

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL
September 9, 2008
Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 9, 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, Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia, members of the media, and five residents/property owners.

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 August 12, 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 Council member Ken Jacobs. Adoption carried by unanimous vote.

2. Speed Limit Posting on Crescent Road and/or Throughout Town

In follow up to last month's discussion regarding no speed limit posted on Crescent Road, Mayor Fennell explained two available options with respect to the Crescent Road concern as well as speed limits throughout Town. One would be for the Town to purchase and erect 35 mph speed limit signs on Crescent Road since NCDOT will not post signs on secondary roadways within Town limits. Second, and at no cost to the Town, would be to request NCDOT to install signs at the north, south, east, west Town boundaries near or with the green signs marking Town limits. The signs would read "Town wide speed limit is 35 mph unless otherwise posted."

Discussion led to Council members favoring the second option; and a motion was made by Council member Jerry Rice to approach NCDOT on installing the “35 mph” signs at the Town’s edges. Motion was seconded by Council member Cindy Wheeler; and was passed unanimously.

3. 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 had nothing to report this month.

Mayor Fennell then mentioned that after last month’s Council meeting where Captain Straughn (the new commander at the Stoney Creek Sheriff’s Office) had been present and spoken, he [the Mayor] had secured a copy of G.S. 20-161 that Captain Straughn cited during his request to the Town to grant authority to the Sheriff’s Office to remove any abandoned vehicles within the town limits that are parked in or alongside roadways and creating public safety hazards.

In further recap, Mayor Fennell explained that G.S. 20-161 dealt with unincorporated areas of Guilford County; but that he had contacted Town Attorney Bill Trevor for opinion and/or to develop an ordinance with comparable elements that would apply to vehicles obstructing traffic within Whitsett town limits. Additionally, Mayor Fennell passed along the statute to Bob Maccia for discussion at the October Planning Board meeting, and by that time the Town’s attorney would likely have provided further input in this regard for the Board’s consideration.

2. Enforcement Committee

Enforcement Officer Gary Deal reported that the Committee was dealing with a potential rezoning issue on highway 100 which is currently zoned “residential.” Now, just back from vacation, Deal will look into this matter further and deliver the particulars at next month’s Council meeting.

3. Enforcement Officer

Enforcement Officer Gary Deal stated that there was nothing to report.

4. Town Administrator

Town Administrator Gary Deal reported that the community block grant application package had been submitted and the Town is now in a “waiting” mode hoping to hear an encouraging word. As part of that package, Randy McNeil prepared an engineering report with updated figures relative to water system costs and a tentative operational timeline. Deal stated that the report was available at the Town Hall for review.

Next, Town Administrator Deal reported that he became aware of some confusion on the part of the County's Planning Department concerning the Town's granting of "conditional-use" for the Kevin Sasser recreational outdoor storage facility. Admittedly, he said that the Town's pertinent ordinances are confusing in syntax; and that the Town would seek assistance from Ginger Booker at PTCOG (and possibly at some cost) to clear up the conditional-use/special-use permitting sections in the Town's code. Meanwhile, Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia and he will work up a "quickfix" to the current ordinances so as to not impede Kevin Sasser's progress.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Any Items from Council Members

Mayor Fennell asked for any items from Council members; and Council member Ken Jacobs asked about the status on the new copier for Town Hall. The Town Clerk responded that the copier was on track to be delivered in September and would cost about \$160 a month to lease for a period of five years.

2. Announcements

Mayor Fennell asked for any announcements; none made.

3. Speakers from the Floor

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

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 Cindy Wheeler. Motion passed unanimously; and the September 9 Town Council meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Town Council will be at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 14, 2008, at the Whitsett Town Hall.

/s/

Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

/s/

Richard Fennell, Mayor

APPROVED: October 14, 2008