

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL

November 14, 2023

Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 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 Craig York and Cindy Wheeler. Also present were Town Administrator Elaine Garner and Town Clerk Barbara York as well as 8 citizens of Whitsett.

Mayor Fennell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted that a quorum was present. He asked Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice to give the invocation.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Mayor Fennell asked if there were any Speakers from the Floor and Council Member Cindy Wheeler let everyone know how nice the Council Room looks now that the paneling has been removed and has now been painted.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Adoption of the Minutes

- Mayor Fennell asked if he heard a motion to accept the minutes from the October 10, 2023, Town Council Meeting. Council Member Craig York made a motion to adopt the October 2023 minutes. The motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice and the adoption of the October 10, 2023; minutes was carried by unanimous vote.

2. Update on the Septic Tank

- Council Member Craig York let the Council know that Guilford County Inspectors came and did framing and a plumbing inspection in the restrooms at the ballfield the day before this meeting. The plumbing inspector noted a few things that we need to correct including some electrical issues. The framing was fine. Once these issues have been resolved, they will come back to reinspect. The Town is going to submit to get a permit to move the drain line from the immiserating pump to get them in the correct position. After this, we should be in good shape.

3. Crescent Road Update

- Town Administrator Elaine Garner reported two 35 MPH speed limit signs have been added midway down the road. Hopefully this will help with the speeding issue. The DOT will not put up any other kind of signs on the road. They did state that if the residents wanted to purchase other signs they could, but they would need to install the signs and maintain them, and they could not be in the right of way of the DOT signs. Mrs. Garner said she had spoken with the Highway Patrol, and they said they would continue to monitor the road as much as they are able. Mayor Fennell asked if any of the neighbors had seen any improvements since the signs were installed and they answer was no. She also stated that the Highway Patrol has not been back to monitor the road since they initially came about a month ago.

4. 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 Chairperson Karen Horne reported after the Board was requested to do more research into the Auxiliary Housing ordinance, Council Member Craig York found that the bill is currently being reviewed by the Senate's Rules and Operations Committee. They will need to do this thorough review before they can approve it and make it into law. Because of this, the Planning Board tabled this issue until further information is given to us by the Senate.

2. Town Administrator

- Town Administrator Elaine Garner let the Council know that there was a resident on NC 61 who is interested in tapping into the town's water supply because the well on the property is contaminated. She has the information on this process for him, but he has missed the last two appointments he has had with Mrs. Garner.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Estimate for Blinds

- Town Administrator Elaine Garner provided the Council members with estimates from three companies to install blinds in the windows of the office and the museum room. Mayor Fennell asked Council Member Craig York what kind of blinds would be period-appropriate from 100 years ago for use in the Town Hall. Mr. York stated that 2- inch wood-style blinds would be what was used back then. Town Clerk Barbara York explained what the representative from Budget Blinds explained to her about these blinds as well as their warranties. There was a question as to why in the bid, they wrote that they were pricing for five windows instead of the eight that we have. After more discussion, Council member Craig York made a motion to accept the bid from Budget Blinds for faux wood blinds on the condition that the bid is for eight tables instead of five. Council Member Cindy Wheeler seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Ms. York will contact them right away to confirm the number of windows and have a representative come and measure to have these blinds custom made.

2. Festival Report

- Mrs. Garner and Ms. York presented the final budget of the Fall Festival to the Council. Our total revenue was \$2916.04. Our expenses were \$2832.36 so we had a profit of \$83.68. We feel it was a very successful event. We were not trying to make a profit; our goal was to provide a fun event for our community.

3. Any Items from Council

Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice asked why the council was not seeing any reports from the TAC and COG meetings. Town Administrator Garner stated she had not been to any TAC meetings due to health reasons. Council Member Cindy Wheeler goes every other month to the COG meetings in Kernersville.

4. Announcements

- Mayor Fennell asked if there were any announcements and there were none.

5. Speakers from the Floor

- Mayor Fennell asked if there were any Speakers from the Floor. Planning Board Chairperson Karen Horne asked about the minutes from the Closed Session that the Council had last month. The mayor explained that the meeting was about the agreement between Whitsett and Gibsonville regarding the water and sewer. There was also discussion of who was going to be responsible for paying for meters, sewer meter, a \$25% surcharge to Gibsonville for reading the meters, etc. for Hudson Way.
- Mayor Fennell stated that we have 3 newly elected Council Members, two who have been on the Council for many years and the new Council Member will be Chip Bell. The mayor announced that he would officially be leaving the position of mayor in December.

6. **ADJOURNMENT** With no further business before the Council, Mayor Richard Fennell invited a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Craig York and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice. The motion carried; and the November 14, 2023, Town Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:40 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at the Whitsett Town Hall.

Richard Fennell, Mayor

Elaine Garner, Town Administrator

APPROVED: