

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL
January 14, 2020
Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 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 Jamie King.

Also present were Town Administrator Ken Jacobs, CPAs Becky Loy and Wanda Baldwin from the firm of Cobb Ezekiel Loy and Company, *The Alamance News* reporter Tomas Murawski, and three area residents. Absent was Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia.

Mayor Fennell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., noted that a quorum was present; and asked Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice to offer the invocation.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Mayor Fennell asked for any speakers from the floor, and invited Becky Loy from the Town's accounting firm to the floor to give a presentation to Council Members on the annual financial audit for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2019.

[A copy of the 40-page financial audit is part of the official file for this meeting.]

OLD BUSINESS

1. Adoption of the Minutes

Mayor Fennell asked for any changes to the minutes for the December 10, 2019 regular meeting; and hearing none, asked for a motion to adopt the minutes. A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice; motion seconded by Council Member Cindy Wheeler. The motion to adopt the December meeting minutes passed by unanimous vote.

2. Approval of Annual Financial Audit by Cobb Ezekiel Loy & Company, P.A.

Mayor Fennell asked for a motion to approve the audit conducted by Cobb Ezekiel Loy and Company and formally presented to Council this evening. Council Member Jamie King made a motion to approve; motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem/Finance Officer Jerry Rice. The motion to approve the annual financial audit carried by unanimous vote.

3. Any Other Old Business

Mayor Fennell asked if there were any other old business; and there was none.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Planning Board

In the absence of the Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia, Town Administrator Jacobs gave a summary of last week's Board meeting, with first order of business being election of 2020 officers, resulting in Board officers remaining the same for another year: Board Chair Bob Maccia; Board Vice Chair Tyler Harris.

A topic for discussion included changes in commercial architectural standards to primarily restrict or prohibit certain building materials, e.g., metal siding, from structures in the Town's neighborhood business (NB) district. A proposed text amendment was presented to Planning Board members who subsequently voted to recommend to Council Members its acceptance and adoption at a future public hearing. [A copy of the document is part of the official file for this meeting and would be distributed to Council Members for discussion under New Business.]

Another discussion took place relative to developing an ordinance for mature tree-line preservation, which evolved into producing more questions than answers; and so the topic will continue at another Board meeting. Board member Craig York offered to research existing similar ordinances to bring back to the table.

Resident Karen Horne attended and participated in the Planning Board meeting with the prospect of membership on the Board—a move that would be welcomed.

2. Enforcement Officer

Enforcement Officer Jacobs reported that one development clearance certificate had been issued since last Council meeting to electrician Harold Profitt for full replacement of a main panel to restore electrical service to 6522 Burlington Road.

3. Town Administrator

Town Administrator Jacobs reported the following informational items:

- **Town Grant:** While working on the Part F grant application for parks and recreation initiatives for Town grounds, the usefulness of some of the forms came into question, which lead to several heated conversations with state officials about requirements and alleged redundancy thereof. After fully digesting our arguments and re-reviewing the forms, officials determined that the forms were not necessary for the Town to complete and would likely be eliminated altogether from the application process.
- **Town Ball Field:** Negotiations have begun with Gibsonville for the use of our ball field and cost-effective sharing of expenses for maintenance of the field while also working out a schedule for three or four other local parties to use the field. A major improvement and expense for the field will be a full reconditioning of the field that will include resurfacing and leveling of the infield to eliminate the drainage problem and make the infield much safer for players. This extensive rehabilitation is expected to cost about \$5,000. In addition, some of the grant money proposed by Senator Rick Gunn will go towards new seats and footboards for the bleachers. Also, possible use of the concession stand has been addressed. We are excited about the win-win interest and occupation coming to our ball field and concession.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed Text Amendment to Commercial Architectural Standards

Town Administrator distributed the proposed amendment to Article XII to Council Members for review, discussion, and placement on the docket for the next public hearing, which would not be set until additional items required a hearing.

2 Any Items from Council Members

Mayor Fennell asked for any items from Council Members; and no one offered comment.

3. Announcements

Mayor Fennell asked for any announcements; and there were none.

4. Speakers from the Floor

Mayor Fennell asked for any speakers from the floor, and no one asked to be recognized.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, Mayor Fennell invited a motion to adjourn. Council Member Lee Greeson made the motion to adjourn; motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice. The motion passed by unanimous vote; and the January 14, 2020 Town Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:52 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at the Whitsett Town Hall.

/s/

/s/

Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

Richard Fennell, Mayor

APPROVED: February 11, 2020