

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL
February 8, 2011
Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 8, 2011 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, one member of the media, and six area citizens.

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 December 14, 2010 regular meeting. [January 2011 meeting cancelled due to snow and ice.] With no changes made, a motion was made by Council member Jerry Rice to accept the minutes as written; motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown. Minutes approved by unanimous vote.

2. Approval of Lawn Care Contract for 2011

Council members had been made aware that even though two additional lawn care providers had been solicited for proposals as requested by the Council, no bid proposals had been submitted to Town Hall, which led the Council members to revert to the bid proposed in December by the current lawn maintenance provider for reconsideration.

As reference, the Town Clerk had pulled bids from 2006 proposals which had been the last time the town went out for competitive bids for lawn service. At that time, the past quotes from two local vendors were \$130 per visit and \$187.50 per visit as compared to this year's quote from current contractor Blum's Lawn Care of \$85 per mow which involved only one price increase over the last four years as the town's contractor.

Recognizing again the good value in Blum's, and realizing the established reliability over the years, there was no need for further discussion; and Council member Jerry Rice made a motion to approve the bid proposal from Blum's. Council member Cindy Wheeler seconded the motion; and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

3. Any Other Old Business

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

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Planning Board

Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia reported the January election results of Board officers for 2011: Chairman Bob Maccia; Vice Chairman Ella Efirid. Additionally, Maccia mentioned that Patrick Hickey had resigned from the Planning Board, but there may be a new prospect for a Board member.

Chairman Maccia then reported that also at this month's Board meeting, the Guilford County animal control ordinance was again reviewed by the Planning Board to cater it specifically to Whitsett. This task resulted in simply deleting several phrases on page 14 that were not applicable to the town; and those changes were now being recommended to the Town Council in preparation to schedule the future public hearing for final ordinance adoption.

Mayor Fennell asked that since the ordinance had already been approved by the Guilford County Board of Commissioners in the fall, would the town be under any deadline to adopt the ordinance. Town Administrator Gary Deal replied that he had been in contact with County staffer Scott Greene on the matter and had conveyed that the animal control ordinance would likely not be adopted by Whitsett until June when the annual public hearing on the town's budget is held.

Deal added that, at this time, no problem with this timing is expected. Of course, the County would prefer prompt adoption in order to implement uniformity of enforcement throughout the county—incorporated and unincorporated areas alike; but, June should still work.

2. Enforcement Committee

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

3. Enforcement Officer

Enforcement Officer Deal reported that one development permit had been issued since last month's meeting to Richard Phillips to do total renovation, largely due to fire and smoke damage, at dwelling located at 7060 Crescent Road.

4. Town Administrator

Town Administrator Deal gave a brief update on the recycling drop-off site, stating that efforts have been going well. In anticipation of inordinate large volumes of recyclables due to the Christmas and New Year holidays, extra pickups had been requested and Republic Services accommodated.

In similar vein, Town Administrator Deal reported that there will be two county-wide clean-up events scheduled for the spring—one for e-waste only, and another for disposal of various household recyclables including white goods, tires, hazardous waste and e-waste. Deal will report the specific dates at next month's Council meeting; and these dates and times will also be on the town's website.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Renew Ball Field Contract with Church Softball League

The Whitsett Church League again has requested use of the town's ball field with the contract in effect from March 1 to November 1, 2011. Stipulations in the contract remain the same as in previous years. However, the Church League has this year requested that an exception be considered to allow Wednesday practices for a few of the participating churches that now have mid-week worship services on Thursday nights rather than Wednesdays.

Council members deliberated, but still held to the rule of no League use of the ball field on Wednesdays and Sundays to allow Whitsett residents public use of the field. With this request denied, all Council members were in concurrence on the contract; and a motion to approve the contract in tact was made by Council member Jerry Rice. Motion seconded by Council member Lee Greeson; and motion carried by unanimous vote.

The contract would be subsequently signed by the Mayor and forwarded to League Director Don Pernell for signature, with the message that the contract's binding conditions would remain the same as in the past.

2. Any Items from Council Members

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

3. Announcements

Mayor Fennell asked for any announcements; none heard.

4. 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 member Cindy Wheeler. Motion passed unanimously; and the February 8 Town Council meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Town Council will be at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 8, 2011, at the Whitsett Town Hall.

/s/

/s/

Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

Richard Fennell, Mayor

APPROVED: March 8, 2011