

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL
August 12, 2008
Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 12, 2008, 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, Captain L.C. Strahan of the Sheriff's office, members of the media, and five residents/property owners. Absent was 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. Council member Rice offered the invocation.

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 July 8, 2008 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 Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown. Adoption carried by unanimous vote.

2. Any Other Old Business

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

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Planning Board

No report.

2. Enforcement Committee

Enforcement Officer Gary Deal had nothing to report from the Committee.

3. Enforcement Officer

Enforcement Officer Gary Deal reported that since last month's meeting, three permits had been issued to: (1) Kevin Sasser to develop RV and boat outdoor storage facility at the corner of NC Hwy 70 and Brightwood Church Road; (2) Best Electric of Burlington to extend electrical service to the outdoor shed on the property of Thelma Whitsell at 553 NC Hwy 100; and (3) Jason Wright to have constructed a 40' x 17' addition to existing house at 6908 Stella Drive.

4. Town Administrator

Town Administrator Gary Deal announced that the NC Department of Transportation is sponsoring another Litter Sweep Roadside Cleanup campaign this fall on September 20 through October 4; and encouraged any interested parties to contact the Town Hall for further information.

In addition, Town Administrator Deal reported that three new electric receptacles had been installed in the Council room—one of which would be used to “ground” the PA system in compliance with the County fire code.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed Contract from Bobby Massey to Audit Whitsett Accounts 2007-08

Council members had been provided with copies of the subject contract and with an accompanying chart comparing audit associated costs for the last five years. Mayor Fennell asked for any discussion on the proposal as presented.

An increase of more than 7% over last year's fee was noted by the Council; but concerns were short lived after comparing the Town's audit costs with those of other CPA firms; and additionally recognizing Bobby Massey's municipal knowledge.

Given that, a motion was made by Council member Ken Jacobs to approve the proposal as presented; motion seconded by Council member and Finance Officer Jerry Rice. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

2. Adoption of Budget Ordinance Amendment for 2007-2008

Council members had been provided with copies of the budget ordinance amendment (copy attached) presenting shifts among accounts to assure that all General Fund expenditures are covered for the fiscal year that ended June 30.

Mayor Fennell asked for any discussion; and with none, a motion was made by Council member and Finance Officer Jerry Rice to adopt the amendment as presented. Motion seconded simultaneously by Council members Cindy Wheeler and Ken Jacobs; and the budget ordinance amendment was adopted by unanimous vote.

3. Any Items from Council Members

Mayor Fennell asked for any items from Council members; and Council member Jerry Rice asked about progress on getting a new, updated copier for the Town Hall office. With the approval of \$3,000 earmarked for a copier in this year's budget, the leasing of an improved copier was imminent; but final selection of the features on the new copier was the tie-up. The Town Clerk would move on final decisions and re-contact the sales representative with delivery and installation of a new photocopier expected by the fall.

Council member Cindy Wheeler raised concern about the posting of speed limit signs on Crescent Road. It had been brought to Wheeler's attention that no signs existed; and motorists seem to be driving at higher speed than should be allowed. The NCDOT highway division will be contacted to remedy the situation.

Another roadway issue was raised—that of the traffic light at the intersection of 61/70. Due to the installation of an added left-turn arrow from Hwy 70 onto 61, excessive time to trip Hwy 61 traffic had been realized. Again, DOT would be queried about the instance.

Mayor Fennell had been provided with a tally and back-up documentation on Town-paid legal fees associated with the Fire Company's hook up to share the Town Hall's septic system. The billed hours from May 2007 and through June 2008 totaled \$1364; and the Mayor asked the Council if the total cost should be reimbursed by the Fire Company or should some portion thereof be considered. The unanimous consensus among the Council was to, in a neighborly gesture, arrive at some sort of split arrangement.

With that, a motion was made by Council member Jerry Rice to accept a 50/50 split of the legal fees, making the Fire Company's share \$682 due to the Town; motion seconded by Council member Ken Jacobs. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

4. Announcements

Mayor Fennell asked for any announcements; none made.

5. Speakers from the Floor

Mayor Fennell asked for speakers from the floor; and Captain Lawrence Straughn of the Guilford County Sheriff's Office was recognized and took the floor. He explained that he was the new commander of District #2 at the Stoney Creek satellite office; and wanted to introduce himself to the community.

Further, Captain Straughn asked the Council to consider adopting an ordinance to grant the County Sheriff's Office authority within Whitsett town limits to act on vehicles parked or abandoned along the sides of roads that would cause traffic hazards and impede

motorist safety. Captain Straughn explained that unincorporated areas in the County are covered under G.S. 20-161, but incorporated municipalities are not; so to protect public safety on all highways, the Sheriff's Office is asking for municipal cooperation to effect just such an ordinance.

Town Administrator Gary Deal asked if there were a "template" type ordinance with the proper language that the Town could use (similar to the method the County government provides when the town is asked to adopt one of their ordinances). Captain Straughn's reply was not to his knowledge; but suggested the Town check with other municipalities. Mayor Fennell stated that he would contact the Town's attorney on this matter.

Captain Straughn also announced that the Town of Whitsett now had its own separate CAD (computer aided dispatch) district which included the less than 3 square miles within the town boundaries as recorded in Guilford County.

Captain Straughn thanked the Council members for their time; and they replied likewise.

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, and was simultaneously seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown and Council member Ken Jacobs. Motion passed unanimously; and the August 12 Town Council meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Town Council will be at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 9, 2008, at the Whitsett Town Hall.

/s/

Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

/s/

Richard Fennell, Mayor

APPROVED: September 9, 2008