

# MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL

June 11, 2024

Whitsett Town Hall Building

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at the Whitsett Town Hall. The following members of the Town Council were present: Mayor Richard Fennell, Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice and Council Members Craig York, Lee Greeson and Cindy Wheeler. Also present were Town Administrator Karen Horne, Town Clerk Barbara York as well as 5 citizens of Whitsett.

Following the Public Hearing, Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice made a motion to open the Regular Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Craig York. The motion was approved unanimously, and Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. noting that a quorum was present.

## **SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR**

Mayor Bell asked if there were any Speakers from the Floor. Eric Barbor discussed his options for a carport. He will need a DCC and was referred to the Planning Board to help him with this process. There was another citizen who brought up the need for a yield sign off Highway 61 at the highway and she was referred to contact the DOT.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Adoption of the Minutes**

- Mayor Bell asked if he heard a motion to accept the minutes from the May 14, 2024, Town Council Meeting. Council Member Craig York made the motion to adopt the May 2024 minutes. The motion seconded by Council Member Cindy Wheeler and the adoption of the May 14, 2024; minutes was carried by unanimous vote.

### **2. Any Discussion and Approval of the Following:**

- **2024 -2025 General Budget** – A motion was made by Mayor Chip Bell to accept and adopt the 2024-2025 General Budget. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cindy Wheeler and the motion was approved unanimously.
- **2024 -2025 Water Budget** – A motion was made by Mayor Chip Bell to accept and adopt the 2024-2025 Water Budget. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cindy Wheeler and the motion was approved unanimously.
- **Water Utility Rate Increase and Policy** - A motion was made by Council Member Craig York to accept and adopt the new Water Utility Rate Increases and updated Policies. The motion was seconded by Mayor Chip Bell and the motion was approved unanimously.
- **Development Ordinance Article 5 Changes** - A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice to accept and adopt the changes to Development Ordinance Article 5. The motion was seconded by Council Member Craig York and the motion was approved unanimously.

### **3. Any Other Old Business**

- Mayor Bell asked if there was any further Old Business and Council Member Craig York made the Council and citizens aware of the significant increase in our Trash and Recycling Bill for the coming year. In the current fiscal year, the Town budgeted \$72,000.00 for Trash and Recycling pickup and for the upcoming fiscal year, we allocated \$90,000.00. We will investigate what other options may be available to us.

## **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Planning Board**

1. Planning Board Chairperson Karen Horne stated that the Planning Board did not meet in June therefore, there was no report.

## **Enforcement Officer**

- Mrs. Horne reported that she has been working with Guilford County regarding the Airbnb listing of the shed on the corner of Crescent Road and Highway 70. Guilford County Permitting and Enforcement has written letters to the owners letting them know that they have not gotten permits or a certificate of occupancy for the shed they are advertising for vacation renters. Whitsett is not interested in having our legal group investigate addressing anything with Airbnb. We are going to let Guilford County manage this issue. The shed does not meet the health and safety standards for a dwelling.

## **Town Administrator**

### **1. DCCs Issued**

- Town Administrator Horne reported that she had completed two DCC's this past month. One was for our Whitsett Town Hall renovations. The other was for a garage/barn structure for Dr. Matt Martin.

### **2. NC Rural Water Survey -**

- Mrs. Horne explained that she had contacted Davis, Martin, & Powell, who engineered our water system, to see how much they would charge us to assist her in completing this survey that is required by every municipality that provides water. The cost was excessive, Mrs. Horne felt she could do this herself with some research and some aid from NCRWA.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **• Any Items from Council Members**

- Council Member Craig York directed the Council to view the letter that he had given each one of them. This letter concerns the Lowe house that is on the other side of Highway 40 from NC Highway 61 (not within Whitsett Town Limits). This old house which was built in 1820 is near Lake MacIntosh. It is on the National and Local Registry for Historical Structures and is protected under historic preservation by North Carolina. Mr. York would like this letter to be put in with our minutes for this month. A copy of this letter will go to the Mayor of Burlington as well with the purpose of trying to protect it from being destroyed by the possibility of construction on the 175 acres that Burlington is proposing to be annexed.
- Council Member Cindy Wheeler asked for some details regarding the \$300K grant that the Town just received to begin renovation on the Town Hall. Council Member Craig York, who oversees this Town Hall Renovation project, said that the grant is earmarked for the renovation and reconstruction of the Town Hall. He explained what will be happening starting next week with work under the building and the crawl space. There was also discussion regarding the shape of the roof. He will be getting bids for that work this week.
- Council Member Lee Greeson informed the Council that the wires on the light on the flagpole that run under the parking lot are rotten. Mayor Bell made a motion for us to move forward in fixing these wires to the light on the flagpole. Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously. We will use grant money to pay for this.
- Mayor Bell expressed concern about the property at 801 NC. Highway 61 where Yardnique is renting the driveway and the garage to park their vehicles when not working. They are also bringing in debris from the trees they grind up from other locations and piling it in the backyard. This is a concern for the neighbors who live near that area as some of their trees are dying. Town Clerk Barbara York was asked to call the Forestry Service again to ask them to revisit this issue. The foreman of Yardnique has already been spoken to about this issue a couple of times and they continue to bring in debris from other locations.
- Council Member Lee Greeson let the Council know that there are structural issues with the women's bathroom at the ballfield. The floor is cracked all the way across the room, the wall is loose next to the door and there is a hole in the wall by the sink. The deadbolt and the keypad on the door are not working either. We need to make a list of things that a maintenance person needs to do in our outside areas. We also need to get a sign with grill/picnic rules and playground rules. Cody Myrick was told by someone from Gibsonville that they were not responsible for spraying the poison oak/ivy that is growing near where the visiting team gathers. It's bad, so Cody sprayed it. Mr. Greeson is going to call Mike Dupree from Gibsonville about having his workmen spray for that from now on.

- **Announcements**

Mayor Bell asked if there were any announcements and there were none.

- **Speakers from the Floor**

Mayor Bell asked if there were any speakers from the floor and there were none.

**ADJOURNMENT** With no further business before the Council, Mayor Bell asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Craig York and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice. The motion carried; and the June 11, 2024, Town Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00p.m. The next regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at the Whitsett Town Hall.

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Chip Bell, Mayor

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Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice

**APPROVED:**