

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL
November 10, 2009
Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, November 10, 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 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.

Following the invocation, Mayor Richard Fennell announced the November 3 election results, congratulating Cindy Wheeler on her reelection to the Council and Lee Greeson on his election to a Council seat. Mayor Fennell extended his personal thanks to incumbent Ken Jacobs on serving as Council member for four years and for his energy and major contributions to the Council and to the community.

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 minutes from the October 13, 2009 regular Council meeting; and hearing none, asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Council member Jerry Rice; motion seconded by Council member Cindy Wheeler. 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

In the absence of Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia, Town Administrator Gary Deal stepped in for Maccia and reported that the rezoning request scheduled to come before the Planning Board in November had been withdrawn. Deal stated that the Board was still on track with proofreading and reviewing for content the entire set of Articles in the Development Ordinance Book slated for a reprint. In addition, the Board was looking into formulating an “appearance” ordinance dealing with property maintenance and lawn care.

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, 3 development clearance certificates had been issued to: (1) Harold Wyrick Electric Company to upgrade electrical service at 7130 Gusenbury Road, (2) SolarTek Energy of North Carolina to install a thermal solar hot water system at 7001 Dow Drive, and (3) Bill Brown to construct 40’ x 32’ storage building at 801 NC Hwy 61.

4. Town Administrator

Town Administrator Gary Deal gave an update on the new recycling program in Town, stating that participation had been impressive to the point that the 8 96-gallon containers had consistently exceeded capacity; and perhaps the Town should consider other alternatives than what is currently in place. Deal also suspected that, with quantities so vast, communities outside the Town boundaries may be taking advantage of the Town’s service.

Deal mentioned that at another County meeting, he had met up with Susan Heim, the Guilford County coordinator for the solid waste program, who had inquired about the progress of the Town’s recycling efforts. Deal let her know that the program had been well received and, in fact, overwhelming at times. Heim suggested that the Town may want to consider being established as a recycling site for eastern Guilford County, where few sites exist. She offered her assistance in implementing a somewhat “partnership” arrangement whereby the County would pay for the bins and their pickups; but, the Town would be responsible for maintaining the site which, without around-the-clock monitoring, would be a tall order to achieve. Deal would seek the Council’s reaction, and would then provide Heim with feedback.

Jimmy Torrey from Republic Services, on the other hand, offered two more options to the current 96-gallon containers which Republic now provides and collects twice weekly. The first would be two 8-yard metal bins with once-a-week emptying on the premises; the second would be one 20-yard dumpster that would need to be transported to be dumped and then returned. Both options would still be on a “trial basis” and therefore still no charge to the Town through the end of the year; and both would certainly provide more stability to withstand high-wind threats, and of course, more capacity to better accommodate the trend.

Deal expressed concern that moving to larger containers may present even greater potential for outsiders to the Town’s site; but, there is no way of managing it better than now done. The Town really has no choice but to move to larger containers—used by residents and possibly outsiders alike—in order to ward off a cluttered site.

When asked about costs once the trial period has expired, Deal referenced Jimmy Torrey’s figures of \$170/month for the two 8-yard bins with weekly pickup; and over \$200/month for the 20-yard container with once-a-week dump. When asked about past quotes on curbside recycling should that ultimately become an issue, these costs ranged from \$7,000 to use TFC, who could likely allow the Town to piggyback on other municipal contracts, making the cost less than the proposed Republic Services quote of over \$11,000.

After further discussion, the progression reached was to move up to the 8-yard bins; if not sufficient, go to 20-yard dumpster; if not successful, then revisit curbside recycling even though, this service had been voted down a year and a half ago in response to public opinion. The idea of sending out a survey to canvass resident opinion concerning curbside recycling was raised. This method seems to be the most effective in gathering substantive yeas and nays since few residents attend Town Council meetings and public hearings.

Finally, Mayor Fennell made a motion to authorize Town Administrator Deal to arrange with Republic Services the delivery of two 8-yard bins; and if after two or so weeks of evaluation this proves insufficient, then graduate to the 20-yard container. Motion was seconded by Council member Jerry Rice; and a unanimous vote approved the process.

Town Administrator Deal reported that he had attended a working meeting sponsored by the Guilford County Emergency Services to revise the Hazard Mitigation Plan for 2010 as required by the State. The plan is scheduled to be completed and presented to the County during the first quarter of 2010, with subsequent approval by the municipalities.

With respect to the Jordan Lake Rules, Town Administrator Deal reported that, at that same Mitigation Plan meeting, he had hooked up with Shea Bolick, who is a civil engineer with the Guilford County Planning Department considered to be the expert on the new Jordan Lake requirements. Bolick, who offered assistance to the Town in any way possible, is by far the best resource that the Town has at its disposal on this complicated legislation; and the Town would be tapping him for rules interpretation and ensured compliance, with some completed requirements as soon as December 31, 2009.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Any Items from Council Members

Mayor Fennell asked for any items from Council members; and Council member Cindy Wheeler extended her appreciation to fellow Council member Ken Jacobs for his hard work on especially complex issues like Jordan Lake Rules. His drive and support will be missed on the Council.

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 no one asked to be recognized.

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; seconded by Council member Jerry Rice. Motion passed unanimously; and the November 10 Town Council meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Town Council will be held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at the Whitsett Town Hall.

/s/

/s/

Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

Richard Fennell, Mayor

APPROVED: December 8, 2009