

# MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL

August 13, 2024

Whitsett Town Hall Building

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at the Whitsett Town Hall. The following members of the Town Council were present: Council Members Craig York, Lee Greeson and Cindy Wheeler. Mayor Chip Bell and Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice were not present at the meeting due to illness. Also present were Town Administrator Karen Horne, Town Clerk Barbara York as well as two citizens of Whitsett.

Council Member Craig York called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted that a quorum was present. He asked Council Member Lee Greeson to give the invocation.

## **SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR**

Council Member Craig York asked if there were any Speakers from the Floor. There were none.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

- Council Member Craig York asked if he heard a motion to accept the minutes from the July 9, 2024, Regular Meeting. Council Member Cindy Wheeler made the motion to adopt the July 2024 minutes. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson and the adoption of the July 9, 2024, minutes was carried by unanimous vote.

### **2. Update on Women's Bathroom by Ballfield**

- There was no report on the ballfield women's bathrooms. This topic will be tabled until next month.

### **3. Update on Trees that need to be cut back around the back of the Ballfield**

- There was discussion about the concern for how the trees would look once they are pruned. Council Member Cindy Wheeler wants to be sure they don't look butchered like the cedars that were recently cut on Highway 70. She will call George VanHorne, who is an arborist, about how to cut back the trees, so they don't look so bad. The trees must be cut back because they are hanging over the powerlines and growing through the fence. Further discussion will be tabled until next month's meeting.

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

- Council Member Craig York asked if there was any further Old Business and there was none.

## **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Planning Board**

1. Planning Board Chairperson Karen Horne made the Council aware that the Board had discussed looking at architectural designs for businesses that may build in our Highway Business areas. Whitsett can control what design these structures will need to adhere to so the Town can have the certain appearance that it wishes to have. The Board needs to plan ahead for this in our ordinances so that when someone wants to build a business, we will be prepared.

## **Enforcement Officer**

1. Mrs. Horne reported that the Landscaping sign at 7103 Burlington Rd. has been taken care of by the owners. The large sign was removed from the center of the yard and is now leaning against a tree beside the house. Town Administrator Horne had left a sign permit packet for the owners to pick up and complete, but they never did.
2. The Town received an email from Brandon Emory with Alliance Code Enforcement, LLC asking about providing enforcement work for the town. He does not require a contract to be signed; he does work on an as needed basis. He provided a document explaining his background and the services he provides along with his rates. The Council would like to have him make a presentation at the next meeting during a closed session.

## **Town Administrator**

### **1. Update on Picnic Area**

Town Administrator Horne reported that the playground equipment is now in, and Cody Wyrick is waiting for the ground to dry enough after all the rain we have had for him to do the installation. She discussed the broken slides on our playground equipment. Cody Wyrick said he will not repair them due to the liability should someone get hurt. He feels they need to be replaced.

### **2. Resident on NC 61 wanting to tap into the Town's Waterline**

Mrs. Horne let the Council know that the resident at 556 NC 61 is researching what it would take to tap into Whitsett's waterline which is on the other side of NC 61 in Gibsonville's utility easement. Mrs. Horne has been collaborating with the resident and Terrell Staley from Staley Plumbing in Liberty on this project. They have been unable to get pricing because 811 will not mark Whitsett's waterlines because we are not members. The Town needs to get a membership with 811 because by law, all municipalities are supposed to be members. There is no membership fee and data will need to be uploaded to their system before we would be able to start using their services. Mrs. Horne will need to use a private contractor to mark the waterlines for this project since it needs to be done as soon as possible. The cost for this will be between \$300 and \$350 and was approved by the Council. The motion to get a membership with 811 was made by Council Member Lee Greeson and seconded by Council Member Cindy Wheeler and was unanimously approved.

### **3. New Water Rates**

Mrs. Horne let the Council know that the owner of 7101 Burlington Road had written to Mayor Bell requesting the meter be shut off on that property, so they won't get any more water bills. Mrs. Horne will discuss this matter with our attorney.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Financial Report**

- Town Clerk Barbara York provided the Council with an itemized invoice from Prevatte Electrical Company for the services they provided the Town in July. The cost of this invoice was much more than we anticipated, but Council Member Lee Greeson explained to the Council all the services that they had provided. There is still work to be done and Ms. York was asked to reach out to Prevatte and ask what else needed to be done and what the cost would be.
- Ms. York also made the Council aware of the issue we had with our new generator during the last power outage. The generator did not come on. Freddy's Generator's Plus, who sold us the generator, came to the Town Hall to see what the problem was. They stated that because the two HVAC systems were both trying to come on at the same time as the generator was trying to turn on, it was too much power for the generator to handle. They said they were going to come back out and put a part on the generator that would make the HVAC systems come on at separate times so as not to overload the generator. Mrs. York will reach out to Freddy's General Manager to see where we are in that process.

**2. Adopt Animal Control Contract**

- Town Clerk Barbara York reported that the Town’s contract with Animal Control had been signed and returned to Guilford County. The contract is for two years rather than three this time and the cost went from \$1701 to \$1902.

**3. Add Late Fees and Administration Fees to Fire Inspection and Roll-Cart Bills**

- Town Clerk York reported to the Council that she had sent three invoices for Roll-Cart rental and that all three of these invoices have been paid. She sent seven invoices for Fire Inspection reimbursement and only four have been paid. She stated that there should be a late fee on these bills just as there is for the water bills. She suggested that a late fee of \$20 be added to our fee schedule. This will need to be approved at a Public Hearing.

**4. Set Public Hearing Date**

- The next Public Hearing was set for Tuesday, October 8, 2024.

**5. Any Items from Council Members**

- Council Member Cindy Wheeler stated that the owners of the property at 7209 Whitsett Park Road have been bringing in junk cars and an old camper and parking them in the back of the lot. She asked that we send an ordinance violation letter to the owners.

**6. Announcements**

- Town Clerk Barbara York let the Council know that the plans for this year’s Harvest Festival are well underway. We have over a dozen vendors, we have secured our food truck, ice cream truck and our music talents. We are also working on obtaining sponsors for the event.

**7. Speakers from the Floor**

- Council Member Craig York asked if there were any speakers from the floor and Tanneshia Dukes who is running for State Representative for District 59 (which is Whitsett’s district) gave a brief update on her campaign and what she has been doing to help our community.

**ADJOURNMENT** With no further business before the Council, Council Member Craig York made the motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson. The motion carried; and the August 13, 2024, Town Council meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30p.m. The next regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at the Whitsett Town Hall.

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Chip Bell, Mayor

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Jerry Rice, Mayor Pro Tem

**APPROVED:**