
**TOWN OF WENTWORTH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
June 3, 2008
7:00 P.M.**

The Wentworth Town Council held their regular monthly meeting in the Town Hall meeting room at the National Guard Armory, on **Tuesday, June 3, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.**

Council members present: Mayor Dennis Paschal, Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Conner, Councilwoman Iris Powell, Councilman Robert Aswell, and Councilman James Belcher

Staff Present: Brenda Ward, Town Clerk / Yvonne Russell, Finance Officer / Town Attorney, Fred Baggett / Deputy Clarence Cheshire / Frankie Legaux, Assistant Planning Director

Article I. Mayor Paschal called the meeting to order.

Article II. Councilman James Belcher gave the **Invocation.**

Article III. Discussion / Revisions / Adoption of Agenda

A. Requests and Petitions of Citizens

Mayor Paschal noted that since Council received their packets, the Town Clerk provided a Revised Agenda to include the addition of three items under New Business. He also noted that **Mrs. Kay Hammock** signed the **Speaker Register** to address Council concerning "Celebration Ten."

Mayor Paschal made a motion to, "*approve the Revised Agenda and add Mrs. Hammock to the Agenda, to speak prior to the public hearing(s).*"

Councilman James Belcher seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Article IV. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes

A. Town Council Meeting – May 6, 2008

Mayor Paschal asked if there were any corrections to the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting for May 6, 2008. There were no corrections.

Councilman Belcher made a motion, "*The Minutes be approved as presented.*"

Councilwoman Powell seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

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Article VII. Public Comments (Out of Order)

Mayor Paschal invited **Kay Hammock** to address Council.

Mrs. Hammock thanked Council for allowing her to speak first.

She said her purpose for speaking was to give them an update on, "...the Celebration Ten party coming up on July 5th, which is fast approaching. I also want to thank Council for the money that you have given us to work with and I think we are using it wisely. We are shopping carefully, comparing prices."

Mrs. Hammock advised that the committee set the time of 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the Saturday event. She said there would be an opening ceremony and that the committee has asked someone to sing the National Anthem. "The rest of it, though, is up to the Mayor...it will be his time to shine," she added.

"Approximately twelve (12) artists and craftsmen have expressed an interest in showcasing and/or selling their products," **Mrs. Hammock** said. She advised that letters will be sent to the exhibitors in order to secure a commitment. She also said that the committee would like to find more farmers who would be interested in bringing their produce, "since only a couple seemed interested."

Mrs. Hammock discussed the committee's plans for layout of the various artists, farmers market, etc. She said that several local merchants have donated prizes and items for a goody bag, which each person will receive. She asked Council to check with their employers to see if they would like to donate something—"anything from an umbrella to a gift certificate."

"Hot dogs will be served from 11:00 – 1:00, along with snow cones, water, and soft drinks throughout the day. There will be face-painting for the kids and an entertainment stage with acts occurring at 11:00, 12:00, 1:00 and 2:00 p.m."

Mrs. Hammock gave credit to her fellow committee members—**Yvonne Russell, Evelyn Conner, and Judy Wall** for their work and planning.

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She continued, “What we want now is for you all—the Planning Board, the Recreation, Appearance, and Historic Preservation Committees—to supply all the man-power, elbow grease, and help you can give us.”

“We want you to enlist your family members, friends, anyone who is willing to help us make the party a success,” she added.

Mrs. Hammock said that help would be needed on the morning of Friday, July 4th, to begin setting up for the Saturday event. She mentioned that tables and chairs would need to be set up in the drill hall (National Guard Amory), “since that is where the hot dogs will be served. This will provide a place for people to come in out of the heat / sun, etc. while they eat.” She said signs and other decorations would need to be put up the night before.

“Since Friday is the 4th of July,” **Mrs. Hammock** said, “We will try to get together on a convenient time, since some of you may have plans for a cook-out or something later in the day.”

Mrs. Hammock asked that council members look at the “Sign-Up Sheet” and sign up for the areas of work that interests them. She advised that in addition to the last minute things early Saturday morning, “...we need several folks to help put up tents, provide general coordination of events, and of course, clean up.”

Mrs. Hammock thanked Council again for letting her speak and concluded by encouraging everyone to work together to make the “birthday party a success.”

The **Mayor** and members of council thanked Mrs. Hammock and the committee for their hard work.

Article V. Public Hearing(s)

A. Proposed Use of an Installment Financing Contract as Allowed Under N.C.G.S. § 160A-20, for Construction of a Town Hall; Approximate Contract Amount: \$400,000.00

Mayor Paschal called the first Public Hearing to order, explaining that the “Town Council appointed a Town Hall Committee in October, 2005, and contracted with Alley, Williams, Carmen & King, Inc. to assist the committee with planning for a Town Hall.”

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“The Town Council approved a Capital Reserve Fund in August, 2006, and agreed to set aside \$100,000 per year toward the construction of a Town Hall. The current balance of that account is \$200,000 plus interest.”

“In the fall of 2007, the Town Council approved the drawings for a 6,784 sq. foot building, and voted in favor of proceeding with the construction of a Town Hall.”

“We have met with the Local Government Commission who must approve government financing for construction projects. They provided us with an application packet, which we must complete and submit to them for their review and approval. The target date for their approval is July 1, 2008.”

“One of the requirements of the Local Government Commission is that we hold a public hearing to advise our citizens of our intent to borrow money to finance the construction project. That is why we are having this Public Hearing.”

Mayor Paschal referenced the Speaker Register for the Public Hearing and noted that no one signed up to address Council concerning financing of the Town Hall. He then asked if there was anyone present who did not sign up, but would like to speak. There was no response.

Mayor Paschal then asked Council members if they had any comments. **Councilwoman Iris Powell** said, “We are just real happy...ready to move on.”

Mayor Paschal then made a motion, “That we adjourn the Public Hearing for the proposed use of installment financing to construct a Town Hall.”

Councilman James Belcher seconded the motion. All voted in favor of closing the Public Hearing.

Article V. Public Hearing(s)...Continued

B. Consideration of Amendments/Revisions to Town of Wentworth Planning & Zoning Ordinance:

**Chapter 2. Article VII. Section 1-Intent of Zoning; Section 4. Subsection 4.3(b) (1) (d); Subsection 4.6 – Special Use Permit Requirements for “Hazardous Waste, Infectious Waste...”,
Definitions: “o” and Approval Criteria (a)**

Article V. Public Hearing(s)...Continued

B. Consideration of Amendments/Revisions to Town of Wentworth Planning & Zoning Ordinance:

Chapter 4, Section 1 – Establishment of Watershed Overlay Districts; Section 2 – Intent; Section 4 – Exceptions and Applicability (a); Section 6 – Dan River Watershed IV – Protected Area-CU (WS-IV-PA-CU); Section 8 – Buffer Areas Required (c); Section 10 – Administration (a) Record Keeping - 2.& 3. and (d) Watershed Variances - 1.

Mayor Paschal called the Public Hearing to order for the Amendments/Revisions to Town of Wentworth Planning & Zoning Ordinance (details as noted above). He asked **Ms. Frankie Legaux** to present the staff report to Council.

Ms. Legaux referred to changes to the Watershed ordinance that were approved several months ago. In considering the prospect of actually *doing* a variance under those changes, **Ms Legaux** said that she (staff) realized, "...that we needed to tweak it a little bit, because it wouldn't work exactly as we thought it would."

She explained further, "The State sets up watersheds, and they mandate certain regulations and put out a model ordinance. In the model ordinance, it is not required that you rezone to a Conditional Use District, *and* get a Variance—you only are required to apply for a Variance. The reasoning being, what is required for a Variance is stricter than what is required for a Conditional Use Zoning."

She advised, "You still have your site plan and can put conditions on it, etc., so it does not seem reasonable that we would require somebody to rezone *and* get a variance, because the variance is going to be the stricter of the two regulations."

"Rather than creating a lot of paper work and costing a little bit more," **Ms. Legaux** continued, "it doesn't really accomplish anything, so we want to go back to just having a minor watershed variance and a major watershed variance (and no Conditional Use requirement)."

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She explained, “In our case, what the Board of Adjustment can approve locally is the minor watershed variance...where you can increase your impervious surface coverage from 24 or 36 percent up to 70 percent. The 24 percent is if you use curb and gutter with your project. The 36 percent is without curb and gutter. As a refresher, impervious surface is where water cannot directly soak into the ground—where building coverage is, and paved parking lots or any paved surface. Even gravel, if it is extremely compacted—four inches or more—is considered impervious surface.”

“It is very important in certain watersheds that we not have a lot of runoff so we want to limit the impervious surface. In the Watershed IV that we are talking about, which covers a lot of the Town of Wentworth, the Watershed regulations are an overlay district, and we want to make that clear. That’s why we are changing Chapter 2 to say that it is an overlay district.”

Ms. Legaux also noted changes that were *not* made in the first review of the Watershed Ordinance, and said these changes also need to be made. Specifically, she noted several references in Chapter 2 to the Rockingham County Development Guide. She said the text should be changed to read, “Wentworth Land Use Plan.”

Ms. Legaux referred Council to **Section 5** of the Watershed Ordinance. She said this section applies to new development activities that require an erosion/sedimentation control plan under State Law.

“The only time you are going to need the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Permit from the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (NCDENR),” said **Ms. Legaux**, “is when you are going to grade more than one acre of your property. If you have property that is one acre or less, no matter if it is residential or commercial, you will not be subject to the requirements of this. It is only if you have greater than one acre, that the permit is required.”

She added, “That’s why, the way the State has set up the ordinance, and because of the size of the property, we don’t feel we need a Conditional Use Rezoning. So that is basically what it’s doing—it is removing the Conditional Use Rezoning and simply making it a Minor Watershed Variance.”

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Ms. Legaux continued, “It does not change what is required at all—we still require site plans and you can still put conditions on it.”

She noted another change that was made in the Ordinance—Section 10. Administration (a)—**Ms. Legaux** said this text referenced Article XIII, Section 1, but listed no chapter. This reference is incorrect because there are no articles in the Watershed chapter.

Ms. Legaux said she would be glad to answer any questions from Council. There were no questions.

Councilman Belcher made a motion to, “*Adopt the amendments and revisions to the Town of Wentworth Planning and Zoning Ordinance in Chapter 2 – Article VII, Section 1 and Section 4—Subsections 4.3 and 4.6; and in Chapter 4. Sections 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10, and that we adopt the Statements of Consistency as required by NCGS 160A-382(b) and 160A-383, and as outlined in the Town Council’s Analysis and Statement.*” (Note: Statements of Consistency are attached hereto (A) as part of these Minutes.)

Mayor Paschal seconded the motion and asked for discussion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Ms. Legaux advised that the Watershed Ordinance will be forwarded to the State (NCDENR) for final approval.

Council thanked Ms. Legaux, and **Mayor Paschal** made a motion to, “*Adjourn the Public Hearing.*” The motion was seconded by **Councilman Belcher** and all voted in favor.

Article V. Public Hearing(s)...Continued

C. Consideration of Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2008-2009

Mayor Paschal called to order the Public Hearing for consideration of the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. He noted that no one signed the Speaker Register for comment on the budget.

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Article V. Public Hearing(s)...Continued

There were no questions about the budget, so **Mayor Paschal** made a motion to, *“Close the Public Hearing for Consideration of the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.”*

Councilman Aswell seconded the motion. All voted in favor of closing the Public Hearing on the budget.

Mayor Paschal made a motion to, *“Adopt the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.”*

Mayor Pro Tem Conner seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration of Resolution Authorizing the Filing of an Application for Approval of a Financing Agreement Authorized by North Carolina General Statute 160A-20

Mayor Paschal recognized the Town Administrator, Brenda Ward.

Ms. Ward referred Council to the Resolution in their packets, advising that the Local Government Commission requires the Town to submit “findings of fact” regarding the contract that will be entered into with the financial institution selected to finance construction of the new Town Hall. She advised that the Resolution addresses the “findings of fact.”

Ms. Ward added, “We are required to include this Resolution in the Application package that will be sent to the Local Government Commission.”

There were no questions from Council.

Councilman Aswell made a motion, *“That we approve the Resolution Authorizing the Filing of an Application for Approval of a Financing Agreement.”*

Councilman Belcher seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried

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Article VI. New Business – Continued...

B. Consideration of Bids Received for Construction of New Town Hall (Jeff Johnson – Alley, Williams, Carmen, & King, Inc.)

Mayor Paschal asked **Jeff Johnson** with Alley, Williams, Carmen, & King, Inc. to address Council concerning the construction bids.

Mr. Johnson advised, “This afternoon at 2:00 p.m. we received bids from twelve (12) general contractors. Bids were opened and read aloud at that time, as prescribed by the North Carolina General Statutes. The low bid was submitted by the Wright Company of North Carolina, Inc.—they are actually located in Eden—for one million, one hundred six thousand, three hundred and forty-four dollars (\$1,106,344.00).”

Mr. Johnson referenced a letter in Council’s packets, which lists the three low bidders. He said, “The three are grouped fairly well, with the Wright Company about seven percent (7%) lower than D. W. Ward (Construction Company).”

Mr. Johnson added, “We talked with them after the bids were opened and they felt very comfortable with that. They do have seventy-two hours to go back and check their math to be sure they did not make a mistake. If they made a mathematical error, they *can* ask to withdraw their bid, but he did not indicate there was any chance of that. He seemed pretty satisfied with his price.”

“Obviously, I don’t think we can actually vote to award the contract,” said **Mr. Johnson**, “but rather state your intent to award the contract subject to LGC approval of all the paperwork.”

Councilwoman Powell asked, “Is this a good company?”

Mr. Johnson replied, “Frankly, I’ve never worked with them, but the representative that was here from that company, we have worked with him several years ago when he was working for a construction engineering consultant that did some work for us. Apparently, they do a lot of work in this area...Eden is close by and the sub-contractors they listed as major subs were Billingsley and Sons Plumbing, Reidsville Hearing and Air, and Wayne Robertson Electric, who are all local people, and we are very happy to see that.”

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Mayor Pro Tem Conner made a motion, *“That Council states our intent to award the construction contract to the Wright Company of North Carolina, Inc. subject to LGC (Local Government Commission) approval.”*

Mr. Johnson asked if he could mention something that he forgot to say—“It says in our letter that we recommend a contingency of fifty thousand to one hundred thousand dollars (\$50,000 - \$100,000) in addition to this amount. That’s in case we encounter bad soils or rock on the site, or a septic tank or something that nobody knows is there, which may have to be dug up and filled in. There is always a chance that those things will happen...so that would be in addition to the \$1.1 (million dollars).”

Mayor Paschal stated the motion by **Mayor Pro Tem Conner** with her approval to add inclusion of the contingency amount to her motion.

Councilman Belcher seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Article VI. New Business – Continued...

C. Consideration of Recommendation to Approve Contract w/Lending Institution (Fidelity Bank) for Financing of Town Hall (Yvonne Russell – Finance Officer)

Mayor Paschal asked **Ms. Russell** to address Council concerning the contract with Fidelity Bank.

Ms. Russell referenced her memo in Council’s packet advising, “Fidelity Bank had the lowest rate. That’s who we are recommending Council accept the proposal from. They had the lowest interest rate, they are also a local branch, and we already have an established relationship with them, a checking account, already.”

“In addition to that,” said **Ms. Russell**, “due to the bids coming in a little higher than what we were budgeting for, we can either borrow five hundred thousand (\$500,000) instead of four hundred thousand (\$400,000), or you could take more from fund balance. Personally, I recommend we borrow more, than to take more out of fund balance.”

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Ms. Russell said she already spoke with **Deeanna Biggs** from Fidelity Bank and asked her about borrowing more money if the construction bids came in higher. She asked Ms. Biggs if the interest rate and terms would remain the same. Ms. Biggs confirmed that they would be the same as in the initial proposal.

Ms. Russell then passed out to council, "...the letter she (Ms. Biggs) sent to us with their proposal on it. I've just changed the numbers so that you can see what the difference would be. There is also an Amortization Schedule attached to this that will show you what our payments would be, semi-annual payments, and also what interest we would be paying."

"The interest we would be paying, borrowing \$500,000 as opposed to \$400,000," said **Ms. Russell**, would be approximately \$16,650 more interest, in addition to the \$100,000 more that we would be borrowing."

Ms. Russell added, "You will also see on the Amortization Schedule that they set this up as semi-annual payments instead of monthly payments. That's what we asked for."

Mayor Paschal asked, "You say we can take it out of Fund Balance if the Local Government Commission won't let us borrow \$500,000?"

"Yes, we could," replied **Ms. Russell**, "but I don't think they would have a problem with that. We would still be borrowing less than half of the project cost."

Ms. Russell added, "Regarding the contingency Jeff (Johnson) spoke about, we had already budgeted for that...we budgeted \$100,000."

The **Town Administrator** commented, "For the record, you may want to mention that we did receive other bids from other lending institutions, and note the difference in their proposals."

Ms. Russell noted that this information was attached to her memo to Council. (**Note:** *Comparison of Bank Proposals received, is attached hereto as part of these Minutes—Attachment B.*)

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Mayor Paschal asked if the motion on the financing contract should also be a statement of intent.

Ms. Russell deferred the question to the Town Attorney who said Council should, "...actually vote to approve it up to \$500,000 so you can execute documents between now and the time of closing. You're going to have to promise to have insurance on the building and some other things, so I would go ahead and have a vote...to approve it at \$500,000."

The **Town Administrator** added, "Unless you would rather take it out of Fund Balance, but when we went down there (Local Government Commission) to meet with them, they acted like they couldn't believe \$400,000 was all we were borrowing, and actually commented that now is the time to borrow money with the interest rates being what they are."

Jeff Johnson commented, "Mr. McGilvray (Local Government Commission) was real excited...he wanted to move to Wentworth."

Councilman Belcher made a motion, "*That we approve the contract with Fidelity Bank for the financing of the Town Hall Construction for an amount up to \$500,000.*"

Mayor Pro Tem Conner seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Town Attorney Fred Baggett said he would like to mention, "...one little technicality that worries me a little bit—the advertisement for the Public Hearing on this financing says 'approximately \$400,000' and I don't have a problem with it, but Brenda and/or Yvonne should tell the LGC that the ad said approximately \$400,000. I don't think they will have a problem with it, but it would be better to find out now in a phone call than to wait until the July 1 meeting when this is to be approved."

The **Town Administrator** commented, "The LGC also requires that we send the Minutes of the Public Hearing, and I'm sure that when they read them and see that no one showed up to speak, that may carry some weight."

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Mr. Baggett replied, “It’s really just technical as to compliance with the law...how strict they view that. The law says you advertise per the contract. What that means no one really knows...whether it has to be the exact dollar amount or not. I feel like you have complied with it, but....”

Mayor Paschal said, “In the event that is a hold-up on their part (LGC) and they say, ‘No, you don’t need to borrow five hundred (thousand),’ we *can* always take a hundred from Fund Balance.”

Mr. Baggett commented, “You could always do that or re-advertise, have another public hearing and lose a month, but you risk losing these bids...I just bring this up for information. They (staff) will clear it with LGC...inform them, so there won’t be any surprises.”

The **Town Administrator** said, “You’re just letting us know that we need to ask them (LGC) about it to see what they say.”

Mayor Pro Tem Conner said she agrees that the phone call needs to be made in case there is a problem, “...and so it won’t hold us up (on the application process).”

Mayor Paschal agreed and moved on to the next item of business.

Article VI. New Business – Continued...

D, Consideration of Resolution Authorizing the Private Sale by Negotiated Price, of a Log Tobacco Barn on Town Property

Councilwoman Powell asked about the location of the barn.

Councilman Belcher replied, “It is right in the middle...to the right of that nice building that we’re going to keep.”

Mayor Paschal asked Ms. Ward if she would like to say anything about the Resolution. **Ms. Ward** said the Resolution fulfills the requirements of the General Statutes for disposal of property by negotiation, “...and has the blessing of our Town Attorney.”

Councilman Aswell asked about the minimum price of \$1,000 stated in the Resolution.

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Ms. Ward said she checked with an appraiser and he suggested \$1,000.00 as a minimum price. “However,” said Ms. Ward, “it is up to you...if you are not in agreement or want to change the Resolution in any way, that can be done. And if one of you wants to handle the sale, you can do that also.”

The **Town Attorney, Fred Baggett**, advised, “There is one thing you have to do—you have to designate someone to sell it. It can be Brenda (Town Administrator), the mayor, or some individual. The second thing you *can* do, but you don’t have to, is set a minimum price.”

Councilman Aswell made a motion to, “Approve the Resolution with a change in the minimum price.” After discussion by Council on what the minimum price should be, **Councilman Aswell** revised his motion to say, “*Approve the Resolution but change the minimum bid amount to \$500.00.*”

Mayor Paschal seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

There were some questions from Council after the vote as to the procedure—What if someone else offers more? Does the Town Administrator have to take the first bid? Can she hold out for a higher bid?

Mr. Baggett replied, “Well, sure. It’s not a formal upset procedure, it’s a sale by private negotiation—it’s just negotiated. You just have to wait ten days.”

Article VI. New Business – Continued...

E. Consideration of Budget Amendment No. 2 for Fiscal Year 2007-2008

Mayor Paschal asked Finance Officer, **Yvonne Russell**, if she would like to review the budget amendment for Council.

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Ms. Russell advised, “This is what we try to do at the end of the year to try to get things a little closer...a little more accurate.” She referred Council to her memo, explaining, “We are increasing the General Fund Revenues by \$30,500. Those increases are coming from interest on investments...the Sales and Use Tax revenue, Utility Franchise Tax, and we have decreased the amount to be appropriated from Fund Balance.”

“Under General Fund Expenditures,” **Ms. Russell** said, “that will increase by \$30,500 in the Capital Outlay:Land Improvements: Architectural Engineering line item. This is to pay the remainder of the \$85,000 contract that we have with Alley, Williams, Carmen, and King, for the pre-construction phase of the town hall project.”

Councilman Belcher asked, “Do you think we will be lucky enough to see an increase in revenues in the upcoming Fiscal Year?”

Ms. Russell replied, “I don’t think so.”

There were no additional questions from Council.

Councilman Belcher made a motion, “*That we accept Budget Amendment No. 2 for Fiscal Year 2007-2008.*”

Mayor Paschal seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Article VI. New Business – Continued...

F. Resolution of Concurrence with Petition Requesting the Addition of Rama Lane in the Town of Wentworth, to the State Maintained Secondary Road System

Mayor Paschal asked if anyone had any questions.

Councilman Belcher asked, “We do know that the road is going to meet all the requirements, right?”

“Right.” replied **Ms. Ward**. “It is D.O.T. (N.C. Department of Transportation) that is asking for our concurrence with the petition. They actually sent this to the (Rockingham County) Board of Commissioners, who already approved it. But then, DOT realized it (Rama Lane) is in the Town of Wentworth and sent it to us.”

Councilman Belcher made a motion, *“That we approve the Resolution of Concurrence with Petition Requesting the Addition of Rama Lane in the Town of Wentworth, to the State Maintained Secondary Road System.”*

Councilwoman Powell seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Article VI. New Business – Continued...

G. Consideration of Amendment to Capital Project Ordinance for Construction of a Town Hall

Mayor Paschal asked Ms. Russell to review the Amendment.

Ms. Russell passed out to Council, “...an amended Capital Project Ordinance draft, to show you what will be changing because of the increase in the bids that we got in today.” (**Note:** *Amended Capital Project Ordinance attached hereto as part of these Minutes: Attachment C*)

“The Construction cost under Section 3 has changed to \$1,106,344.00, which makes the total \$1,236,344.00. Loan Proceeds changed to \$500,000 and Transfer from General Fund is \$521,344.00. Transfer from Capital Reserve Fund stays the same at \$215,000.00.”

Councilman Belcher made a motion, *“That we approve the Amendment to the Capital Project Ordinance for Construction of a Town Hall.”*

Councilman Aswell seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

H. Consideration of Agreement Between Rockingham Community College and the Local Governments, including the Town of Wentworth, to Operate the Educational Access Channel.

Mayor Paschal referred to the Town Administrator’s memo, “...which explains this, and it looks like to me they are just trying to keep this channel going at the college, and the college is going to do some updating. Each of the local governments should receive about \$25,000 each year, and then we have to give 75% of it back to the college for operation. But we do get to keep a little bit.”

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Councilwoman Powell asked, “If the State of North Carolina decided not to give the municipalities the money, are we still responsible for 75% of \$25,000?”

“No,” replied **Mayor Paschal**. “We’re only responsible for giving them 75% of whatever the State gives us.”

Councilwoman Powell asked about the paragraph in the Agreement that says, “...Twenty-five percent of the monies received will be used by the local government in support of “PEG” in any manner deemed appropriate...” “What if it’s something we don’t approve of?” she asked.

The **Town Administrator** read the remainder of the paragraph, noting, “It says ‘any manner deemed appropriate by the Local Government Manager’, not by the Community College.”

Mayor Paschal asked the Town Attorney what he thought about it.

Mr. Baggett said, “You have a right to have discussion with them about the content of the programming.”

Councilwoman Powell said she also has reservations about Item E. (Program Content Guidelines)—“Provide no programming for non-profit organizations.”

Mayor Paschal commented that if you allow one non-profit to use the channel, you would open the door for all non-profits “...which could take up all the programming time.”

Mr. Baggett added, “Mayor, the way I read this material, Wentworth has a right to place things on the channel...like the Christmas Parade.”

Mayor Paschal said, “We would be allowed to run bulletins and other information of importance to our citizens.”

Ms. Russell noted that the Executive Summary references a programming advisory board that will be appointed and consist of a staff member from each local government.

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Councilwoman Powell said, “That’s all well and good...if they do what they say and it doesn’t turn out like the Economic Development Board. They have, finally, decided to let every town have a (voting) representative on the board.”

Mayor Paschal asked if anyone else had questions or comments.

He added, “I think we can probably work through any of the problems that may come up.”

Ms. Ward commented, “I still think it is good for the Community College to have this and good for the municipalities to be able to use it for educational purposes—that’s what it is supposed to be, an educational channel for the public, education, and government.”

Mayor Paschal added, “One of the problems we have here in Wentworth, a lot of times, is not being able to communicate with our citizens. I know we have talked about a newsletter, which would be very costly, but with something like this, we can inform the citizens on a timely basis...it’s not a bad idea.”

“I make a motion,” **Mayor Paschal** said, *“that we enter into the Agreement between Rockingham Community College and the local governments, including the Town of Wentworth, to operate the educational access channel.”*

Councilwoman Powell and Mayor Pro Tem Conner seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Article VII. Public Comments – No one signed the Speaker Register except Ms. Kay Hammock, who spoke at the beginning of the meeting.

Article VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Paschal made the following announcements:

- ⇒ The next regular meeting of the **Town of Wentworth Planning Board** will be held on **Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall Meeting Room at the National Guard Armory.
- ⇒ The next regular meeting of the **Wentworth Town Council** will be held on **Tuesday, July 1, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall Meeting Room at the National Guard Armory.

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Article VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Continued. . .

⇒ **“Celebration Ten!”** to celebrate the Town of Wentworth’s 10th Anniversary, will be held on **Saturday, July 5th**, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the National Guard Armory.

Mayor Paschal reminded Council members to be sure to sign up to help with various jobs at the Town’s celebration.

Article IX. A D J O U R N

Councilwoman Iris Powell said, *“I make a motion we adjourn.”*

Councilman Belcher seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted By: _____
Brenda Ward, Town Clerk

Approved By: _____
Dennis Paschal, Mayor