

**MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL**  
**June 12, 2018**  
**Whitsett Town Hall Building**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing was held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 12, 2018, at the Whitsett Town Hall. The following members of the Town Council were present: Mayor Richard Fennell, Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown, Council Members Jerry Rice, Cindy Wheeler, and Lee Greeson.

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

Mayor Richard Fennell asked Council Member Jerry Rice to offer the invocation. Mayor Fennell then asked for a motion to officially open the June public hearing. A motion was made by Council Member Lee Greeson to open the hearing; motion seconded by Council Member Jerry Rice. Following the unanimous vote, Mayor Fennell declared the hearing in session.

Mayor Fennell stated that the two items open for discussion and public comment during the hearing would be the proposed 2018-2019 Town Operating Budget and proposed sewer system fees for a planned community at the east edge of Town.

Preview copies of the proposed operating budget were available for the public after publication of the hearing notice in a newspaper of general circulation, as well as at the hearing. The proposed detailed budget had been provided to the members of the Town Council at the May meeting, and the budget ordinance formally adopting the budget had been provided in Council's advance packets.

**1. Proposed 2018-2019 Town Operating Budget**

Mayor Fennell asked for any input from the public on the proposed budget, and with none, went on to ask Town Administrator Ken Jacobs to provide an overview of and justification for the budget being proposed for the upcoming fiscal year that would begin July 1. Jacobs stated that the General Fund budget had increased by 20% and was pleased to announce, primarily due to a \$25,000 grant for which NC Representative Jon Hardister had nominated the Town to receive. Representative Hardister had called last week to inform

the Town of the prospective award. All accounts so far indicate that the state would approve the proposed grant. Final notification would be forthcoming.

Other factors contributing to increased revenue next year would be the upward valuation of the nearly-completed climate-controlled warehouse business at the corner of NC Hwy 70 and Brightwood Church Road, as well as two new residential dwellings—one completed, and one still in progress. The Town would also be receiving some subsidy for utility bills: the Ruritan would be reimbursing the Town for the cafeteria (used as its clubhouse) natural gas charges, and the Fire Department would be invoiced \$30.00 a month for water pump electric since it shares the service with the Town.

These additions bring the General Fund budget to an aggregate amount of \$175,120, while the Water Fund has continued to hover \$20,000 each year.

## 2. Proposed Sewer System Fees

Mayor Fennell turned to Town Administrator Jacobs for background, who reported that he and engineer Randy McNeill had had several discussions on tap fee amounts exclusive to the proposed residential development at the east edge of Town. With the developer responsible for funding infrastructure for the proposed community, McNeill would recommend \$500 per sewer tap fee payable to the Town. A corresponding \$500 per water tap fee would also be his recommendation; and this figure would include Town provision of radio-read water meters for each unit. Jacobs explained that the revenue received from the water taps would be used to convert meters for the current 35 water customers to also radio-read meters.

Jacobs stressed, again, that the \$500 for each tap fee would apply only the new development currently on the table. Tap fees for any future development along NC Hwy 70 would be determined later on a case-by-case cost basis.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fennell asked those present for any further questions or comments; and with none, asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Council Member Jerry Rice made the motion to close the public hearing; motion seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson. Motion carried by unanimous vote, and the June 12, 2018 public hearing was adjourned at approximately 7:08 p.m., to then proceed with the regular Council meeting.

/s/

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Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

/s/

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Richard Fennell, Mayor

**APPROVED:** July 10, 2018