

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL

October 11, 2022

Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at the Whitsett Town Hall. The following members of the Town Council were present: Mayor Richard Fennell, Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice and Council Members Cindy Wheeler, Lee Greeson and Craig York. Also present were Planning Board chairman Tyler Harris and 2 citizens.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Mayor Fennell asked if there were any Speakers from the Floor and there were none.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Adoption of the Minutes

• Mayor Fennell asked if he heard a motion to accept the minutes from the September 13, 2022 Town Council Meeting. Council Member Craig York made a motion to adopt the September 13, 2022 minutes; motion seconded by Council Member Cindy Wheeler. Adoption of the September, 2022 minutes was carried by unanimous vote.

2. List of issues that DOT needs to address

- At the September meeting, Wright Acher from the DOT asked the council to compile a list of issues that they would like the DOT to address. The following is that list.
 - A school zone needs to be created for Greater Vision Academy on Brightwood Church Road.
 - There needs to be a stoplight at Brightwood Church Road and Highway 70. Penn Lo needs to align with Brightwood Church Road.
 - A study on truck traffic needs to be done on Whitsett Park Road
 - Across the street from TA Truck Stop, there are very deep ruts/holes that need to be filled. These holes are near the bamboo that is growing in that area
 - There are many bad wrecks coming onto Highway 61 from Ball Park Road. We would like to see some kind of caution there to have people slow down before getting to the highway.
 - Kivett House Road has trees, limbs and vines that desperately need to be cut back. This also needs to be done at the intersection of Kivett House Road and Brightwood Church Road.
 - There is a dead tree on the edge of Highway 61 on the DOT right-of-way near TOWE Church that needs to be cut down.

Any Other Old Business

• Mayor Fennell asked if there was any further Old Business and there was none.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Planning Board

- Planning Board Chairman Tyler Harris made the Council aware of the discussion the Board had at its October meeting regarding past due water accounts. A file can be claimed against Shirley Bailey for the past due balance on her property, 582 NC Highway 61. Mayor Fennell asked Town Clerk Barbara York to write a letter to the Clerk of Court in Guilford County informing them of the current past due amount of \$1425.83. This needs to be paid before the estate is closed.

There is nothing that can be done with the Saunders property, 617 NC Highway 61 as far as getting any past due payment.

- Mayor Fennell asked Planning Board Chairman Tyler Harris to have the board look at the verbiage on the water agreement and to make sure the agreement is clear about charges and is up-to-date.
- Mr. Harris and Council Member Craig York also discussed statute 160 D saying that Representative Jon Hardister's office has offered to help make sure all of our ordinances are in compliance. Mayor Fennell also reminded them that we are now members of PTRC and the league, both of which can assist as well. Mr. Harris also has a friend that is a local lawyer who is also willing to help.
- Finally, Mr. Harris made the Council aware that Joe Wheeler had resigned from the Planning Board. Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice made a motion for Lane Williamson to be seated as a permanent member of the planning board. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson and carried unanimously.

2. Enforcement Officer/Town Administrator

- Barbara York, Town Clerk, spoke for Town Administrator Elaine Garner who was unable to attend the meeting letting the Council know that Mrs. Garner felt it was important for the Town of Whitsett to be represented in the Gibsonville parade on Saturday, December 10. Council Member Lee Greeson offered to shine up his truck and we'll put the Town of Whitsett magnets on each side of the truck. He will drive the truck with Mrs. Garner in the parade.

Ms. York also let the Council know that we are interested in hosting a Whitsett Holiday Market. We would like to have 15-20 vendors for the event and they will be charged \$35 to have a booth here. The entire event will be held inside. Each vendor is responsible for decorating their 3' x 6' table which we will provide. Each vendor will be selling holiday goods. The Town Hall will be selling T-shirts and baked items and Operation Christmas Child will have a booth as well. It was decided to have this event on Saturday, November 19th from 10a.m. to 4p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Appoint Council Member Craig York to be a temporary assistant to the Town Administrator. Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice made a motion to appoint Craig York as the temporary assistant to the Town Administrator effective immediately. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson and carried unanimously.

2. Permits/DCCs. Assistant Town Administrator Craig York will be contacting Guilford County's planning board about straightening out the problem that they are allowing some of our citizens to build without coming to our office to get a DCC. The County is leaving the Town completely out of the loop. Currently there are three properties near the Town Hall that are building on their property that have not been in to get DCCs.

3. Picnic Shelter Mayor Fennell presented four estimates for a 16' x 24' picnic shelter to the Council that ranged in price from \$25K to \$43. Three of the estimates were kits and did not include the pad or the installation. The other estimate was from Mike Mitchell, co-owner of GCF, Inc. He bid \$29,970 to build the timber shelter as envisioned by former Town Administrator Ken Jacobs. The shelter will have a metal roof, pad, handicapped access to the pad, electricity and lights. Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice made a motion to have Mike Mitchell contracted to build the timber picnic shelter. The motion was seconded by Council Member Craig York and the motion carried unanimously. We will research to see how much surrounding picnic shelters charge for people to rent as well as rules to be followed when using the facility. Whitsett residents will have first priority to the use of the picnic shelter.

4. Progress on LDG \$50K report The report giving progress on the LDG is due Friday. Town Clerk Barbara York will make sure the report is submitted. We have not used any of the monies for that grant as of this date, but we are working to get those projects under way. Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice and Assistant Town Administrator Craig York will get estimates for the HVAC. Council Member Lee Greeson will follow up about the new generator.

5. Town Hall as an emergency shelter through the Red Cross Town Clerk Barbara York let the Council know that the Red Cross does not have the Town Hall listed as an emergency shelter. In order for us to be listed as a shelter, they must come do a shelter survey. If we are deemed able to be a shelter, if there is an emergency, the Red Cross sends a truck here that has all of the supplies that would be necessary. Mayor Fennell asked Ms. York to schedule the survey.

6. Any items from Council Members. Council Member Lee Greeson let the Council know that he had met with Mike Dupree from Gibsonville Parks and Rec. Mr. Dupree's team has worked on bushhogging the walking trail behind the Town Hall and they are going to spray it with a chemical that will keep the brush down for about a year. Mr. Greeson suggested that since the rec department does so much for us at no charge, we should not charge them for any electricity for using the lights on the ballfield. Mr. Greeson will also contact Durwood Tree Service about cutting back trees that are growing into the infield at the fence.

7. Announcements Mayor Fennell asked if there were any announcements and there were none.

8. Speakers from the Floor The Mayor asked if there were any Speakers from the Floor and there were none.

ADJOURNMENT With no further business before the Council, Mayor Fennell invited a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice and seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson. The motion carried; and the October 11, 2022 Town Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at the Whitsett Town Hall.

_____/S/_____

Elaine Garner, Town Administrator

_____/S/_____

Richard Fennell, Mayor APPROVED

APPROVED: 11-8-2022