

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL
May 10, 2016
Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at the Whitsett Town Hall. The following members of the Town Council were present: Mayor Richard Fennell and Council Members Jerry Rice and Lee Greeson.

Absent were Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown, Council Member Cindy Wheeler, and Town Administrator Gary Deal. Also present were Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia *Creekside Chronicle* reporter Tomas Murawski, and four area citizens.

Mayor Fennell called the meeting to order, and asked Council Member Jerry Rice to offer the invocation.

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 April 12, 2016 regular monthly meeting; and hearing none, asked for a motion to adopt the minutes as written. A motion to adopt the minutes as written was made by Council Member Jerry Rice; motion seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson. By unanimous vote of those present, the April minutes were approved as presented.

2. Any Other Old Business

Mayor Fennell asked if there were any other old business to be discussed; there was none.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Planning Board

Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia reported that Board Members would be revisiting refinements to sections of the zoning ordinance that deal with self-storage facilities. In addition, the Board had begun to address the regulation of any solar farm initiatives that may come before the Town.

2. Enforcement Committee

3. Enforcement Officer

No Development Clearance Permit Certificates had been issued since last month.

4. Town Administrator

With the Town Administrator absent, there was no report or announcements.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation of Proposed Operating Budget for FY 2016-2017

Council Members had received the preliminary operating budgets for the General Fund and for the Water Fund in their mailed packets. Both funds realized minimal changes over last year's budget, with the General Fund increasing about \$4,800; and the Water Fund up about \$2,000.

One major dip in revenues, however, was pointed out with respect to the state-shared quarterly distribution for excise tax on piped natural gas. A future adjustment to the Town's distribution of utility sales tax will decrease 2016-17 revenues by \$14,150, a past total disbursement of typically \$40,000 annually. The property tax increase to .15 in 2014 and resultant increased monthly shares of local sales tax collections are expected to help with this unexpected deficit.

No further discussion was needed on the budget.

2. Discussion on Renewed 5-Year Service Contracts with Guilford County

The Town had been notified that the 5-year service contracts with the County that were first implemented in 2011 would soon expire as of June 30, 2016, and that proposed renewals for providing tax collection services and animal control services were forthcoming. "Heads-up" information concerning tax collection indicated that the annual fee for monthly tax collection services would increase; no information was yet available on animal control services. These contracts are expected to be approved by Council in June along with the new budget year's appropriation.

3. Set Public Hearing Date for June 14, 2016

Mayor Fennell asked for a motion to set the date for the standard, annual public hearing for primarily adopting the proposed operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Council Member Lee Greeson made a motion to set the public hearing date for June 14, 2016; motion seconded by Council Member Jerry Rice. Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present. The public hearing notice will be published twice in the *Times-News* newspaper of general circulation.

4. Any Items from Council Members

Mayor Fennell asked for any items from Council members; and there were none.

5. Announcements

Mayor Fennell asked for any announcements and no one had any.

3. Speakers from the Floor

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

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, Mayor Fennell invited a motion to adjourn. Council Member Jerry Rice made the motion to adjourn; motion seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson. Motion passed by unanimous vote of members present; and the May 10, 2016 Town Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:07 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council will follow the public hearing that has been scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at the Whitsett Town Hall.

/s/

/s/

Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

Richard Fennell, Mayor

APPROVED: June 14, 2016