

At the October 11, 2016 Town Council meeting, Mayor Fennell asked Town Administrator, Gary Deal, to come forward with an announcement. Deal stated that he had arrived at a point in his life where he would be stepping down as Town Administrator. Shortly after moving to Whitsett, Deal had served the Town since 1994 in various capacities, starting with the Planning Board, which ultimately led to an invitation to become the first Town Administrator—a position he has held since early 2000.

Deal was asked to remain standing while the Mayor, on behalf of all members of the Council, presented a plaque to Gary with the inscription:
“With deep appreciation, we applaud you and your invaluable contributions to Whitsett over more than two decades—most notable, as our inaugural Town Administrator since April 2000. We are forever indebted.”

~ Town of Whitsett, September 2016.

The plaque expressed only a token of sentiments felt by all Town Council members and by anyone having worked alongside Gary. Town Administrator Deal, in turn, expressed his vested love of the Town and his honor to serve.

Moving on in New Business, Mayor Fennell stated that he had approached former Council Member Ken Jacobs about his interest in replacing Gary Deal, which was to the affirmative. Mayor Fennell explained that in 2000, the position of Town Administrator had been created via resolution and instituted as an appointed office whose incumbent would serve at the pleasure of the Town Council.

Mayor Fennell commented that Ken Jacobs, while serving as a Council Member, had proved extremely proactive in all activities and objectives of the Town at the time; and he believed that Jacobs would make an excellent Town Administrator.

That being said, Mayor Fennell opened Council Members to any discussion. With apparent nods from all, and a motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown to appoint Ken Jacobs to the position of Town Administrator; motion seconded by Council Member Jerry Rice. The motion carried by unanimous vote of Council.