

---

---

**TOWN OF WENTWORTH  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
May 6, 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, May 6, 2008**, at **7:00 p.m.**

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

**Mayor Dennis Paschal was absent.**

**A quorum was present.**

**Staff Present:** Brenda Ward, Town Clerk / Yvonne Russell, Finance Officer / Town Attorney, Fred Baggett.

**Article I.** Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Conner called the meeting to order.

**Article II.** Councilwoman Iris Powell gave the **Invocation.**

**Article III.** Discussion / Revisions / Adoption of Agenda

**A. Requests and Petitions of Citizens**

Mayor Pro Tem Conner advised that no one signed the Speaker Register.

Councilman Robert Aswell made a motion, *“That we approve the Agenda.”*

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 – April 1, 2008**

Mayor Pro Tem Conner asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the Town Council Meeting for April 1, 2008.

Councilwoman Powell made a motion, *“The Minutes be accepted as written.”*

Mayor Pro Tem Conner seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**Article V. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Assignment of Terms for New Committee Members**

**(1) Historic Preservation Committee**

**- Dr. Lindley S. Butler / 3 Year Term**

**(2) Recreation Committee**

**- "T" Butler 3 Year Term**

**- Dottie Talley 2 Year Term**

**- James H. Talley 2 Year Term**

**- W.A. (Bill) Ward 1 Year Term**

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** asked Town Administrator Brenda Ward if Council was to approve the citizens as well as the terms.

**Mrs. Ward** said that Council already approved the applicants but had requested her to contact them to see if they had a preference to term lengths. **Mrs. Ward** said the committee members were contacted and, "These are the term lengths they agreed to."

**Councilwoman Powell** made a motion, "*To approve the terms as listed.*"

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Consideration of Subdivision Plat Approval**

**- Kay Stiers Hammock requests that Lot 2 of 14.75-acre parcel be split out as originally surveyed, into a separate 1.28-acre lot. TAX PIN No. 7975-00**

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** noted that the Town Administrator would present the subdivision request in Ms. Frankie Legaux's absence.

**Mrs. Ward** referred Council to Ms. Legaux's memo (*NOTE: Attached hereto as part of these Minutes—Attachment A*) and explained, "Originally, Mrs. Hammock's father deeded 13.36 acres to her as a separate lot, in addition to the 1.28 acre lot. However, the attorney drew up the deed combining the two lots in one. The original intent was to retain both of the lots individually, so Mrs. Hammock is just asking to split out Lot 2 as it was supposed to have been done."

**Town of Wentworth  
Town Council Meeting Minutes  
May 6, 2008**

**Page 3**

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** made a motion, *“That we approve for Kay Stiers Hammock, Tax PIN No. 7975-00, and that lot 2 of 14.75 acre parcel be split out as originally surveyed into a separate 1.28 acre lot.”*

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

**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

**B. Consideration of Budget Amendment No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2007-2008**

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** asked **Finance Officer Yvonne Russell** to present the Budget Amendment.

**Ms. Russell** referenced and read from a memo in Council’s packets about the budget amendment, commenting, “This is on a suggestion by Mr. Rouse (Town Auditor) that anything having to do with the Town Hall (construction) should be listed that way.”

“As a separate line item?” asked **Councilman Belcher**. “Not only that, replied the **Town Administrator**, but it needed to be a *new* line item *under* Capital Outlay to identify it as land improvements, instead of a line item under “Other Operating Costs—Professional Services.”

**Councilman Belcher** asked, “But this is all we’re doing, is moving the money we didn’t spend on paving this year...just transferring that to cover the...”

**Ms. Russell** replied, “We’re *adding* the line item, Land Improvement: Architectural/Engineering and we’re moving that \$19,500 left over from Road Paving, adding it to that line item.”

**Ms. Russell** continued, “The Amendment will also reflect the transfer of monies *from* the General Fund, under Other Operating Costs: Miscellaneous Other Operating Costs, and Cultural and Recreational: Miscellaneous, *to* a new line item under Cultural and Recreational, designated Celebration Ten.”

She added, “We will be incurring some expenditures before June 30<sup>th</sup> for some of the Celebration Ten events, such as the groundbreaking and July 5<sup>th</sup> event.”

**Town of Wentworth  
Town Council Meeting Minutes  
May 6, 2008**

**Page 4**

**Ms. Russell** asked if there were any questions regarding the Budget Amendment. There were no questions.

The **Town Administrator** commented, "We've done pretty good to get through the whole year without a Budget Amendment, until now."

**Councilman Belcher** agreed and made a motion, "*That we accept the Budget Amendment No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2007-2008.*"

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** seconded the motion and called for a vote. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** said, "I have some discussion."

The **Clerk** asked, "About the motion already voted on."

**Councilman Belcher** said, "We always have discussion..."

The **Clerk** said, "You usually have discussion after a second to the motion, *before* you vote."

"We haven't voted," **Councilman Belcher** said. **Mayor Pro Tem Conner** agreed.

*(Note: For the record: The tape verifies, as the Clerk recorded above, that a motion was made, there was a second, and there was a vote taken...the motion carried with no discussion.)*

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** continued, "It came up this weekend...what did we say, was it \$1500 for prize money for the (parade) floats? I guess I could wait until we get to the Christmas Parade (Agenda item)..."

**Ms. Russell** replied, "We put that amount, I believe, on the Christmas Parade float application. I don't remember exactly...it was three prizes."

**Ms. Ward** advised, "It was \$2,000.00 for all three prizes...I thought that is what Mayor Paschal said he thought it should be, but I wasn't at the April Council meeting so I don't know if y'all decided something different, but that's what I put on the application."

**Town of Wentworth  
Town Council Meeting Minutes  
May 6, 2008**

**Page 5**

“I don’t think we made a definite decision on it,” **Ms. Russell** said. “He (Mayor Paschal) just said he wanted to put enough in there to encourage people to participate.”

**Ms. Ward** said she assumes the prize money...“was lumped in with the Celebration Ten line item amount in the budget.”

**Ms. Russell** said, “We were originally talking about budgeting \$10,000 for that (Celebration Ten) but then he said he wanted to budget more for the prizes for the floats.”

*(After the discussion above, Council, thinking they had not yet voted on Item B – Consideration of Budget Amendment No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2007-2008—voted again to approve the Budget Amendment.)*

**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

**C. Consideration of Capital Project Ordinance**

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** asked the Finance Officer to advise Council concerning the Capital Project Ordinance.

**Ms. Russell** explained, “We are required by LGC (Local Government Commission) as part of our financing application to adopt a Capital Project Ordinance. It is pretty self-explanatory. I got this ordinance from the State Treasurer’s Policy Manual. In Section 3, those are our expenditures and Section 4 is the revenue that we will be using. This applies to the project for the life of the project. We only have to adopt it once.”

**Ms. Russell** asked if there were any questions from anyone. There were no questions.

**Councilman Aswell** made a motion, “*That we approve the Capital Project Ordinance for construction of a Town Hall.*”

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** seconded the motion and called for a vote. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**Town of Wentworth  
Town Council Meeting Minutes  
May 6, 2008**

**Page 6**

**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

**D. Submission of Budget Message / Budget Summary / Estimated Revenues and Expenses for Fiscal Year 2008-2009**

**Town Administrator, Brenda Ward**, said that she or the Finance Officer would be glad to answer any questions from Council. She said the Budget Message addresses the primary aspects of the new budget.

There were no questions.

**Town Attorney, Fred Baggett**, asked, “When do you want to schedule the Public Hearing...?”

**Ms. Ward** replied, “They (Council) will make a motion at this time, if there are no changes (to the budget), and set the date...which is usually the next meeting unless they intend to have a special meeting. It has to be done before July 1.”

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** made a motion, “*To accept the budget as presented and set the Public Hearing for our June meeting—June 3, 2008.*”

**Councilwoman Powell** seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

The **Finance Officer** suggested that Council may also want to set the Public Hearing date for public input on construction/financing of the new town hall. She explained that a copy of the public hearing minutes has to be submitted as part of the LGC application package.

The **Town Clerk** asked the Mayor Pro Tem to, “...add that to tonight’s agenda.”

After discussion, the **Town Attorney** advised that Council does not have to make a motion to schedule the Public Hearing, but that it should be noted that it must be held at the next meeting (June 3, 2008) according to the timeline set for the LGC application. (**So recorded—A Public Hearing on Construction of a New Town Hall will be advertised for Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008.**)

**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

**E. Consideration of Adoption of “Internal Control Policy”**

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** asked the Town Administrator to comment on the Internal Control Policy.

**Ms. Ward** explained, “Our auditor, Mr. Rouse, when he was working on our audit last fall, said that we should have an Internal Control Policy. A lot of the information in this policy may sound like it really doesn’t apply to us at this point in time, but we tried to cover things that may change in the future as additional employees are added.”

**Councilwoman Powell** asked, “Didn’t we already do something like this...last year?”

**Ms. Ward** replied, “Yes, we do have a Financial and Cash Management Policy and you approved a Conflicts of Interest policy recently, and while some of these may seem to overlap, the State is handing these directives down to the auditors suggesting that these type policies should be in place.”

**Councilman Aswell** made a motion, “*That we adopt the Internal Control Policy.*” **Mayor Pro Tem Conner** seconded the motion and called for a vote. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**F. Consideration of Approval of Parade Entry Form for  
Wentworth Christmas Parade.**

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** recognized **Ms. Ward**, who advised, “Deputy (Clarence) Cheshire intended to present this item tonight, but he is working at the Elections office. We have met with Clarence several times and talked about the information on the entry form and think we have covered all the bases, but if there is anything you want to add or delete or any questions you have about the form, we’ll be happy to listen.”

**Town of Wentworth  
Town Council Meeting Minutes  
May 6, 2008**

**Page 8**

**Council** had some discussion about whether or not it is permissible to “throw out candy” to parade onlookers.

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** asked **Sheriff Sam Page**, who was present for the Council meeting, if he knew about it, and he said he has participated in other parades in the county and that they still “throw out candy.”

**Sheriff Page** said that some cities may have ordinances or some other means of prohibiting it, but that he is not aware of any law about it.

After discussions about safety factors, etc. **Council** agreed they would *not* prohibit the “throwing of candy” at the Wentworth parade.

**Councilman Aswell** made a motion, “*That we approve the Parade Entry Form as is.*” **Mayor Pro Tem Conner** seconded the motion and called for a vote. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**Article VII. Public Comments** – No one signed the Speaker Register and no one addressed Council.

**Article VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

⇒ The next regular meeting of the Town of Wentworth Planning Board will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 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, June 3, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room at the National Guard Armory.

**Article IX. A D J O U R N**

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** made a motion, “*The meeting be adjourned.*” **Councilman Belcher** seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

**Town of Wentworth  
Town Council Meeting Minutes  
May 6, 2008**

**Page 9**

**Respectfully Submitted By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Brenda Ward, Town Clerk**

**Approved By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Dennis Paschal, Mayor**