

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL
October 13, 2009
Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, October 13, 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, commander of District #2 Sheriff's Office Captain Lawrence Straughn, representatives from Guilford County Public Schools, 2 members of the media, and 8 members of the public. Absent was Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia.

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

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

The Guilford County Superintendent of Schools Mr. Maurice 'Mo' Green earlier had respectfully requested some time during tonight's meeting to make introductions and present a brief update on the County school system, including the Strategic Plan for promoting academic achievement. Mayor Fennell welcomed Mr. Green and entourage to the Council meeting; and invited the Superintendent to the floor. [A copy of the report on which Mr. Green's presentation was based is available in the Town Hall official file.]

Directly following his talk, Mr. Green thanked the Council members for their time and introduced to the Council and audience Phyllis Martin, the Guilford County Southeastern Region Superintendent of Schools, whose position has jurisdiction over the district that includes Whitsett. Ms. Martin graciously took the floor and delivered opening remarks that focused on the benefits of regionalization which is a strong key in providing opportunities for the community, schools, parents, and local businesses to join together in ensuring the success of Guilford County students.

Following her comments, Superintendent Martin introduced Steve Oates who is the Executive Director for the Southeastern Region; and continued with introductions of school principals of various schools in the region—namely Andy Gann of Sedalia Elementary, Beverly Tucker of McLeansville Elementary, Cathy Batts of Gibsonville Elementary, Joe Ferrell of Eastern Middle, and Gregory Slate of Eastern High.

At the conclusion of her presentation, Superintendent Martin thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak at tonight's meeting and also for their votes in support of the 2008 school bond.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Adoption of the Minutes

Mayor Fennell asked for any changes to the September 8, 2009 public hearing minutes; and with none made, asked for a motion to adopt the minutes. Motion made by Council member Jerry Rice to adopt the minutes as written; motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown. Adoption of the public hearing minutes carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor Fennell asked for any changes to the minutes from the September 8, 2009 regular Council meeting; and hearing none, asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Council member Ken Jacobs so moved with motion seconded by Council member Jerry Rice. Motion to accept the regular meeting minutes passed by unanimous vote.

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

With the October Planning Board meeting having been cancelled due to illness, no report was given.

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, no development clearance permits had been issued.

4. Town Administrator

Town Administrator Deal gave an update on the impact of the Jordan Lake Rules on the Town of Whitsett, stating that Council member Ken Jacobs attended a

training meeting sponsored by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on requirements for Rules compliance; and that Deal himself had met with PTCOG to determine direction and guidance. In addition, an engineer with the Guilford County Planning Department had offered his assistance to bring a better understanding to a complicated and not-well-planned process. It appears that the initial effect would be to develop and adopt an ordinance to protect streams, ponds, and lakes in the Town's jurisdiction, followed by some reporting requirements. However, with hearing only of deadlines and having no State guidance in hand, the Town is in a holding mode until more information is provided by the State.

Town Administrator Deal then reported that Benchmark, the Town's grant writer for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) had submitted the complete application to the Division of Community Assistance under which the CDBG falls. Also on the subject of the Town's contaminated wells, Deal had been in contact with Mike Jones of Pyramid Environmental who represents the Mini Mart/Shell Oil in the matter of contamination caused by leaky storage tanks. Mr. Jones explained that if the grant is awarded and if there is 100% participation from those affected households to connect to the proposed public water supply, the State's tank fund would pay for the tap fees and the plumbing hookups to residences within a 1,000 ft. radius of the source of contamination. Pyramid Environmental is trying to extend this 1,000 ft. standard to 1,500 ft. to encompass as many households as possible.

Town Administrator Deal concluded with a status report on the recycling effort implemented in Town on October 1 in accordance with the new landfill bans. Deal reported that there had been more reception than anticipated; and that the original 4 bins had doubled to 8, and 1 pickup a week had gone to 2. Republic Services had been accommodating in this regard, especially since for 3 months the Town would be receiving their services on a trial basis free of charge.

Deal further stated that for each pickup all 8 bins—and even then some—had been filled; and that if this would continue, another alternative that is more permanent and stable may need to be sought, e.g., metal bins with multiple openings. Even entertaining curbside again may make more sense for convenience and economics. Deal had been hearing pro and con comments from residents, who he encouraged to attend a Town Council meeting to voice their opinions and suggestions.

The program will continue to be monitored, tracked, and if possible adjusted through the end of the year at which time the subject of recycling will come back to the table.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Any Items from Council Members

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

2. Announcements

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

3. Speakers from the Floor

Mayor Fennell asked if there were any speakers from the floor; and resident Karen Horne was recognized. Along the line of recycling, Horne stated that her regular trash had substantially reduced with recycling available; and asked if it would be feasible to have curbside recycling the first Monday of each month, with all other Mondays still for household waste pickup. The Town would pose this possibility to Republic Services for reaction.

Captain Lawrence Straughn then asked for the floor to express his appreciation for Council attendance and participation at the District #2 monthly meetings, and invited attendance to the next meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 22 at the substation. In addition, Captain Straughn extended an invitation to Council members and any citizen to ride along with an officer in a patrol car to experience firsthand the activities of a day working for the Sheriff's Office.

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 by Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown. Motion passed unanimously; and the October 13 Town Council meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Town Council will be held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at the Whitsett Town Hall.

/s/

Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

/s/

Richard Fennell, Mayor

APPROVED: November 10, 2009