

**MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL**  
**April 10, 2018**  
**Whitsett Town Hall Building**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, April 10, 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, Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia, *The Alamance News* reporter Tomas Murawski, and 10 area citizens. Guests attending tonight's meeting were NC House Representative Jon Hardister and his research assistant Sebastian King.

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

Mayor Fennell introduced the presence of Representative Jon Hardister, NC House Majority Whip, and welcomed him to the Council meeting, where, at his request, would give a brief presentation to elected officials and the public. The overview began with general information and statistics on the status of the state, which demonstrated how impressive NC ranks as compared to national state rankings.

Representative Hardister noted specific positive directions for NC since his election to the state House in 2012. Areas cited included the state's economy and budget wellness, fiscal responsibility, tax reform and reduction, health care equality, public education strides, job creation, and other public policy issues. The delivery culminated in the distribution of an NC Department of Commerce summary of funding assistance vehicles for municipalities and businesses, which are replenished yearly. Representative Hardister offered his help in ushering through any funding request that may apply to the Town of Whitsett.

In conclusion, Representative Hardister stated that it is an honor to serve the state of North Carolina and to represent NC House District 59, of which Whitsett is part. Representative Hardister finally pledged that his door is always open to take questions, hear concerns, or help in any way he can. Representative Hardister thanked Council Members and those present for their time. And, all returned their gratitude to him.

## **SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR**

Mayor Fennell asked for any speakers from the floor, and invited Randall Sutton forward. As required by the Town's ball field contract, Mr. Sutton was present to pose a request to Council Members to enter into contract with the Town to use its ball field for girls' ages 8-12 traveling team practices and possibly other events. Mr. Sutton stated that he felt fortunate that the field was still available, and would hope to effect the contract as soon as convenient to move on with practices.

The terms of the contract had been made clear, and he assured adherence. Teams would practice on Tuesday and Thursday evenings; and he would hope to organize some benefit tournaments as the season advances. Also, Sutton would work to accommodate other parties, e.g., little leaguers and other youth groups, interested in using the ball field to keep the field occupied and purposeful. He thanked Council Members for their time and consideration.

Mayor Fennell stated that a vote on the matter would take place under new business.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Adoption of the Minutes**

Mayor Fennell asked for any changes to the minutes from the March 13, 2018 regular meeting; and hearing none, asked for a motion to adopt the minutes. Council Member Jerry Rice made a motion to accept the minutes as written; Council Member Lee Greeson seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the March minutes passed by unanimous vote.

### **2. Any Other Old Business**

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

## **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **1. Planning Board**

Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia reported that at last week's meeting, Town Administrator Jacobs informed the Board of a meeting held with Randy McNeill to discuss sewer usage fees applicable only to the proposed 66-unit development at the east edge of Town. The two worked up the figure of \$500 for a water tap, including provision of the water meter, and \$500 for a sewer tap. Following discussions on the suggested tap fees, the Board settled on the \$500 for each tap and passed a motion to recommend the amounts to Council for approval.

Board Chairman Maccia continued with proposing a new Town policy on public records requests and availability. Maccia explained that if a request is made for public information during or at the end of a public meeting, the document(s) would not be made available until after 12 noon the following workday. No records will be provided the day or evening of the meeting. The Board also voted to recommend approval of this policy to Council.

## **2. Enforcement Committee**

Enforcement Officer Ken Jacobs reported that he had followed up with the county's zoning administrator on the status of the Dow Acres issue, who asked Jacobs to resend the request because, apologetically, she did not recall its receipt. Jacobs was assured of county involvement and completion of an investigation.

## **3. Enforcement Officer**

Enforcement Officer Jacobs reported that since last month's Council meeting, two development clearance permit certificates had been issued to: (1) LaTour Electric to install electrical service to the principal dwelling at 7218 Burlington Road, and (2) Don Wagoner at 7009 Stella Drive to install PVC fencing along the side yard of the property.

## **4. Town Administrator**

Town Administrator Jacobs gave two updates on issues: (1) the Fire Department and the Town of Whitsett amended agreement relative to cost-sharing had been accepted by the Fire Department Board of Directors, and would be executed and implemented immediately, and (2) the Ruritan would be reimbursing the Town monthly for the Piedmont Natural Gas charges for the cafeteria used as the organization's clubhouse, and will become effective with the next bill.

Jacobs then reported that he is soliciting bid proposals for replacement of the ball field fencing which has been a major safety hazard for too long. So far, one bid has been received; but, he would be getting at least two more, and will report submissions to the Council next month. In his opinion, the project should be accomplished as quickly as possible to avoid potential injury; and can be funded from this year's capital improvement budget.

A blanket, permanent encroachment agreement would be requested by the Town to NCDOT, which would negate completing individual agreements on a case-by-case basis. The single process for 714 NC Hwy 61 took over six weeks to process, and a speedier method needed accommodating.

Finally, Kevin Sasser went to closing on the climate-controlled, two-story warehouse whose construction he had been overseeing. The Town staff had devoted much time, effort, and aggravation to effect the sale and occupancy; and would be billing the due diligence firm for the hours and labor invested.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Action on Ball Field Contract**

Mayor Fennell asked for any discussion on Randall Sutton’s request for use of the ball field. With nothing heard, Mayor Fennell asked for a motion to act upon the request. A motion to move forward with closing the contract was made by Council Member Jerry Rice; motion seconded by Council Member Cindy Wheeler. Mayor Fennell asked for a vote; and four Council Members voted for the motion. Council Member Lee Greeson gave no response, which equates to silence is concurrence, and constitutes the contract being offered to Mr. Sutton unanimously.

**2. Any Items from Council Members**

Mayor Fennell asked for any items from Council members; and no one had any.

**3. Announcements**

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

**5. 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 Jerry Rice made the motion to adjourn; motion seconded by Major Pro Tem Andy Brown. Motion passed by unanimous vote; and the April 10 Town Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:36 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at the Whitsett Town Hall.

/s/

/s/

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Fennell, Mayor

**APPROVED:** May 8, 2018