

RESOLUTION NO. 247

A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE CITY OF KINGSPORT AND THE STATE OF TENNESSEE TO EXPEDITE AND COMPLETE THE REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OF THE NETHERLAND INN ROAD BRIDGE.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee has determined that the existing sixty-year old bridge spanning the Holston River on Netherland Inn Road, in the City of Kingsport, Tennessee is unsafe and has closed the bridge for motor vehicle traffic; and

WHEREAS, many Hawkins Countians vehemently opposed the annexation of a portion of Hawkins County lying to the west of the Holston River by the City of Kingsport, Tennessee, fighting the matter to an unsuccessful conclusion in the Supreme Court for the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kingsport, Tennessee, represented in the plan of services it intended to provide to the area and citizens of Hawkins County being annexed that it would adequately and properly maintain the streets of the territory being annexed; and

WHEREAS, there has existed a prevailing feeling among the Hawkins Countians and especially citizens who reside in the Hawkins County portion of the City of Kingsport that they are treated as second class citizens because of the County of their residence; and

WHEREAS, Netherland Inn Road has an average daily traffic count of approximately 12,000 vehicles traveling between the Hawkins County and the Sullivan County portions of the City of Kingsport, Tennessee, making it a vital link in the chain of commerce and bringing numerous Hawkins County citizens into the City of Kingsport, as encouraged by the City of Kingsport, to do business and therefore generate sales tax revenues beneficial to that municipality; and

WHEREAS, for many citizens of the City of Kingsport and of eastern Hawkins County, Netherland Inn Road is the most direct and fastest means of access to emergency medical care at Holston Valley Hospital and Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Director for the City of Kingsport has publicly announced that reopening of the subject bridge will take no less than six months and up to six years; and

WHEREAS, City of Kingsport Alderman Ken Marsh has raised the question rhetorically, "Do we [City of Kingsport] need that bridge, period?"

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN FOR THE TOWN OF MOUNT CARMEL, TENNESSEE, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The question of Alderman Marsh is answered on behalf of the citizens of Mount Carmel, Tennessee, as follows: "It is not an issue of want versus need: you and all of us need that bridge opened now, period."

2. Immediate replacement of the bridge is a solemn commitment made by the City of Kingsport when it proposed a plan of services to include road maintenance and repair for that portion of Hawkins County it so vigorously pursued via annexation many years ago.

3. The engine of commerce is fueled by the roads that bring and for decades have brought Hawkins County shoppers into the City of Kingsport [to the financial sales tax detriment of its neighbor cities of Mount Carmel and Church Hill through which those shoppers must travel to get to the City of Kingsport]. It would be financial folly for the City of Kingsport to, for a second, countenance the idea of not replacing the Netherland Inn Road bridge.

4. For the sake of the safety, health and welfare of the citizens of Hawkins County who live both in and out of the corporate limits of the City of Kingsport, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Kingsport and the State of Tennessee are called upon to repair and replace the Netherland Inn Road bridge, *poste haste*.

5. This resolution shall take effect upon passage, the public welfare requiring it this 24 day of January, 2002.



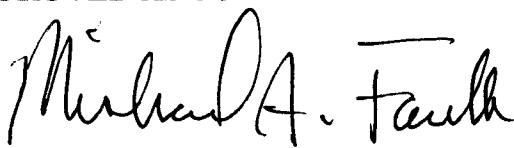
GARY LAWSON
MAYOR

ATTEST:



NANCY CARTER
TOWN RECORDER

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



MICHAEL A. FAULK
TOWN ATTORNEY

FIRST READING	AYES	NAYS	OTHER
PAUL HALE	✓		
HENRY BAILEY	✓		
EUGENE CHRISTIAN	✓		
GEORGE PIERCE	✓		
GARY LAWSON, MAYOR	✓		
THOMAS WHEELER	✓		
WANDA WORLEY	✓		
TOTALS	7	0	0

PASSED FIRST READING: 1-24-2002