

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL
June 9, 2009
Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, June 9, 2009 at the Whitsett Town Hall. The following members of the Town Council were present: Mayor Richard Fennell, Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown, Council members Jerry Rice, Ken Jacobs, and Cindy Wheeler. Also present were Town Administrator Gary Deal, 2 members of the media, and 5 citizens. Absent was Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia.

Following the public hearing, Mayor Fennell called to order the Council meeting at 7:05 p.m., and noted that a quorum was present.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Mayor Fennell asked for any speakers from the floor; and there were none.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Adoption of the Minutes

Mayor Fennell asked for any changes to the May 12, 2009 minutes; none made. Motion made by Council member Jerry Rice to accept the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Council member Ken Jacobs. Adoption carried by unanimous vote.

2. Adoption of Whitsett Town Budget for FY 2009-2010

Mayor Fennell asked Council members for any discussion on the proposed \$107,670 budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Hearing none, Mayor Fennell commended the staff on a job well done and noted the effort in formulating a constrained budget for next year which may require the Town to only minimally dip into its reserves.

A motion was made by Council member Ken Jacobs to adopt the 2009-2010 proposed budget as presented; motion seconded by Council member Cindy Wheeler. Adoption carried by unanimous vote.

3. Adoption of Development Ordinance Amendments to Articles III and IV

Mayor Fennell asked for any discussion on the language changes and additions being proposed for segments in Articles III and IV dealing with special-use permitting and conditional-use zoning. With no discussion forthcoming, a motion was made by Council member and Council liaison to the Planning Board Jerry Rice to accept the recommended changes to the ordinances; motion seconded by Council member Ken Jacobs. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

4. Adoption of General Ordinance on Prohibiting Sex Offenders from Parks and Recreational Facilities

Mayor Fennell asked for any discussion on the proposed ordinance to protect the public on the Town-owned ball field and playground area. With none, a motion was made by Council member Jerry Rice to follow suit of various other Guilford County municipalities and adopt the general ordinance to prohibit sex offenders from Town parks and recreational facilities. Motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown; and motion passed unanimously.

5. Adoption of Smoke-Free Policy for Town Hall Building

Mayor Fennell asked for any comments regarding the proposed policy to ban smoking within the walls of the Town Hall and from its surrounding grounds, specifically within 10 linear feet of entry ways or air intake vents of the Town Hall building.

Given the times, along with the Guilford County push to achieve 100% participation from municipalities to adopt just such a policy, concurrence was unequivocal; and a motion was made by Council member Cindy Wheeler to adopt the smoke-free policy. Motion seconded by Council member Jerry Rice; and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

6. Any Other Old Business

Mayor Fennell asked if there were any other old business to be discussed; there was none.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Planning Board

With the absence of Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia and with the June Board meeting having been cancelled, no report was delivered.

2. Enforcement Committee

Enforcement Officer Gary Deal stated that no Enforcement Committee activity had taken place.

3. Enforcement Officer

Enforcement Officer Gary Deal reported that since last month's meeting, one clearance permit certificate had been issued to Crabbe Service to replace the HVAC system with overhaul rewiring for Steven Dawson at 6778 Kelsey Court.

4. Town Administrator

Town Administrator Deal reported that a meeting had taken place with Town accountant Bobby Massey, the Town Clerk, and himself to finalize the proposed Town budget for FY 2009-10; and the meeting was approving even in light of the current economic climate and conditions. The small-town of Whitsett would likely fare well as compared to other municipalities with their public utilities and services, organizational departments, and complexities.

Town Administrator Deal also reported that with regard to the revised proposed Jordan Lake Rules, the rules had passed the Senate Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee favorably. The rules would now go to the full Senate tomorrow (Wednesday) or Thursday with the hopes of another favorable outcome.

Deal explained that a major victory for municipalities was the deletion of the original requirement to retrofit existing subdivisions for conformance. Even though Whitsett, it appeared, would not have been affected since it has no public water/sewer services or stormwater curb and gutter appointments, the possibility of an assessment existed simply based on location. A definitive answer relative to the impact on Whitsett had been requested, but not yet received.

Finally, Town Administrator Deal reported that no word had been heard on the grant application submitted to the State Department of Community Assistance for funds to install a public water system to initially connect households with contaminated wells to a safe water supply.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Set Candidacy Filing Fee for November 2009 Municipal Election

Mayor Richard Fennell asked for a motion to approve a \$5.00 filing fee, as it had been in the past, for candidates to file for election to the two Council seats available in the November election.

A motion was made by Council member Jerry Rice to approve the \$5.00 fee; motion seconded simultaneously by Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown and Council member Ken Jacobs. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

2. Any Items from Council Members

Mayor Fennell asked for any items from Council members; none offered.

3. Announcements

Mayor Fennell asked for any announcements; and there were none

5. Speakers from the Floor

Mayor Fennell asked if there were any 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 to adjourn was made by Council member Jerry Rice; seconded simultaneously by Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown and Council member Ken Jacobs. Motion passed unanimously; and the June 9 Town Council meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Town Council will be at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 14, 2009 at the Whitsett Town Hall.

/s/

/s/

Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

Richard Fennell, Mayor

APPROVED: July 14, 2009