

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL

October 8, 2024

Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at the Whitsett Town Hall. The following members of the Town Council were present: Mayor Chip Bell and Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice, Council Members Craig York, Cindy Wheeler and Lee Greeson Also present was Town Administrator Karen Horne, Town Clerk Barbara York and six citizens.

Mayor Chip Bell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted that a quorum was present. He asked Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice to give the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Mayor Bell asked if there were any Speakers from the Floor and Denise McKnight who resides at 204 Club Square in Lindley Park, the development just outside the Whitsett town limits and next to Hudson Way. He wants to get contact information for the general contractor who oversees the work at Hudson Way. Mr. McKnight stated that the blasting of dynamite on the Hudson Way property is causing cosmetic changes to his home. Mayor Bell gave him contact information for the site planner. The McKnight's were not offered any information from an agency that was handling any fallout from the blasting that was taking place. The agency had spoken to some of his neighbors, but not him. This company would come into the houses and videotape the walls, ceilings, etc. so they would have proof of what the house looked like prior to the blasting. Mr. McKnight wanted his concerns to be on record should he need it in the future.

Toni Jacobelli wanted to introduce himself to the Council; he is running for County Commissioner for District 4.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Adoption of Minutes

Mayor Bell asked if he heard a motion to accept the minutes from the September 10, 2024, Regular Meeting. Council Member Craig York made the motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice and the adoption of September 10, 2024, minutes was approved by unanimous vote.

2. Update on Bathroom by Ballfield

Council Member Lee Greeson reported that Shannon Springs has been working on the bathroom and has cleaned out the gutters. Mr. Greeson was not sure if he had installed the gutter guards. The electronic keypad is not working on the men's restroom and will need to be replaced. We need to order locks for both bathrooms so the keys will be the same.

3. Update on Trees – Three Quotes

The Council received a handout of the three quotes that were obtained to cut the trees back that line one side of our ballfield. Mayor Pro Tem made the motion to offer the job to Durwood Tree Service. The motion was seconded by Mayor Bell and was approved unanimously by the Council.

4. Any Other Old Business

Mayor Bell asked if there was any further Old Business and there were none.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Board

Planning Board Chairperson Karen Horne stated the Planning Board did meet last week but there was nothing to report.

Enforcement Officer

Mrs. Horne introduced Derrick Mabe who is an enforcement officer that works for Alliance Code Enforcement (ACE). He was invited to address the Council to explain the services the company can offer to our town. This company does what is necessary to enforce our ordinances in the community. The Council members asked various questions and Mr. Mabe explained their procedure. Mr. Mabe explained the company's rates and the fact that they can also work on an as needed basis. Mayor Bell said that the Council would go into a closed session to discuss this opportunity and let the company know about their decision.

Town Administrator

1. Update on Picnic Area

Town Administrator Horne reported that the slides have now been ordered and we are waiting for them to be delivered.

2. 811 Membership

Mrs. Horne let the Council know that an application has been sent in to get a membership in the 811 program. It is the law that all town's join this program, and we did not know about that. We found out about this as surrounding communities were having lines drawn for fiber optics to be buried into the ground and we were made aware that we need to be a part of 811.

3. Fee Schedule

Town Administrator Horne sent copies of the fee schedule to the Council Members through email to see if they had any suggestions for any changes that need to be made to the schedule. Council Member Lee Greeson asked about the light key deposit of \$75 that each team needs to make to get the key.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Financial Report – ARP Balance

Town Administrator Karen Horne let the Council know that the balance on the ARPA fund is currently \$30,520.38. This does not include the cost of the trees being cut back at the ballfield. These funds need to be allocated by the end of 2024, and she said that they need to have a special meeting to come up with a prioritized list of how we should spend that money. The Council agreed to have a Board Retreat on Tuesday, October 10.

2. Personnel Policy _ NC State Law SL 2024-26 (Section 7) – Effective October 1

Town Administrator Horne explained that our attorney, Kevin Hornik, sent us a new NC law that goes into effect on October 1, 2024, dealing with the viewing of pornography on government networks. We need to look at our personnel policies and include this new law in our policy. The council needs to review and approve it before January 1, 2025.

3. Set Public Hearing Date

The motion to accept November 12, 2024, for the Public Hearing was made by Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice and seconded by Council Member Craig York. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Any Items from Council Members

Mayor Bell asked if there were any new items from Council members and there were none.

5. Announcements

Mayor Bell suggested having scheduled times for vendors participating in next year's fall festival to bring in and set up their booths. He said he would be glad to set this up. Vendors need to also be here and unloaded 30 minutes prior to the start of the festival.

6. 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, Council Member Craig York made the motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice. The motion carried; and the October 8, 2024, Whitsett Town Council meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30p.m. The next regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Whitsett Town Hall.

Chip Bell, Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice

APPROVED: