four (4) digital cameras for the Benson Police Department who did not receive these from the first grant.

Total amount of requested grant funds:

\$138,487.00 25% of the grant is a mandated match and ½ of the match may be in-kind.

PAL is requesting that 12.5% of the match come from the current full-time gang officer with the Dunn Police Department that is assigned to the Dunn Police Athletic/Activities League.

The remaining 12.5% match must be a cash match in the amount of \$17,310.88.

This permission to apply for grant funds is for an 18 month grant and is not an award. PAL will report back to the City Council on the success of the grant to ask for an acceptance if this grant is awarded.

It was explained that this grant will help the existing PAL program reach more young people. Information is shared with surrounding towns on a continuous basis.

Discussion was held about the current gang grant that the City received, manpower which is already in place, the accomplishments in receiving laptops and software to identify gang members and potential gang members with the current gang grant.

Chief Jones spoke about a charting system which the City has in place that plots every known drug house.

Discussion was held about juveniles and it was explained by Chief Jones that those records must be kept separate. He mentioned that the SRO (School Resource Officer) can identify juveniles through the help of school children. A lot of drug information is given through the SRO Officer's relationship with the children in the school system.

Mayor Harris pointed out that this gives the city an opportunity to infiltrate the system. He mentioned that PAL is a good program which interrelates to other programs.

Mayor Pro Tem Robinson stated that it is impossible to go in his community without hearing something positive about the PAL program. It is amazing when you hear from kids and adults about Lt. Rowland. He commended Lt. Rowland and stated that he wished that all kids would take part in this program.

A motion was made by Council Member Turnage, and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Robinson to grant authorization to apply for a Governor's Crime Commission Grant to Prevent Gang Violence. **Motion unanimously approved.**

Further discussion was held about the pay schedule proposed for the personnel approved for this grant.

Mayor Pro Tem Robinson encouraged the council to attend the Martin Luther King Parade on January 21, 2008.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Oscar N. Harris
Mayor

Attest:

Debra G. West
City Clerk