

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL
September 14, 2010
Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at the Whitsett Town Hall. The following members of the Town Council were present: Mayor Richard Fennell, Council members Jerry Rice, Cindy Wheeler, and Lee Greeson. Also present were Town Administrator Gary Deal, Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia, two members of the media, and four citizens. Absent was Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown.

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 minutes from the August 10, 2010 regular meeting. With none, a motion was made by Council member Jerry Rice to accept the minutes as written; motion seconded simultaneously by Council members Cindy Wheeler and Lee Greeson. Motion passed by unanimous vote of those present.

2. Adoption of 2010 Hazard Mitigation Plan and Resolution

Prior to tonight's meeting, Council members were emailed a copy of the 153-page 2010 Hazard Mitigation Plan and were sent in their mailed packets a proposed resolution to adopt the Guilford County plan. In order for local governments to receive Federal assistance should a natural disaster strike, all counties and municipalities are required to have a hazard mitigation plan in place.

Mayor Fennell asked for any questions or discussion relative to the plan; and hearing none, asked for a motion to adopt. A motion was made by Council member Lee Greeson to adopt the plan; motion seconded by Council member Jerry Rice. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

3. Set Public Hearing Date of October 12 for Jordan Lake Environmental Regulations

Town Administrator Gary Deal took the floor to report that after numerous progress reports during past Council meetings, he had today received word from County engineer Shea Bolick that the resubmitted Jordan Lake Environmental Regulations had been approved by the NC Environmental Management Commission (EMC) on September 9 as expected. Mr. Bolick had mastered the proposed environmental ordinance for Guilford County and developed tailored versions for several municipalities including Whitsett.

Plans approved by the EMC, which is under DENR, involved 24 municipalities and 6 counties, all of which are now required to individually adopt their respective plans within 60 days of state approval, i.e., by November 9. Town Administrator Deal stated that he would be emailing a copy of the town's approved document to Council members for their review in preparation for a public hearing and ordinance adoption.

Council could, therefore, set a hearing for accepting public comment on the proposed amendments to the Town's environmental regulations in the development ordinance Article XI either in October or November; but chose to schedule it for October to allow for the possibility of a continuance.

Motion made by Council member Lee Greeson to set the public hearing for October 12; motion seconded by Council member Jerry Rice. Motion carried by unanimous vote; and the public hearing notice will be advertised in a newspaper of general circulation.

4. Any Other Old Business

Mayor Fennell asked if there were any other old business; and hearing no items from other Council members, pushed the issue of completing the required ethics training by the end of the year. The only method available without attending the League's annual conference would be to purchase the \$95 March taping of the original webinar, whereby those still needing to complete the requirement, could view the webinar via computer at their convenience within 60 days.

The three Council members remaining for the training agreed this would work; and Mayor Fennell made a motion for the Town Clerk to purchase the webinar and forward its access to Council members. Motion seconded by Council member Cindy Wheeler; and the motion passed unanimously.

Tomas Murawski of the *Creekside Chronicle* made a closing remark that couldn't the charge be considered "price gouging"—how "unethical"!

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Planning Board

With this month's Board meeting cancelled, no report was given.

2. Enforcement Committee

Town Administrator Gary Deal reported that no committee activity had taken place.

3. Enforcement Officer

Enforcement Officer Deal reported that two development permits had been issued since last month's meeting, both to Pat and David Helms property at 7012 Rockledge Road for: (1) construction of sunroom on existing deck foundation, and (2) construction of detached garage and installation of two portable accessory buildings.

4. Town Administrator

Town Administrator Deal reported that he had met with Randy McNeill of Davis-Martin-Powell & Associates, who is the contractor providing engineering services on the block grant infrastructure project, to primarily discuss location of the master water meter. The master meter would require about a 10'x10' area; and, at first, the northeast corner of highways 61 and 70 was the preferred location.

Realizing, however, that this property does not lie within the town limits of Whitsett and the town unable to give even a blink of consideration to purchasing the land, Mr. McNeill would now look to situating the master meter on the northwest corner of 61. In addition, with the forecast of widening highway 70 perhaps in 2020, placement of the meter would need to be far enough off current 70 to be out of the State Highway right-of-way for widened 70. Mr. McNeill and crew will research other options as well.

Town Administrator Deal also reported that they briefly talked about the logistics of water quality testing as progress moves closer to the system being built. The assurance of good quality water servicing the households is especially a concern since there will be some dead-end lines to deal with. And, then they touched on that should there be remaining grant funds once the initial water lines have been installed, could extending the lines to others wanting to hook on to the system be feasible.

Council members will continue to be updated on the infrastructure project as status reports are provided and meetings held.

The next subject reported was on recycling; and Town Administrator Deal stated that the latter part of August and these two weeks in September had been particularly tough for handling the recycling drop-off site due to overload and also violations. It was suspected that the reopening of schools and colleges in the area contributed to the overload, while the violations were likely from those outside of the town limits since town residents have been educated on what is accepted, and from observation—although limited—very responsible on proper disposal.

Even with the town purchase and posting of signs on the bins clearly identifying items allowed and hours of facility use, the last four weeks had been extremely difficult; and cross contamination indicated. Town Administrator Deal turned to the *Rock Creek Record* and the *Creekside Chronicle* reporters for help in asking citizens to comply with the intention to recycle in Whitsett.

Ultimately, going to curbside service is the only solution to overuse and abuse; but, it is clearly not readily affordable by the town.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss Fixed Fee for Short-Term Use of Concession Stand

At the seats of the Council members a draft proposal had been provided that would establish a fixed fee for weekend use of the concession stand. The request by a church youth group to use the concession stand the end of June for a mission trip fundraiser is what prompted the thought to charge rent up front rather than post reimbursement for electricity use.

Since this method was not in place when the youth group requested weekend use of the concession, the town resorted to the former arrangement of reimbursing the town for the portion of the electric bill that is over and above the minimum (minimum trend had been about \$17). In this instance, the church group was liable for \$22.

Council members thought the idea of establishing a fixed fee was a good one; and fees suggested ranged from \$20 to \$50 for use on a weekend. They settled on splitting the difference at \$35; and if this proves to not be equitable at some later time, then rethink it.

Motion made by Council member Lee Greeson to approve a concession stand rental fee of \$35.00 per weekend; motion seconded by Council member Jerry Rice. Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

2. Adopt Proclamation to Observe 2010 Constitution Week, September 17-23

Mayor Fennell stated that the Greensboro chapter of DAR has requested that all local governments participate in declaring September 17-23 as 2010 Constitution Week. With no discussion necessary, a motion was made by Council member

Jerry Rice to adopt the proclamation to do so; motion seconded by Council member Cindy Wheeler. Motion passed unanimously; and a copy of the signed proclamation would be provided to DAR.

4. Any Items from Council Members

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

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 Jerry Rice to adjourn; motion seconded by Council members Cindy Wheeler and Lee Greeson simultaneously. Motion passed unanimously; and the September 14 Town Council meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

A public hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 12, 2010 at the Whitsett Town Hall, followed by the regular monthly meeting of the Town Council.

/s/

/s/

Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

Richard Fennell, Mayor

APPROVED: October 12, 2010