

**MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL**  
**January 12, 2010**  
**Whitsett Town Hall Building**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 12, 2010, 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, Cindy Wheeler, and Lee Greeson. Also present were Town Administrator Gary Deal, Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia, Rock Creek reporter Jamie Kennedy, and three additional residents.

Mayor Fennell called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and noted that a quorum was present. Council member Jerry 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 December 8, 2009 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 simultaneously by Council members Cindy Wheeler and Lee Greeson. Adoption carried by unanimous vote.

**2. Direction of Future Recycling Program**

Mayor Fennell stated that with the three-month trial period over for the Town's free-of-charge recycling service, the Council has two options for maintaining its drop-off site for its residents. The Town can either (1) continue with the two 8-yard bins, or (2) graduate to a 20-yard container which would provide 25% more capacity.

Since during this period, the two 8-yard bins have been filled to capacity by the time they are dumped weekly, the 20-yard option would look favorable, but this may cause additional cost of providing a concrete pad to support the larger bin.

Town Administrator Gary Deal explained that another drawback to the 20-yard container is that it would need to be removed from the premises to be dumped and then returned to site, possibly involving a couple of hours layover. This prompted Council member Jerry Rice to suggest that rather than have the lapse, would it be feasible for a switch out of two 20-yard containers, so one would always be onsite. Unfortunately, this would likely require two concrete foundations.

With respect to the 20-yard bin, Town Administrator Gary Deal would contact Jimmy Torrey of Republic Services on the concerns raised, that is: (1) Does the 20-yard bin have a lid? (2) Would a concrete pad be recommended for the larger bin? (3) Is a switch out of two 20-yarders doable?

Town Administrator Deal also added that Republic Services has been gracious in extending the Town's trial period indefinitely until the Town has become comfortable with an adequate, effective operation. This, due largely in part to the savings incurred by Republic on its weekly household trash pickup now that recycling has been so successful, as well as Republic's fine rapport with the Town as Whitsett's long-time garbage collection provider.

Given that, Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown suggested that the Town Council hold off on making any changes to recycling for now, and monitor the method for at least another month.

Other brief discussions on recycling dealt again with the two least favorable options of (1) entering into a cooperative agreement with the County to be an established community-wide drop-off center, whereby the County would provide a portion of funds for operating; and (2) ultimately implementing curbside recycling throughout Town, with the likelihood of necessitating a much dismayed property tax increase.

The possibility of a Town-wide survey to each household was also discussed with all the facts, figures, and impacts laid out. This tack has proven, in the past, to be the only way for the Town to collect a majority of public opinion, since Town Council meetings are so poorly attended by the citizens.

Mayor Fennell concluded by asking Town Administrator Deal to gather as much information, including costs, as possible for next month's Council meeting where findings would be presented, and discussion would be continued.

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

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

## **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **1. Planning Board**

Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia stated that the Board had been working on revisions to a general ordinance on lawn maintenance and property appearance, which is categorized under “nuisances.” Maccia stated that the Board had reviewed various similar ordinances of nearby municipalities, and would likely insert some additional wording from these references to improve the Town’s requirements.

Board Chairman Maccia also reported that he and Joe Wheeler were, once again, elected to serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board, respectively.

Chairman Maccia remarked that at next month’s Planning Board, a rezoning presentation, at this time, was planned.

### **2. Enforcement Committee**

Enforcement Officer Gary Deal reported no activity this month for the Enforcement Committee. However, with the vacancy left on the Committee by former Council member Ken Jacobs, Deal asked for a volunteer among current Council members to fill the seat.

Council member Cindy Wheeler volunteered to serve on the Committee; and the offer would be brought to a vote under New Business.

### **3. Enforcement Officer**

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

### **4. Town Administrator**

Town Administrator Gary Deal stated that, in light of the increased traffic on Town Hall grounds due to the recycling drop-off site and the weight of the recycling removal truck, the Council should think about putting another layer of gravel on the parking lot. This should optimally be done by spring to also prepare for the ball season kickoff.

Town Administrator Deal asked if Council member Lee Greeson would be available to get estimates on stone size, type, quantity, and labor for spreading. Council member Greeson agreed; and action would be forthcoming under New Business.

Town Administrator Deal then reported on the 2009 deadlines with respect to the Jordan Lake Rules, which had been met thanks to the work of Guilford County civil engineer Shea Bolick who included Whitsett, along with three other County municipalities in his submitted plans and reports.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Gravel Bids for Recycling and Parking Areas**

Mayor Fennell asked Council member Lee Greeson to solicit estimates on gravel replacement for the recycling and side parking areas of the Town Hall grounds; and the item would be placed on next month's agenda for discussion and decision.

### **2. Enforcement Committee Volunteer**

Mayor Fennell asked for comment on Council member Cindy Wheeler's offer to fill the vacancy on the Town's Enforcement Committee. Hearing none, Mayor Fennell made a motion to have Council member Wheeler serve; motion seconded by Council member Jerry Rice. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

### **3. Appointment of Council Member to Serve as PTCOG Delegate**

Mayor Fennell explained that this is an office that only an elected official can hold, which has voting power among PTCOG membership. The position involves attending six meetings a year—held every other month (starting with February) during the lunch hour at the Greensboro Coliseum.

Council member Cindy Wheeler offered to be the Town's PTCOG delegate. Mayor Fennell asked for a motion to that effect; and Council member Jerry Rice made a motion for Council member Wheeler to serve in that capacity. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown; and motion passed unanimously.

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

Mayor Fennell asked for any items from Council members; and with none heard, Mayor Fennell gave an update on the grant application for infrastructure funds. He reported that the Town had been asked by the State to redo its posting of the public notices on [no] environmental impact and [request for] release of funds, which has been done. With still no official word from the State on the grant approval, the latest word from Gary Wilson of Benchmark, however, is that all indicators are positive.

Simply the fact that the State is continually contacting Benchmark and the Town and marching us through procedures is a good sign.

**5. Announcements**

Mayor Fennell asked for any announcements; none heard.

**6. 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 was made by Council member Cindy Wheeler to adjourn; motion simultaneously seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown and Council member Jerry Rice. Motion passed unanimously; and the January 12 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, February 9, 2010 at the Whitsett Town Hall.

/s/

/s/

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Fennell, Mayor

**APPROVED:** February 9, 2010