

**TOWN OF LELAND  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
JOINTLY WITH THE TOWN OF BELVILLE  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2006  
7:00 P.M.**

**ASSEMBLY**

The Town of Leland Council held a special meeting on Monday, September 18, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at Belville Elementary School for the purpose of discussing mutual interest.

Present were: Walter Futch, Mayor; Councilmen: Brenda Bozeman, Gordon Hobbs; Councilman Medlin and Tommy Wallace.

Also present were: Bill Farris, Interim Town Manager; Carol Ann Floyd, CMC, Town Clerk; Landon Barker, Executive Assistant; Jimmy Strickland, Public Works Director; Donna Strickland, CMC, Finance Officer; Robyn Watts, CMC, Tax Collector; Tim Evans, Chief Building Inspector; Steven Spruill, Planner I and Osey Sanders, Police Chief.

Present for the Town of Belville were: David Long, Mayor; Jean Rhodes, Mayor Pro Tem; Commissioners: Buddie Ennis and Dennis Taylor. Also present were: Jim Eldridge, Attorney; Athina Williams, Interim Town Clerk; James Kern, Code Enforcement Officer, Chris May, COG Consultant and Karen Thomas.

Absent for the Town of Belville were: Chuck Thurlow, Commissioner and Chris Sammons, Finance Officer.

**CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chris May called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Councilman Medlin gave the invocation. A quorum was present. Everyone stood and gave Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**DISCUSSION – MUTUAL INTEREST**

Chris May welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. May stated that he would turn the meeting over to the 2 mayors. David Long, Mayor of Belville introduced his board and staff. Walter Futch, Mayor of Leland introduced his board and staff. Mr. May stated that there are 2 different agendas tonight. Mr. May stated that one was just discussion and the other was a discussion to request Leland to annex properties in Birch Creek, Glendale and Stoney Creek. Each Belville councilmember gave their views on what they would like to see happen. Jim Eldridge, Belville Attorney gave background on the results of the annexation lawsuit between Leland and Belville a few years ago. [7:25:03 PM](#) Mayor Futch stated that he would like to see a merger of the towns. Mayor Futch stated that annexation of the parcels surrounding would just be a temporary fix. Mayor Futch stated that the Town of Leland has grown due to mainly voluntary annexations with the exception of 1 involuntary annexation. Mayor Futch stated that the town has a lot of services to offer the citizens. Mayor Futch stated that he would not be for changing the court agreement. Mayor Futch stated that there was a lot of blood, sweat and tears over a 2 to 3 year period and he couldn't see much benefit in changing the agreement because it would be a short term fix. [7:27:24 PM](#) Councilman Bozeman stated that she thought this was a good thing to and something that she had wished for a long time for the 2 boards to get together and she totally agreed with Mayor Futch. [7:27:47 PM](#) Councilman Medlin stated that he would like to see us become 1 town but would like a vote of the people to ask what they would like to

see happen. Councilman Medlin stated that he would not be in favor of swapping land. [7:37:42 PM](#) Councilman Hobbs stated that Leland has only had 1 involuntary annexation. Councilman Hobbs stated that both towns spent a lot of money on the annexation lawsuit. Councilman Hobbs stated that a lot of time and work in addition to the money went into the lawsuit. Councilman Hobbs stated that right or wrong the judge made a ruling and doesn't see changing the results.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

[7:53:24 PM](#) Stuart Smith stated that he would like to make several comments. Mr. Smith stated that he had heard a lot of interesting and good comments involving some good points and thinks it's hard to tell how things will go without doing surveys, studies and all kind of things. Mr. Smith stated that certainly it all must come from the people what they want and not what some elected officials want. Mr. Smith stated that with the involuntary annexation process started by Leland of Olde Towne, Jackey's Creek is when Belville stepped in and that's when the lawsuit came about. Mr. Smith stated that for some clarification living in Olde Towne that they didn't want to be Belville and they went to Representative Redwine. Mr. Smith stated that they surveyed the subdivisions of Rivercroft, Jackey's Creek, Olde Towne and Woodridge. Mr. Smith stated that they contacted 75% of the property owners and that 94 % stated that would rather be Belville than Leland. Mr. Smith stated that a lot people of Olde Towne would prefer not to be part of either town. Mr. Smith stated that a study should be done. Chris May stated that a committee should be formed with equal representation with several meetings at different places across the area. Mr. May stated that 2 elected officials from both towns, 2 citizens from each town, 1 from each cross area, 1 county commissioner and some staff. [8:05:04 PM](#) Scott Milligan, Chairman Brunswick County Board of Education, stated that he would like to share some wisdom being an elected official. Mr. Milligan stated that Long Beach and Yaupon Beach merged to become Oak Island here in Brunswick County. Mr. Milligan stated that they have a saying in the office not to reinvent the wheel. Mr. Milligan stated that he thought it would be prudent to look and see what those communities did when they were faced with this very same situation. Mr. Milligan stated that they may have the plan that could be adopted by both boards to solve this problem. Mr. Milligan stated that they were the most populated area in the county and were able to merger into 1 town. Mr. Milligan stated that he didn't know the opinions of people who live there but it would certainly be a resource. [8:12:02 PM](#) Chris May suggested that the committee consists of 2 elected officials, 1 from each town, 1 county commissioner and 1 from each of the 4 areas that are unincorporated. Mr. May stated that gives the committee 11 members. Mr. May stated that both towns would appoint their members and both town's would agree on a county commissioner. Mayor Futch stated that he thought that was too many elected officials. Mayor Futch suggested that there be 1 elected official and 2 citizens from each town and 1 from each of the 3 areas, since 1 area doesn't have any residents. [8:33:40 PM](#) Mr. May asked for a motion to have 1 elected and 2 citizen's from both towns, 1 county commissioner, and 3 representing those other areas discussed. Mr. May stated that would be 10 members total and would be supported by staff from both towns and that the mission generally would be to have public participation, list the pros and cons, produce findings, conduct a survey and bring the information back to the boards for their consideration right after the first of the year. Councilman Hobbs **MOVED, SECONDED** by Councilman Wallace to establish a committee and their mission as stated above by Mr. May. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

[8:35:22 PM](#) **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Bozeman **MOVED, SECONDED** by Councilman Wallace to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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Walter B. Futch Jr., Mayor

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Carol Ann Floyd, CMC, Town Clerk

Approval Date: 10/19/06