

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL
July 14, 2009
Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, July 14, 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 Ken Jacobs, and Cindy Wheeler. Also present were Town Administrator Gary Deal, 2 members of the media, and 4 citizens. Absent was Council member Jerry Rice and Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia.

Mayor Fennell called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and noted that a quorum was present. In the absence of Council member Rice who regularly offers the invocation, Mayor invited those present to partake in a moment of silence.

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 June 9, 2009 public hearing minutes; and with none made, asked for a motion to adopt the minutes. Motion made by Council member Cindy Wheeler to adopt the minutes as written; motion seconded simultaneously by Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown and Council member Ken Jacobs. Adoption carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor Fennell asked for any changes to the minutes from the June 9, 2009 regular meeting. With none, a motion was made by Council member Cindy Wheeler to accept the minutes as written. Motion seconded by Council member Ken Jacobs; and motion passed unanimously.

2. 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

In the absence of Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia, Town Administrator Gary Deal filled in to report that extensive changes to Articles III and IV of the development ordinances incited the need for the Planning Board to undertake a final review of all ordinances. Starting with the two most critical—Article III on permits and Article IV on zoning—the Board would tackle one chapter per monthly meeting. Article III had just been completed at the last meeting.

Upon the completion of reviewing all 12 Articles, the codebook will be available electronically, thereby aiding the ease to amend, update, and revise the Town's regulations; a direct link to ordinances will be installed on the Town's website; and this conversion will be considered a major accomplishment.

2. Enforcement Committee

Enforcement Officer Gary Deal stated that the Committee had received a written complaint about overgrown weeds and debris at 1017 NC Hwy 61, and would respond.

3. Enforcement Officer

Enforcement Officer Gary Deal reported that since last month's meeting, two development clearance certificates had been issued to: (1) Donald Stoner at NC Hwy 61 to replace shingled roofing on house, and (2) contractor Custom Air, Inc. to install AC unit, gas furnace, and ductless mini-split heat pump at the home of Curtis Davis at 6909 Stella Court.

4. Town Administrator

Town Administrator Deal stated there was nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Approval of Contract for Annual Audit

Mayor Fennell invited discussion on the proposed contract from Bobby Massey, CPA, to conduct the Town's financial audit for the past budget year that ended June 30, 2009. The proposed fee stands at \$6,500, which is \$380 higher than last year's fee. In comparing this audit fee, however, with those of other local municipalities, which Massey had also provided, his proposal was more than fair. In addition, Mayor Fennell noted Bobby Massey's exemplary track record.

With no discussion or reservations on the matter, a motion was made by Council member Ken Jacobs to accept the contract as stipulated. Motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown; and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

2. Any Items from Council Members

Mayor Fennell asked for any items from Council members; and Council member Ken Jacobs raised the subject of the \$1,000 contract the Town has with Guilford County for services. Town Administrator Deal stated that although the planning and permitting services are by contract still available, it is hard to know who to contact on specific issues due to the state of flux the County seemed to be experiencing with recent personnel terminations; and, admittedly, still with the over-a-year-ago death of Greg Niles who headed the Planning Department and had been the Town's greatest resource and ally.

Rather than approach the County on what the \$1,000 buys the Town, it was thought best to wait and watch since the County was already entertaining the idea of reinstating assessments to municipalities for some services, e.g., animal control. Additionally, with the Town's ongoing efforts to secure grant funds to help with water contamination, and with some of those funds possibly available from the County, any inquiries may hurt those chances for funding help.

In conjunction with funding assistance, Town Administrator Deal added that with regard to the State grant application to DCA, still no word had been heard.

Mayor Fennell then reported on a staff meeting of the District #2 Sheriff's Office held at the Stoney Creek substation, stating that there had been a good, beneficial roundtable discussion by officials present, primarily concerning crime that had overflowed from the Greensboro and Burlington areas having an impact on the District #2 jurisdiction, but not specifically Whitsett. Other topics were briefly mentioned, namely the possibility of municipalities being charged for police protection.

Council members expressed interest in attending these local staff meetings; and Captain Lawrence Straughn, commander of the substation, will be contacted for information to pass along to the Council.

3. Announcements

Mayor Fennell asked for any announcements; and there were none

4. 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 Cindy Wheeler; motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown. Motion passed unanimously; and the July 14 Town Council meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Town Council will be at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 11, 2009 at the Whitsett Town Hall.

/s/

/s/

Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

Richard Fennell, Mayor

APPROVED: August 11, 2009