

**MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL**  
**December 8, 2009**  
**Whitsett Town Hall Building**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 8, 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, Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia, Lieutenant Robert Elliott from the Sheriff's Department, Councilman-elect Lee Greeson, two members of the media, and two additional residents.

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 November 10, 2009 minutes for the regular monthly meeting; and there were none. Motion made by Council member Cindy Wheeler to adopt the minutes as written; motion seconded by Council member Jerry Rice. Adoption carried by unanimous vote.

**2. Set Council Meeting Dates for 2010**

Prior to tonight's meeting the members of the Council were provided a page listing the 2010 meeting dates for their regular monthly meetings. Mayor Fennell asked for any comments on needing to change established meeting date of the second Tuesday of each month; and Council members concurred with maintaining this standard.

With that, a motion was made by Council member Jerry Rice to accept the 2010 schedule of Town Council meeting dates. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown; and the motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Any Other Old Business**

Mayor Fennell asked for any other old business; and at this juncture, Mayor Fennell recognized outgoing Council member Ken Jacobs for his dedication, honesty, and, above all, his willingness to “always go the extra mile.” Council member Jacobs was presented with a plaque for his exemplary contributions to the Council and the community from 2006-2009.

Town Administrator Gary Deal, added that it was a pleasure to work alongside Council member Jacobs on some major, complex projects for the Town; and expressed his personal thanks to Jacobs for representing the Town in many arenas and for doing whatever was needed to bring about progress on issues that would better the Town.

Also, Planning Board Bob Maccia stated that Council member Jacobs’ absence will have an impact on the Council and the Town, with most of the public not even aware of the good works that were implemented and moved along in stride substantially due to Jacobs’ participation in meetings with the State and the County for the Town’s welfare. Maccia, on a personal note, thanked Council member Jacobs for his help and input at numerous Planning Board meetings.

Council member Ken Jacobs expressed his appreciation for such nice words and gestures; and exited the Council chambers.

### **MAYOR RECESSES COUNCIL MEETING**

At this point, Mayor Fennell recessed the regular meeting of the Town Council to proceed with the swearing in of the newly-elected Council members.

### **SWEARING IN and ELECTION OF NEW MAYOR**

#### **1. Swearing In Ceremony**

Town Administrator Gary Deal administered the oath of office to the elected Council members: Cindy Wheeler and Lee Greeson. The terms of office for these two Council members will expire in 2013.

#### **2. Election of Mayor**

Following the swearing in, Mayor Pro Tem presided over the election for Mayor and opened the floor for nominations. Council member Jerry Rice nominated Richard Fennell for Mayor; nomination seconded by Council member Lee Greeson. Council member Jerry Rice made a motion to close mayoral nominations; motion seconded by Council member Lee Greeson. The unanimous vote retained Richard Fennell as Mayor of Whitsett for another two years. Mayor Fennell thanked Council members for their vote and support.

## **NEW MAYOR PRESIDES**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **1. Election of Mayor Pro Tem**

Mayor Fennell opened the floor for nominations for the office of Mayor Pro Tem; and Mayor Fennell nominated Andy Brown for Mayor Pro Tem; nomination seconded by Council member Cindy Wheeler. The unanimous vote retained Andy Brown as Mayor Pro Tem for the upcoming two years.

#### **2. Appointment of Finance Officer**

Mayor Fennell asked for any recommendations for Finance Officer. Hearing none, Mayor Fennell commended Council member Jerry Rice for a job well done; and stated that he would like to see Council member Rice continue in this role. With that, Mayor Fennell made a motion that Council member Jerry Rice serve the Council as its Finance Officer. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown; and motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **3. Appointment of Assistant Finance Officer**

Mayor Fennell asked for any comments concerning the position of Assistant Finance Officer. Mayor Fennell remarked that he would like to see Town Clerk Jo Hesson remain as Assistant Finance Officer. A motion was made by Council member Cindy Wheeler that Jo Hesson continue to hold the position of Assistant Finance Officer for the next two years. Motion seconded by Council member Jerry Rice; motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **4. Approval of Lawncare Contract for Calendar Year 2010**

Members of the Town Council had received in their packets a copy of the lawncare contract proposed by Blum's Lawncare for service throughout calendar year 2010. Blum's had been the Town's provider for grounds maintenance since 2006, much to the satisfaction of the Council members and office staff.

Mayor Fennell asked for any comments or concerns, noting that fees had not increased from last year, neither per mow nor per visit for extensive lawn maintenance, e.g., fertilizing, shrub pruning, mulching, etc. With no discussion needed, a motion was made by Council member Cindy Wheeler to accept the contract for 2010; motion seconded by Council member Lee Greeson. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

## **5. Any Items from Council Members**

Mayor Fennell asked for any items from Council members; and Council member Cindy Wheeler extended a welcome to Council member Lee Greeson in joining the Town Council. Newcomer Greeson stated that he would do his best to serve the Council and community.

## **6. Announcements**

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

## **7. Speakers from the Floor**

Mayor Fennell asked for speakers from the floor; and Lt. Robert Elliott asked to say a few words. Lt. Elliott welcomed the new Council and stated that the officers at the Stoney Creek substation—of which there are about 36-37 now—look forward to working with the Town Council and serving the Whitsett community.

## **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **1. Planning Board**

Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia stated that copies of the 2010 roster for the Planning Board were before Council members; and reported that the Board now has two additional vacancies in addition to the two alternate seats that already exist. The loss of Lee Greeson due the Council election; and Paul Lewis who has temporarily opted out of being alternate, now leaves one member and three alternate seats open.

### **2. Enforcement Committee**

Prior to his report, Gary Deal welcomed Lee Greeson to the Council. Deal then reported that there are no open cases in review; however, a full dumpster on the premises at the Hwy 61 case needs to be dumped and removed in order for continual cleanup to proceed.

### **3. Enforcement Officer**

Enforcement Officer Gary Deal reported that since last month's meeting, no permits have been issued.

#### 4. Town Administrator

Town Administrator Gary Deal gave an update on the recycling effort, reporting that two 8-yard bins had been delivered to the Town Hall grounds to better accommodate the massive participation by residents. Deal explained that the eight 96-gallon containers would be kept for the time being, especially in anticipation of overflows during the holidays.

Meanwhile, there had been a glitch around Thanksgiving time due to a misunderstanding with the emptying of the new 8-yard bins, which had not been dumped for two weeks. Since then, the Town has been scheduled for a weekly dump on Wednesdays.

Come January when the trial period ends, the Town will need to evaluate the effectiveness of the current practice, and determine what's next. That is, are the 8-yard containers adequate and used properly with little or no debris causing a mess outside bins, or does the Town need to entertain going to curbside?

#### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, Mayor Fennell invited a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Council member Jerry Rice and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown. Motion passed unanimously; and the December 8 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, January 12, 2010 at the Whitsett Town Hall.

/s/

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Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

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Richard Fennell, Mayor

**APPROVED:** January 12, 2010