

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL
October 11, 2011
Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at the Whitsett Town Hall. The following members of the Town Council were present: Mayor Richard Fennell, Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown, and Council members Jerry Rice, Cindy Wheeler, and Lee Greeson. Also present were Town Administrator Gary Deal, Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia, reporter Tomas Murawski from the *Creekside Chronicle* and two 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 September 13, 2011 minutes; none made. Motion made by Council member Cindy Wheeler to accept the minutes as written; motion seconded by Council member Lee Greeson. Adoption carried 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

Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia reported that Town Administrator Gary Deal and he had met to review ordinances relative to signage at the [former] Mini-Mart as a result of inquiries from the Interstate Sign Company out of Mount Airy who is handling the account.

Several emails had been exchanged between the Town and the sign company with respect to requirement interpretations; and the topic will be an agenda item for the next Planning Board meeting on Wednesday, November 2.

In addition, Chairman Maccia reported that the Planning Board continues to work on measures to curtail the problems and violations with respect to the Town's recycling drop-off site. Maccia stated that the newspaper article that appeared in the *Creekside Chronicle* following September's Council meeting had seemed to help in lessening public abuse of the bins. Nonetheless, a plan needs to be in place for activation since the problem is not likely to go away for very long at any given time.

2. Enforcement Committee

3. Enforcement Officer

Enforcement Officer Gary Deal reported that no enforcement activity had occurred since last month.

4. Town Administrator

Town Administrator Deal gave a status report on the public water system, stating that of the nine grantors of property easements, two still had not been heard from after numerous attempts by Benchmark. Deal stated that he and Cindy Ramsey of Benchmark, who is handling securing the easements, would be meeting this week with Jim Barnwell to finalize the meter site land transfer and easement donations of Huffman Oil property.

Generally, the latest timetable for the project is being adhered to, with Benchmark and the engineering firm of Davis-Martin-Powell in close contact on obtaining required permits and NCDOT clearances in order to move on with initiating the construction bidding process. Mayor Fennell asked about when groundbreaking might be expected, which Deal explained was still on track for late this year, early next. Once that happens, progress should be swift.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Any Items from Council Members

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

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 Terry Call, representing the local chapter of the Ruritan and who serves as regional District Governor, gave a close-to-end-of-year report on community activities accomplished or hosted by the Greater Whitsett Ruritan. Call stated that the Ruritan continues to hold two blood drives a year and has started to standardize their breakfasts to once a quarter which has produced greater attendance. In the past, maybe only 30 would show up; now the Ruritan was feeding over 100 every three months.

Call mentioned that the latest fundraiser for a critically-ill young boy brought in \$2,860, which exceeded all records and expectations. It proved an emotional event with the parents and grandfather of the youngster personally greeting and thanking all who participated.

Call stated that this year had been a good one for the club; and it had the funds and people to do community projects. Even though the club is limited by the age of its members and the number of members, which hovers around 20, the Greater Whitsett Ruritan carries its own weight for a small organization. Anyone with needs or knowing of neighbors in need, should contact the Ruritan.

On another matter, Terry Call asked if the new water lines would be coming down NC highway 61 as far as the Town Hall/Ruritan Clubhouse building; and Town Administrator Gary Deal replied that under the current scope of the grant project, they would not. If, however, all awarded funds were not expended for the current plan or if supplemental funds were awarded at some time in the future, the Town Hall/Ruritan Clubhouse building, and especially the Fire Department, would be a consideration.

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; motion seconded by Council member Jerry Rice. Motion passed unanimously; and the October 11 Town Council meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

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

/s/

/s/

Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

Richard Fennell, Mayor

APPROVED: November 8, 2011