

**MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL**  
**May 12, 2009**  
**Whitsett Town Hall Building**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at the Whitsett Town Hall. The following members of the Town Council were present: Mayor Richard Fennell, Council members Jerry Rice, Ken Jacobs, and Cindy Wheeler. Absent was Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown. Also present were Town Administrator Gary Deal, Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia, Sheriff's Department officers Captain Lawrence Straughn and Corporal J. C. Fuller with two volunteer aids Tom Sizemore and Rita Cockman, Republic Waste Services representatives Jimmy Torrey and Bo Barber, two members of the media and 14 other citizens.

Mayor Fennell called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and noted that a quorum was present. Council member Rice offered the invocation.

Following the invocation, Mayor Fennell invited to the floor Corporal Jeremy Fuller, who at last month's Council meeting asked Council members for permission to host a presentation to local residents on establishing a Community Watch Program in Whitsett.

Assisted by his aids, Corporal Fuller distributed handouts to those present and entered into his 45-minute presentation to the public on the importance and impact of a Community Watch Program. A question and answer period followed; and at the close, the audience applauded Corporal Fuller for his delivery and information.

**SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR**

Mayor Fennell resumed the regular monthly meeting, by asking for any other speakers from the floor; and there were none.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Adoption of the Minutes**

Mayor Fennell asked for any changes to the April 14, 2009 minutes for the regular monthly meeting; and there were none. Motion made by Council member Jerry Rice to adopt the minutes as written; motion seconded by Council member Cindy Wheeler. Approval of the minutes was unanimous.

**2. Any Other Old Business**

Mayor Fennell asked for any other old business; and there was none.

## **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **1. Planning Board**

Board Chairman Bob Maccia reported that the Board continues to work on the land-use map; however, the Board lost the assistance of the Guilford County planner assigned to the Whitsett project due to downsizing.

### **2. Enforcement Committee**

Enforcement Officer Gary Deal stated there had been no committee activity this month.

### **3. Enforcement Officer**

Enforcement Officer Gary Deal reported that one development clearance permit had been issued since last month's meeting to Ken and Evelyn Rutkoski to construct an outdoor storage accessory building on their property at 7001 Dow Drive.

### **4. Town Administrator**

Town Administrator Gary Deal reported that the Town, after having been denied block grant funding assistance last year to initiate a public water system, would be pursuing a resubmission this year to the Division of Community Assistance (DCA). With the same prerequisites in tact this round, at least one Town official needed to attend a workshop in order to qualify for moving forward; and Deal stated that Council member Ken Jacobs and he had done so.

Next, would be to schedule, advertise and hold a public hearing on the Town's intent to apply for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). If at all possible, the hearing should occur the week before June 1 to allow for immediate submission once DCA would announce its June 1 start date for accepting preliminary applications. The Town's contractor on this grant-seeking project, Benchmark, CMR, Inc., would once again be ushering through the paperwork.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Set Public Hearing Date for May 26, 27, or 28 on Block Grant Application**

Mayor Fennell asked for preferences on the above three date options to schedule the public hearing needed prior to June 1. With minimal discussion, consensus was to schedule the public hearing on Tuesday, May 26 since it fits the routine of Council meeting night.

A motion was made by Council member Ken Jacobs, to hold the public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on May 26 at the Town Hall. The motion was seconded by Council member Jerry Rice; and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

The required notice of public hearing would be published in the Greensboro News & Record within the mandated timeframe.

## **2. Open and Discuss Bids for Garbage Collection Service for FY 2009-10**

Mayor Fennell stated that two out of three vendors solicited for garbage service bids had submitted bid proposals. Mayor Fennell opened and declared proposals to be: from Waste Industries \$9.69 per household; from Republic Waste—the Town’s current provider—\$9.45 per household. Based on 280 households in Whitsett, the annual costs equated to \$32,558 and \$31,752, respectively.

General comments among Council members were those of satisfaction with the service Republic Waste had been providing Town residents since before the mid 1990’s. With that, a motion was made by Council member Ken Jacobs to accept Republic Waste’s bid and retain their services for weekly garbage collection; motion seconded by Council member Cindy Wheeler. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

The formal contract would be provided by Republic Waste Services, Inc. – Alamance; and would be forwarded to the Town attorney Bill Trevorrow for review and closure by July 1 when the new fiscal year begins.

## **3. Presentation and Discussion of Draft Budget for FY 2009-10**

Formal presentation of the proposed budget for 2009-10 was made to the Council members, with this month’s draft reflecting a lesser deficit than April’s preliminary draft. Even so, attention was again drawn to Town investments with plummeting interest rates to blame for the unforeseen lack of dividends.

With the loss of interest returns as a prime revenue source for the Town, and after weighing areas that could possibly be cut or cut further to balance the proposed budget, Council members concluded that the Town would need to draw from its fund balance to cover already constrained expenditures for next year.

The budget in its current format would now be reviewed and scrutinized by Town accountant Bobby Massey who would then convert it to its final approval form with the required budget ordinance to be adopted by the Town Council before June 30 close, and in place by July 1, 2009.

## **4. Set Public Hearing Date for June 9, 2009 on Budget and Ordinances**

Mayor Fennell invited a motion to schedule the public hearing on the budget, various development ordinance changes, and a new general ordinance. A motion was made by Council member Jerry Rice to set a public hearing date on the Town’s budget and the ordinances to coincide with the next regular monthly meeting of the Town Council on June 9. Council member Ken Jacobs seconded the motion; and motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

**5. Discuss Smoke-Free/Tobacco-Free Policy for Town Hall**

Town Administrator Gary Deal explained that the Guilford County Health Department, in conjunction with a coalition to promote smoke-free and tobacco-free workplace and public building environments, had embarked on implementing a 100% County-wide participation in establishing policy, rules, and ordinances, thereby encouraging municipalities to follow their lead where applicable.

It was suggested that a draft policy be available by the June Council meeting for review and consideration by Council members. The draft policy would beforehand be reviewed by the Town attorney for appropriateness and proper language, accordances... It is hoped that a policy would be adopted as early as June 9 with its effective date soon thereafter.

**6. Any Items from Council Members**

Mayor Fennell asked for any items from Council members; and there were none.

**7. Announcements**

Mayor Fennell asked for any announcements; and there were none.

**8. Speakers from the Floor**

Mayor Fennell asked for speakers from the floor; and no one came forward.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Council, Mayor Fennell invited a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Council member Jerry Rice for adjournment; motion seconded by Council member Cindy Wheeler. Motion passed by unanimous vote of those present; and the May 12 Town Council meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

A 7:00 p.m. public hearing will precede the next regular meeting of the Town Council on Tuesday, June 9, 2009 at the Whitsett Town Hall.

/s/

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Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

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Richard Fennell, Mayor

**APPROVED:** June 9, 2009