

**MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL**  
**August 11, 2020**  
**Whitsett Town Hall Building**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at the Whitsett Town Hall. The following members of the Town Council were present: Mayor Richard Fennell, Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice, Council Members Cindy Wheeler, Lee Greeson, and Jamie King.

Also present were Town Administrator Ken Jacobs, *The Alamance News* reporter Tomas Murawski, and eight additional citizens. Absent was Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia.

Following the public hearing, Mayor Fennell called the regular Council meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m., and noted that a quorum was present.

**SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR**

Mayor Fennell asked for any speakers from the floor, and no one asked to be acknowledged.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Adoption of the Minutes**

Mayor Fennell asked for any changes to the minutes from the July 14, 2020 regular monthly meeting; and hearing none, asked for a motion to adopt the minutes. A motion to adopt the minutes as written was made by Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice; motion seconded by Council Member Jamie King. The motion to adopt the July minutes passed by unanimous vote.

**2. Adoption of Town Operating Budget and Budget Ordinance  
for FY 2020-2021**

Mayor Fennell asked for any Council discussion on the proposed 2020-2021 operating budget, and hearing none, asked for a motion to adopt next year's appropriation. Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice made a motion to adopt the budget

for 2020-2021 as presented; motion seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson. By unanimous vote, the operating budget and budget ordinance for FY 2020-2021 was adopted.

**3. Discussion and Approval of Contract for Annual Financial Audit for Budget Year Ending June 30, 2020**

Mayor Fennell turned to Town Administrator Ken Jacobs for follow up on the above item that was tabled at last month's meeting, pending more definitive information from the Town's CPA firm concerning a final fee for conducting the financial audit for year ending June 30, 2020.

Jacobs explained that he contacted Cobb, Ezekiel, Loy (CEL) and was told that the possible marked increase in the audit fee was contingent on the status of the future sewer project relative to the planned active senior community slated for development at the easternmost Town border. The project would likely require a single audit to be performed which would account for the added charge. After learning that the sewer system was in the offing for at least two or so years, CEL stated that the current fee would be more in line with earlier audit contracts.

Mayor Fennell asked for Council Member satisfaction, and with nods, asked for a motion to approve the proposed audit contract. Council Member Jamie King made a motion to approve the contract; motion seconded by Council Member Cindy Wheeler. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**4. 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**

In the absence of the Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia, Town Administrator Jacobs explained that although Board meetings had been suspended since March, a September meeting is planned.

**2. Enforcement Officer**

Enforcement Officer Jacobs reported that one development clearance certificate had been issued since the July Council meeting for a 12' x 18' post and beam deck addition to principal dwelling at 6784 Kelsey Court.

### **3. Town Administrator**

Town Administrator Jacobs reported the following informational items:

- **Town Financial Opportunities:** (1) Guilford County sent out solicitations for municipalities to apply for COVID money with strict requirements to qualify for eligible funds. (2) Received notification that FEMA had funds for emergency preparedness expenditures, which may be the best chance to replace the Town's generator.
- **Town Hall Grounds:** (1) Re-graveled and defined the parking lot for the recreational facilities. (2) Moved the bleachers to a graveled foundation, for stability, thereby avoiding the past mud floor base. (3) Repaired the drainage system along the ball field first base line to eliminate standing water. (4) Installed wheel stops on the front paved Town Hall parking lot.
- **Town Hall Activities and Other Processes:** (1) All end-of-year reports, which number over 15, have been completed. (2) A shred event offer allowed the Town Hall office to dispose of more than five boxes of retired paperwork. (3) Willie Saul & Son Plumbing performed the two required annual inspections for non-residential backflow prevention devices that service the First Baptist Church and the mini-mart/Sunoco station. Both were functioning properly. (4) Followed up with Guilford County on the status of the planned public auction for the Belton property on NC 61. Advised the county that we know of interested party to purchase the property, and so anxious to bring closure to this case, which has been looming for well over 15 years. We will be perpetual in monitoring progress.

## **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 for any speakers from the floor; and no one asked to be heard.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Council, Mayor Fennell invited a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice made the motion to adjourn; motion seconded simultaneously by Council Members Cindy Wheeler and Jamie King. The motion passed by unanimous vote; and the August 11, 2020 Town Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:22 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at the Whitsett Town Hall.

/s/

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Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

/s/

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Richard Fennell, Mayor

**APPROVED:** September 8, 2020