

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL
December 12, 2017
Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 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, Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia, *The Alamance News* reporter Tomas Murawski, and three area residents and young supporters.

Mayor Fennell called the meeting to order, noted that a quorum was present; 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 November 14, 2017 regular monthly meeting; and hearing none, asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written. A motion to adopt the regular meeting minutes as written was made by Council Member Jerry Rice; motion seconded by Council Member Cindy Wheeler. The motion to adopt the November meeting minutes carried by unanimous vote.

2. Any Other Old Business

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

MAYOR RECESSES COUNCIL MEETING

At 7:03, Mayor Fennell recessed the regular meeting of the Town Council to proceed with the swearing in of two reelected Council Members.

SWEARING IN and ELECTION OF MAYOR

1. Swearing In Ceremony

The Town Clerk administered the oath of office to Cindy Wheeler and Lee Greeson who would serve another four-year term.

2. Election of Mayor

Following the ceremony, Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown presided over the election of the mayor, and opened the floor for nominations. Council Member Jerry Rice nominated Richard Fennell for mayor; nomination seconded by Council Member Cindy Wheeler. Council Member Jerry Rice then made a motion to close the nominations; motion seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson.

The unanimous vote retained Richard Fennell as Mayor of Whitsett for another two years until the next municipal election is held in 2019. Mayor Fennell thanked Council Members for their vote and support, and bid to do his best.

ELECTED MAYOR PRESIDES

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Fennell announced new business at 7:06, and proceeded with the election of Mayor Pro Tem and the appointments of financial officers.

1. Election of Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Fennell opened the floor for nominations for Mayor Pro Tem. Council Member Cindy Wheeler nominated Andy Brown for the office; nomination seconded by Council Member Jerry Rice. Motion made by Council Member Lee Greeson to close the nominations; motion seconded by Council Member Jerry Rice. The unanimous vote retained Andy Brown as Mayor Pro Tem for the upcoming two years.

2. Appointment of Finance Officer

Mayor Fennell proceeded with a motion to reappoint Council Member Jerry Rice as Finance Officer; motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown. The motion carried by unanimous vote; and Council Member Jerry Rice would resume as Finance Officer.

3. Appointment of Assistant Finance Officer

Mayor Fennell continued with the motion for Town Clerk Jo Hesson to continue serving as Assistant Finance Officer; motion for reappointment was seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Both officers will serve in their respective positions for two years.

4. Appointment of 2018 Planning Board Members and Alternate

The roster of Planning Board members and alternate to serve in 2018 had been provided to Council Members, and Mayor Fennell made the motion to formally reappoint current incumbents. Motion was seconded by Planning Board liaison Council Member Jerry Rice, and the appointments were officially approved by unanimous vote.

5. Adoption of Council Meeting Dates for 2018

Mayor Fennell asked for any comments on the 2018 schedule for regular monthly Council meetings; and with none, asked for a motion to retain the second Tuesday of each month for Council meetings and approve the 2018 dates as presented.

Council Member Lee Greeson made a motion to adopt next year's meeting calendar; motion seconded by Council Member Jerry Rice. By unanimous vote; the 2018 Council meeting schedule was adopted, and would be forwarded to Guilford County for posting.

6. Set Public Hearing Date of January 9, 2018

Mayor Fennell requested background for the hearing, and Town Administrator Jacobs explained that a property owner plans to build an addition onto an existing older dwelling on Fernway Road. In order to complement the "grandfathered" existing house, the addition would violate current Town setbacks for residential districts of 80 feet from center of road by some 4 feet; thereby, requiring a variance.

During the Planning Board's review of the case, the rationale for front-yard setbacks (with the exception of Burlington Road) being a strict 80 feet from center of road was challenged; and Guilford County was consulted for its standards, which are 65 feet from center of road or 40 feet from the property line, whichever is greater. The Board's recommendation resulted in a proposed text amendment to front-yard setbacks to match those of the county rather than require a variance application.

Mayor Fennell asked for a motion to set the public hearing for next month. A motion was made by Council Member Jerry Rice to set the public hearing for January 9, 2018; motion seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson. By unanimous vote, the public hearing was set for 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 9, 2018; and a formal notice will be published in the *Times-News* in accordance with the requirement that ads be placed in a newspaper of general circulation.

7. Any Items from Council Members

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

8. Announcements

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

9. Speakers from the Floor

Mayor Fennell asked for any speakers from the floor; and resident Robert Handwerk asked about the delay with curbside recycling service who was told that Republic is likely experiencing some issues with its drivers.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Planning Board

Board Chairman Bob Maccia reported that the Board had been working on conditional zoning requirements in preparation for the proposed residential development at the east edge of Town on Burlington Road. Stipulations for buffers and barriers separating residential communities are being considered for formulation.

Chairman Maccia added that the Board is also devising permitted uses for Light Industrial (LI) zoning, which, as a result of Council approval of the Town-wide land-use plan in June, had become the newest, unprecedented zoning designation.

2. Enforcement Committee

Enforcement Officer Ken Jacobs stated that no committee activity had taken place this month.

3. Enforcement Officer

Enforcement Officer Ken Jacobs reported that since the last Council meeting, two development clearance permit certificates had been issued to: (1) Eanes Heating and Air to install a new gas pack at 718 NC Hwy 61, and (2) Michael Herron of 6744 Fernway Road to construct living space addition and attached garage to existing dwelling.

4. Town Administrator

Town Administrator Jacobs reported that as soon as the Town removes its ball field backstop, T.J. Cole of Ace Fence Buildings stands ready to erect the new backstop that Council approved. Council Member Lee Greeson offered to help with the removal.

Mayor Remarks

In closing, Mayor Fennell extended wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all those present.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, Mayor Fennell invited a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Jerry Rice; motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown. Motion passed by unanimous vote; and the December 12 Town Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:17 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, January 9, 2018 at the Whitsett Town Hall.

/s/

/s/

Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

Richard Fennell, Mayor

APPROVED: January 9, 2018