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**TOWN OF WENTWORTH  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
September 2, 2008  
7:00 P.M.**

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**The Wentworth Town Council** held their regular monthly meeting in the Town Hall meeting room at the National Guard Armory, on **Tuesday, September 2, 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

**A quorum was present.**

**Staff Present:** Brenda Ward, Town Clerk & Deputy Sheriff Clarence Cheshire

**Staff Absent:** Fred Baggett, Town Attorney

**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** advised that no one signed the Speaker Register, but noted **Mrs. T. Butler's** presence and made a motion, "*That we add her (to the Agenda) under New Business, Item B (Resolution in Support of Big Sweep) and approve the Agenda.*"

**Councilman Robert Aswell** seconded the motion. There was no discussion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

**Article IV.** **Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes**

**A. Town Council Meeting – August 5, 2008**

**Mayor Paschal** noted, "Everyone has a copy of the Town Council Minutes...are there any changes?"

**Councilwoman Iris Powell** made a motion, "*That we accept them as written.*"

**Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Conner** seconded the motion.

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

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**Article V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Consideration of Rules/Criteria for Appearance Committee's  
"Community Pride Award"**

- **Ms. Foresa Coe**

**Mayor Paschal** invited **Ms. Foresa Coe**, Chairman of the Appearance Committee, to address Council.

**Ms. Coe** thanked Council and noted that Appearance Committee members, Sue Aswell, Dessa Scheffer and herself, "...have met several times to discuss having an Appearance Committee award and decided to call it a Community Pride Award, similar to a Yard of the Month that other communities do."

**Ms. Coe** explained that the Town Clerk did some research to see what other towns have done, and that the information was very helpful to the committee.

**Ms. Coe** said that by calling the award a "Community Pride" award, "The committee felt that we could encourage any improvement in any area. To show you how we worked this out, I would like to pass out some information. (*Note: Ms. Coe provided Council with a map dividing the Town into two separate areas, and a list of the criteria for consideration by the judges—copies attached hereto as part of the Minutes.*)

She continued, "We are going to divide the town into two separate areas for judging, and your map shows that NC 87 to the right will be one area and the west side of 87 will be the other area. For each area, we will have a residential and a business or non-residential selection. We are going to do this quarterly, as more of a seasonal selection. The judges will be members of the Appearance Committee and anyone that we may solicit to help with the selections, because of their areas of expertise. We certainly encourage input from the community, and anyone who has a recommendation should let us know."

**Ms. Coe** added, "The judging will be based on creativity, neatness, and improvements. We are looking at areas of lawn care, landscaping, curb appeal, seasonal exterior décor and design. So we are trying to open the door and opportunity for any improvements to our community."

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“As for notification of the Community Pride Award,” **Ms. Coe** continued, “we plan to send a letter to the recipient well in advance of the Town Council meetings, because this is where they will be recognized by Council and will receive a gift that has been donated by an area business.”

**Ms. Coe** referred Council to a draft of the proposed letter but indicated that Council could make changes if they wished to do so. (*Note: Copy attached hereto as part of these Minutes.*)

**Ms. Coe** continued, “The recipient will receive a gift that we are hoping will be donated by area businesses. For example, I was talking to Robin Bailey at the Rockingham Opportunity Center Greenhouse and she has already offered to donate a gift certificate that can be used for purchases at the greenhouse, and that’s the kind of thing we are looking for. The business will receive recognition because it is a means of advertisement for them.”

She explained that the committee will place a Community Pride Award sign on the winner’s property to show that they are the recipient of the award, and that a photo will be sent to the local newspaper.

In conclusion, **Ms. Coe** stated, “Members of the Appearance Committee, Town Council members, and Town staff are *not* eligible to receive the Community Pride Award.”

**Ms. Coe** showed Council members an example of the Community Pride Award sign that the committee is considering.

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** asked, “Who is doing the sign?”

**Ms. Coe** replied, “We have looked at several different ones, but this one was from A Sign Company in Stoneville. They have given us the best price so far.”

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** said, “There is a Mr. Smith here in Wentworth who does signs...I just like to keep it local.”

“Absolutely,” said **Ms. Coe**. “I didn’t realize there was somebody in town. If you can give us his name or number, we will get a quote from him, too.”

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**Councilman Belcher** replied, “His name is Jack Smith and he lives right up the road on NC 87. There is a sign there at the driveway by that open field.”

**Ms. Coe** said the Appearance Committee would ask Mr. Smith to give them a quote on the sign. She asked if anyone had any comments or questions for her on the Community Pride Award.

There were no questions from Council, only comments that the information presented by Ms. Coe, “looks good.”

**Article V. NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

**B. Consideration of Resolution of Support of Rockingham County Big Sweep Week, September 27 – October 4, 2008**

- **Ms. T. Butler**

**Mayor Paschal** asked **Mrs. T. Butler** to address Council concerning Big Sweep Week.

**Mrs. Butler** began by saying that she is on the other end of beautification, “...cleaning up the mess.” She continued, “In Rockingham County we have a lot of mess to clean up, obviously, but we have over a thousand volunteers each year who go out and clean up.”

**Mrs. Butler** advised that 28 tons of trash were collected from, “...our roadways, streams, rivers, lakes, playgrounds, etc. We have kids from Wentworth School—kindergarten kids working with 4<sup>th</sup> graders—ROTC, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church groups, all sorts of people out cleaning up. So I am really proud of our State and I am proud, particularly, of Rockingham County. We have won several awards from the State for our efforts.”

**Mrs. Butler** continued, “This year, once again, we are doing an eight-day cleanup, Saturday through Saturday, to give some flexibility so more people can participate. You have a resolution in front of you, I believe, that asks you to declare September 27 – October 4<sup>th</sup> as North Carolina Big Sweep Week in Rockingham County.”

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“Let me mention,” said **Mrs. Butler**, “this is a separate cleanup from D.O.T.’s (Department of Transportation) Litter Sweep. A lot of people get it mixed up. We are complementary groups. D.O.T. does Litter Sweep all over the state twice a year. North Carolina Big Sweep does an *annual* cleanup and we cover not just roadsides, but everything, as we’re trying to clean the whole state. That’s why it is the *Big Sweep*. We are part of the international coastal cleanup that takes place in 90 countries and all over the United States. So this is our effort to make a difference in Rockingham County, and we are asking you to support this resolution.”

**Mayor Paschal** asked Mrs. Butler if she had any idea as to the figures available on the amount of tonnage, “...the amount of tonnage that was collected last year, statewide.”

**Mrs. Butler** said she failed to bring that figure with her, but said she was sure it was several million pounds.

**Mayor Paschal** expressed his thanks to Mrs. Butler for her work, “...and for all the volunteers, too, who help to make Rockingham County a prettier, cleaner place.”

**Mayor Paschal** asked for questions or comments from Council.

**Councilman Aswell** said he would like to make a motion, “*To adopt the Resolution in Support of Rockingham County Big Sweep Week.*”

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

**Article V. NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

**C. Update from Alley, Williams, Carmen, and King on Town Hall Construction Project**

- **Mr. Jeff Johnson**

**Mayor Paschal** recognized the Town Administrator. **Mrs. Ward**, in Jeff Johnson’s absence, gave the update on construction of the Town Hall. She explained that Mr. Johnson had a conflict in his schedule and was not able to attend the meeting. She referred Council to their copy of Progress Report No. 1, provided by Mr. Johnson.

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**Mrs. Ward** said that she also attended the progress meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup>. “**Mr. Tim Wray** of The Wright Company advised everyone that the erosion control devices were in place. He said the rough grading would be complete by the end of the day on August 29<sup>th</sup>, and the building pad would be completed by that day also.”

“Footing excavation,” said **Mrs. Ward**, “would begin the following week (September 1<sup>st</sup>). During the grading, they uncovered multiple old lateral lines from the septic system. These lines were removed and the trenches were filled with compacted fill under the supervision of the soils engineer from ECS. An old septic tank was also uncovered, but is not in the building pad or parking lot. It will be removed later.”

“You will notice, also,” said **Mrs. Ward**, “the notation at the bottom of the report concerning the rainfall on August 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and that this may affect the schedule discussed at the progress meeting. I talked with **Mr. David Southard** at the Wright Company today, and he said they are still planning to pour footings tomorrow.”

**Mayor Paschal** commented, “I think they worked up there over the weekend trying to get things done.”

There were no questions from Council, and **Mayor Paschal** thanked Mrs. Ward for the report.

**Article V. NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

**D. Follow-up on Recreation Committee’s Request Regarding Leasing the Old Wentworth School Gym/Ball Fields.**

- **Town Administrator**

**Mayor Paschal** asked Mrs. Ward to address Council concerning the Recreation Committee’s request.

**Mrs. Ward** acknowledged T. Butler’s presence at the meeting, noting that she serves on the Recreation Committee and that her comments would be welcomed...“she may have some additional information.”

“We sent the letter to the County Manager—the letter Council asked me to send at the Recreation Committee’s request. A copy of the letter is in your packet, and you can see that we, basically, just asked them once again to consider our request to lease the gym and the ball fields at the old school.”

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**Mrs. Ward** continued, “There have been several emails back and forth between **Tom Robinson** and I, and in order to try to get answers to some of the questions I had, I also spoke with Eugene Russell (County Attorney) late this afternoon.”

“To show you why I am confused, Tom said, in answer to one of my emails, *‘I have spoken individually with each commissioner and they are all supportive of renting/leasing the old Wentworth School gym and ball field to the Town of Wentworth for a nominal sum. The only reservation they expressed was if the county needed the property for any reason, that we be able to cancel the agreement. We have an informal arrangement with RCC for them to use the ball field for their women’s softball program. We probably need to make sure this program is accommodated. We are also looking to start a wellness program and I can envision down the road that we would like to use the gym, shower, and dressing area for workouts, etc. I would think this use can also be accommodated in an agreement. Please let me know if you would like for Eugene to draw up a contract’.*”

“I replied to Mr. Robinson’s email,” said **Mrs. Ward**, “and told him that I thought his proposal sounded too *iffy*. There were too many loopholes. I explained that what the Recreation Committee wanted to do was to use the facilities on a *regular* basis for organized teams and general recreational activities for the community.”

“When I spoke with **Eugene (Russell)** today, he understood the confusion, and acknowledged that they are not quite sure how to handle this. He attributed their indecisiveness to the fact that the Commissioners have voted to have a ‘needs’ study done for all county-owned buildings. But, he asked me, ‘What do you think y’all want to do?’ I explained once again that we want to know if the County will lease the ball field and the gymnasium for a reasonable fee, to the Town of Wentworth for *us* to manage.”

**Mrs. Ward** said **Mr. Russell** asked about “...bathroom facilities and insurance, and things like that. He mentioned that if the doors are left open to the gym, people would be wandering in and out. I told him that would be our problem, if in fact we were in charge of the building...that we would have to work those things out. I explained that we just need to know *if* they are willing to do a lease and for *how much*.”

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“I explained further, that you all would look at the lease to determine *if* it is something Council can live with, or if changes needed to be considered. I told him that y’all may not approve it at all, but that we needed to start somewhere.”

“So,” **Mrs. Ward** concluded, “he promised to have something for you to look at, at the October meeting.”

**Mayor Paschal** commented, “I think any lease, if they are going to have a clause in there where they can just come in and terminate the lease, we need to have something in there that allows us to have sufficient notice as far as the continuation of existing schedules for ball teams or whatever.”

**Mrs. Ward** said, “And I had just spoken with you before I called Eugene, and I told him the Mayor asked me why we would want to start a sports program and then be asked by the County to stop mid-stream or mid-season.”

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** agreed, “Why would you even want to start a league if you thought you couldn’t complete the season?”

**Mrs. Ward** said that Mr. Russell understands the situation and admitted that things are being handled rather sporadically right now. She said that **Mr. Russell** commented that they have so many people coming in and out, “...it’s hard to keep up with who is using it when.”

**Mayor Paschal** noted that the County continues to have trouble making a decision as to what they want to do with the old school. “We’ll see what they come up with at the October meeting,” the Mayor concluded.

**Article V. NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

**E. Annual Review of Authorized Check Signers, Per Formalized Financial and Cash Management Policy – Section I.**

**Mrs. Ward** advised Council that the Cash Management Policy requires *annual* authorization by the Board as to who will sign checks for the Town. “Currently,” she said, “the mayor and mayor pro tem are on file with the bank as signers, in addition to the Finance Officer and me. Only two signatures are required on the checks, but we still need to have additional signers in case someone is not available for some reason.”

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**Mrs. Ward** asked council if they wanted to approve Mayor Paschal and Mayor Pro Tem Conner again, or did they want to select someone else.

**Councilman Aswell** made a motion, *“That we leave it like it is.”* **Councilman Belcher** seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**Article V. NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

**F. Town Administrator’s Update / Reports**

**1. “World Changers” Certificate**

**Mrs. Ward** remarked to Council, “It may seem like I am bombarding you with information, but you know I don’t do this very often.” She referenced memos and information provided in their Agenda packets, and began by reading a Certificate of Appreciation from World Changers for the Town’s assistance and support during their week of labor in Rockingham County and in the Town of Wentworth.

**2. Quarterly Activity Reports from the Rockingham County  
Planning & Inspections Department (Planning Director, Tom  
Wiggins)**

**Mrs. Ward** explained that the reports from Mr. Wiggins list information regarding Building Permits, Zoning Permits, Code Enforcement Cases, and Plat Reviews. She noted that the report information “does not fluctuate very much from year to year.”

**3. Dan River Water Tank**

**Mrs. Ward** referred to her memo to Council concerning the “lettering” for the new Dan River water tank. She said that in her conversation with **Mike Lemons** at Dan River, “He told me they intend to put **Dan River Water** on the tank, and that if the Town wants ‘Town of Wentworth’ lettering, it will cost us a couple of thousand dollars, according to Utility Service Company in Madison, who will be handling the painting of the water tank, as well as the lettering.”

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**Mrs. Ward** said she asked Mr. Lemons if she could see a prototype or mock-up of all the lettering that will appear on the sign, in order to get an idea of size and proportionate spacing.

“He said that would not be a problem,” said Mrs. Ward, “and I didn’t think we should agree to pay that much money for something, sight unseen.”

**Mrs. Ward** said she would like to know how Council feels about having to pay that much for the lettering, and, “...whether or not you want me to make a decision on the lettering after seeing the prototype. Or, do you want to see it as well?”

**Mrs. Ward** expressed concern over the seam in the water tank, saying it appears to project a few inches. She was wondering if it does in fact project and if they would put letters on this piece or just above and below the seam. Members of Council did not seem to think the seam would present a problem.

**Mayor Paschal** said, “We had originally said that we would like to have ‘Town of Wentworth’ on it, and that we would be willing to pay for it, but it seems like now *everybody* wants to put something up there. I was hoping to see Town of Wentworth on both sides, not necessarily facing the school, but at least where it can be seen from the highway.”

**Mrs. Ward** said Mr. Lemons said he was thinking of putting Dan River Water around the top and then Town of Wentworth underneath.

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** said she thought that would work okay, “...and the school could still having something on their side.”

**Mrs. Ward** commented, “I can visualize Dan River Water around the top—it *is* their water tank, after all—and then Town of Wentworth around the bottom half. Mike (Lemons) understood my point of concern over how large or small the lettering would be, and he promised we could see a mock-up.”

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** said she thought, “...everybody (Council) may want to come by (Town Hall) to look at it when he has it ready, but what about the cost...do we wait and see what he says?”

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**Mayor Paschal** replied, “I am sure that Dan River wants to get it painted and finished, and I really would like to see it done.”

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** asked about the color, saying she would like to see it painted white. **Mrs. Ward** replied, “It is going to be the same color—Sky Blue—according to Mr. Lemons.”

**Mayor Paschal** said he would like to make a motion to, “*Approve putting Town of Wentworth on the water tower at an approximate amount of \$2,000 with some wiggle room in there, to be approved in a straw poll by Council before we go further with it.*”

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

**4. Update on Partnership for Economic and Tourism  
Development—Change in By Laws**

**Mrs. Ward** pointed out a couple of the latest marketing brochures from the Partnership, along with her memo to Council.

“The Partnership has revised their By Laws, and a resolution was approved to amend the section on Private Member Director and Terms, to allow Madison, Mayodan, and Wentworth, to *each* appoint one (1) representative as a member of the Board of Directors. This changes the physical makeup of the Board from eleven (11) members to thirteen (13), and reads: ‘One of the Directors shall reside in or represent a business located within the Wentworth area.’”

Continuing, **Mrs. Ward** added, “Reading further down in the By Laws, it states, ‘A Private Member Director from the Stoneville area and a Private Member Director from the Wentworth area shall be elected pursuant to Article VI.6. **for terms beginning January 1, 2009, and ending December 31, 2011.**’”

**Mrs. Ward** advised, “So, sometime soon, we need to be thinking about *who* in Wentworth, you would want to appoint as a ‘private member director’, and we can put this on the Agenda accordingly.”

**Mrs. Ward** said she thought it would be good to have someone with some business background, and asked Council to be thinking of who they could appoint.

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**Article V. NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

**F. Town Administrator’s Update / Reports**

**5. Post Office**

**Mrs. Ward** began the update on the Post Office with, “Now for the bad news.” She referenced the copy of an email from **Mr. Bailey King**, an attorney with the Smith Moore law firm. Mr. King, at Council’s request has been pursuing the Postal Service for the criteria used by them in determining that the Town of Wentworth does not need a new post office.

The email Mrs. Ward shared with Council, said, “...according to the postal service, a document that sets forth the criteria does not exist.”

“My question is,” **Mrs. Ward** continued, “Do you want to do as Mr. King suggests—wait until the lease for the post office at the Wright Tavern expires...the lease is with the Historical Society—and then approach the Postal Service again?”

“Looking at this from another angle, I have been asked by several people lately, why we can’t you go ahead and ask the Postal Service to survey the citizens for a change of address, from Reidsville to Wentworth.”

**Mayor Paschal** asked, “Will one affect the other, though? If people vote for a change of address, will they give us a new post office?”

“Not necessarily,” replied **Mrs. Ward**, “and Iris (Councilwoman Powell) has always said that we shouldn’t do that.”

“That’s right,” **Councilwoman Powell** said, “because you will be playing right into their hands and they can close it down.”

**Mrs. Ward** advised, “If you look at the email—the last sentence in next to the last paragraph—**Mr. Bailey** refers to his conversation with **Anita Moss** who said that ‘one possible solution would be to consolidate all operations in Eden and close the Wentworth facility.’ **Mr. King** goes on to say that it may not be in the Town’s best interest to pursue the issues Ms. Moss mentioned.”

Council did not make a decision on the Post Office issue, and Mrs. Ward moved on to her next report.

**6. Year-End Financial Report (Budget Vs Actual)**

**Mrs. Ward** asked Council if they had any questions on the report provided by the Finance Officer. There were no questions from Council.

**7. Celebration Ten Fall Festival (11/1/08)**

**Mrs. Ward** said that Mayor Paschal, after receiving the meeting Agenda, called and asked, “Are we having a Fall Festival?”

**Mrs. Ward** said she would like to recap the (Celebration Ten) committee’s plans. “The committee was appointed for the purpose of planning a big event in July for the Town’s tenth anniversary. But as plans progressed, we talked about the possibility of having a series of events throughout the year, beginning with the groundbreaking ceremony back in May; the idea of a Fall Festival was suggested, and then the Christmas parade. So when we did a press release about the Town of Wentworth celebrating its tenth anniversary, we also included information about the groundbreaking, the July 5<sup>th</sup> event, the Fall Festival and the Christmas Parade. I had discussed the possibility of these events with Robin Yount at the Tourism office, and apparently they put something on their website. I started to get calls asking about the Fall Festival date, and vendors wanting to participate.”

“In later conversations with committee members, **Judy Wall** mentioned having an event at the 4-H Center. We both agreed that the 4-H Center needs some exposure since a lot of people in the County have no idea what’s there, and most of them have probably never even been to the camp.

**Mrs. Ward** continued, “The committee agreed that the 4-H Center would be a good place for the Town to host a Fall Festival. But, after the July 5<sup>th</sup> event, the committee was so exhausted from all the work they did, and they did a great job, that I hated to put them on something else right away. So, I did some leg work on my own and made some phone calls to the 4-H Center...I actually needed to talk with them anyway about a quote for doing the League of Governments Dinner Meeting. It is our turn to host that in November.”

“In talking with them about the league meeting, I mentioned the possibility of the Town having our Fall Festival at the center. The lady in charge of the kitchen, **Lea Jennings**, and the camp director, **Jeff North**, said they have been considering a Fall Festival themselves, as a fund-raiser for the 4-H Center. They have plans to establish an endowment fund for the 4-H Center and want to provide scholarships so that all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Rockingham County can come for a week to one of the camps.”

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“They asked about combining our event with theirs, saying that we could promote it as an open house, hosted by the Town, and plan whatever we wanted to.”

**Mrs. Ward** said she asked Ms. Jennings what they had planned in the way of a fundraiser, explaining that the Town could not expend public funds for a fundraising effort for the Center.

“**Ms. Jennings** said they were planning to sell tickets to a BBQ chicken lunch, and that they were thinking about a turkey shoot, tours of the camp, and other activities for the children. They also plan to sell raffle tickets for cash winnings. The 4-H Center would keep half and the winner, the other half.”

“I explained that we would secure the entertainment—**Kay Hammock** had already spoken with **Michael Ken** (Jarrell) about singing, and I have talked to the lady we hired in July to do the clown and face painting. I told Ms. Jennings that we were prepared to advertise/market the event, and that this was as much planning as we had done, at that point.”

**Mrs. Ward** concluded, “If the 4-H Center wants to take care of the other activities, along with the meal and raffle tickets, then we would just provide the paid entertainment, and advertise the event, as we would have done anyway, promoting it as a Fall Festival/Open House at Betsy-Jeff Penn. But, I need to know if Council is okay with that.”

“I am,” replied **Mayor Pro Tem Conner**.

“So basically,” said **Mayor Paschal**, “Wentworth will be hosting it but they will be doing everything and we’ll provide some entertainment.”

**Councilman Belcher** said, “We can solicit a few people to show up and do a few things.”

**Mrs. Ward** said, “Well, of course, they will welcome our help with *any* of the activities. She also said that they plan to ask the Research Station about providing hayrides. But it is meant to be a joint effort, and I’m sure they will want us to help sell the BBQ tickets to our family and friends.”

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** added, “I think it will make Wentworth look good. We are still getting compliments on the July 5<sup>th</sup> celebration.”

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**Councilwoman Powell** said, "I think that is a great place to have it. I've been there and stayed 2 or 3 weeks with the 4-H'ers."

**Councilwoman Powell** asked, "Would the Town of Wentworth be called a co-sponsor in their advertisement?"

**Mayor Paschal** said, "We would be the ones doing the advertisements, anyway."

"That's right," said **Mrs. Ward**. "We would advertise that it is a Town of Wentworth Fall Festival/Open House at Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Center."

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** said, "I think we should do it, and I think we should help out and volunteer to do something. I'll volunteer, and I make a motion, *"That we do the Fall Festival."*

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

**8. Town of Wentworth is Host for the Next Rockingham County League of Local Governments Meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Mrs. Ward** advised Council, "We are next in line to host the League of Local Governments Meeting on Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. We've had it at the 4-H Center in the past, we have had it at the Fire Department and at Mom's Kitchen. I talked to the 4-H Center about having it there and asked them for a quote. They will provide the punch and nuts for the social...I told Ms. Jennings I didn't think we needed to do all the cheese and fruit vegetable trays, because it is usually not eaten. So much of it goes to waste, and you're going to be eating a big meal in 30 minutes."

"She said they could do roast beef, roast turkey and cranberry sauce, rice and gravy, a roasted root veggie blend (carrots, potatoes and onions), broccoli, green beans, yeast rolls, tea/coffee, apple cobbler, and either chocolate or coconut cake for \$15.00/person."

"My mouth is watering already," said **Councilman Belcher**.

"Last year at Mom's," said **Mrs. Ward**, "we paid \$17.00 per person."

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**Councilman Aswell** made a motion, *“That we have it at the 4-H Center.”*

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

**Mrs. Ward** said she wanted to clear up something on the Christmas Parade. She said the Mayor sent an email asking if the committee was handling the Christmas Parade. “If you will remember,” she explained, “Council appointed **Deputy Cheshire** to be in charge of plans for the Christmas Parade, and said that Yvonne and I would assist him. But I’m sure Clarence will appreciate all the help anyone wants to give him.”

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** asked if Deputy (Clarence) Cheshire could give an update on the Christmas Parade plans.

**Deputy Cheshire** said he had spoken with Ms. Russell and Ms. Ward about trying to keep an “old-fashioned Christmas” theme throughout the parade.

He said he has made contact with several people, “...who own horse and buggy-type rides, thinking that Council members may want to ride in horse-drawn carriages.”

“How neat!” replied **Mayor Pro Tem Conner**.

“Sometimes the owners of the carriages will let you use them because they want the advertisement,” **Deputy Cheshire** said. “The old Model-T fire truck from Eden—I got a letter in the mail and they’re going to let me borrow that for the day.”

**Councilwoman Powell** said the Historical Society suggested contacting **John Burton** to represent them. “He has several old cars...an old timey T-Model.”

**Councilman Belcher** advised that Boy Scout Troop 701 is planning to be in the parade. **Deputy Cheshire** said he has given them their entry forms.

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**Deputy Cheshire** said that he has also contacted a gentleman with a bagpiper group. “They will send 15 people—10 bagpipers and 5 drummers. They really want to do this for us, but they do have a fee and I don’t want to commit to spending any money until you say it’s okay. I know you still have some money budgeted for Celebration Ten events, but you may not want to spend it for bagpipers.”

The **Town Administrator** advised Council, “There is \$5,000 left in the Celebration Ten budget, and the Fall Festival expenses will come out of that, and then whatever is left, we can use for the Christmas Parade.”

**Mayor Paschal** asked where the prize money for the floats comes in— “Does that come out of the \$5,000?”

**Mrs. Ward** replied, “The prize money has been set aside. The \$5,000 is what’s left *after* the prize money is deducted.”

**Deputy Cheshire** said the fee quoted by the bagpipers was \$750.00— “That’s \$50.00 per person, but he did say he would negotiate with us because they really would like to come. They have already put the date down. In fact they pushed Winston-Salem out and put us ahead of them.”

**Mayor Paschal** asked: “Are we advertising as far as the prize money?”

“It’s on the (entry) form,” everyone answered.

**Deputy Cheshire** said that **Robin Yount** with the county tourism office will put the information on their website.

**Mayor Paschal** said, “I still think we should advertise in the 3 papers and maybe the Greensboro paper, too, at least before the end of the month.”

**Deputy Cheshire** said he plans to speak with someone at Channel 5/Star News about advertising the parade.

**Mrs. Ward** said, “Another thing we need to talk about is the *parade route*. We have talked about starting at the high school and going to the old school, or starting at Calvary Baptist Church. But several folks in the village area around the courthouse have said, ‘You mean you’re not coming down through here?’”

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She continued, “**Deputy Cheshire** and I talked about starting the parade from the new road next to the Highway Patrol Station, Wilson Way. That should give us plenty of room to line everyone up and be out of the way.”

“That depends.” said **Mayor Paschal**. “You’re liable to have a procession about 2 miles long.”

**Councilman Belcher** said, “You’ve got to remember, you may have a lot of small kids walking.”

**Mayor Paschal** said, “The one in Reidsville was always real long.”

“As for the small children,” **Mrs. Ward** said, “we will just have to let people know that if there is a problem with the distance, they may want to consider having a truck or trailer that the kids can hop on.”

**Deputy Cheshire** said that several dance groups are interested, and other bands and groups that are outside of Wentworth—“I wasn’t sure if it was alright with Council for them to enter the parade.”

**Mayor Paschal** said that in his opinion, “Anyone who wants to enter the parade can do so.” Everyone agreed.

**Deputy Cheshire** said that most of the other cities in the county average around a hundred entries.

**Deputy Cheshire** said he has also spoken with someone who is part of the Civil War re-enactment group and that they, too, are interested.

“In reference to the parade route,” **Mrs. Ward** commented, “if we do have the longer route—Wilson Way to the courthouse—it will cut down on traffic congestion as far as parking goes. Most people right in the heart of Wentworth, along 87 and 65 can watch from their lawns and can have family and friends come over and park at their homes. The armory parking lot, along with the County Center, Governmental Center, RCC, and the school parking lots can also be used for parking.”

**Councilman Aswell** asked Deputy Cheshire if he had given a form to the Wentworth Fire Department. He said any of the county fire departments would probably participate.

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**Deputy Cheshire** said he had given entry forms to Wentworth, but explained, "I thought one apparatus from each county department might be overkill." He said he has contacted the City of Greensboro about an old convertible fire truck they have and is waiting to see if they will bring it over for the parade. He said he would like to have some things that nobody has seen in a long time. "...something different."

**Mrs. Ward** added, "Another thing we haven't decided on is who will be the *Grand Marshall* for the parade. We have tossed around several people, but would like to know if Council has any ideas."

"Who did y'all toss?" asked **Mayor Pro Tem Conner**.

**Deputy Cheshire** said, "We talked about the oldest citizen in the Town, or someone from Wentworth who is famous or semi-famous...Keith Harris, whose father was a principle in the school system at one time, is now a writer and actor...he's been in some movies."

**Mrs. Ward** said they also talked about the Phelps family at Chinqua-Penn.

**Councilwoman Powell** mentioned **Nell Taylor** (possibly the oldest citizen).

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** said she agreed—"We should ask Nell Taylor and possibly have Keith Harris, too."

**Mrs. Ward** said, "I don't think we should dub her as the oldest person in Wentworth unless we were sure of that...there may be somebody older, and she may not want to be known as the oldest person."

"I think she would be honored," said **Mayor Pro Tem Conner**.

"Maybe we need to research this before we make a decision," **Mayor Paschal** said.

"Y'all just be thinking about who you might want to ask to do this," **Mrs. Ward** said.

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** said, "I make a motion *that we let the oldest surviving citizen in the Town of Wentworth be the Grand Marshall, if they will accept it.*"

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“Do they have to be able to get out there, to walk or whatever?” asked **Mayor Paschal**.

**Councilwoman Powell** said, “Nell Taylor gets around good...she shoveled dirt at the groundbreaking. The only person who is older than Nell is **Ms. Worth Collins**, but she can’t get around.”

“I guess we could have an *honorary* grand marshal,” said **Mrs. Ward**.

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** then made another motion, “*That we let Nell Taylor be the Grand Marshal, no matter what.* Her husband was the warden at the prison up here and they served here for a long time.”

**Deputy Cheshire** said, “You may want to consider the oldest veteran or someone like that. I plan to ask the veterans to consider having a float.”

**Councilwoman Powell** said, “Brenda’s daddy is no spring chicken, either.”

**Mrs. Ward** replied, “No, he’s 93, but he’s not going to get out of his recliner, unless he can ride his lawn mower in the parade.”

The **Town Clerk** asked if there was a second to either of Mayor Pro Tem Conner’s motions.

**Mayor Paschal** said there was no second to the first motion, and asked for a second to the latter motion.

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

“And we may have another one—an *honorary* grand marshal or *co-grand marshals*,” **Mayor Paschal** said.

“We can have the **mayor**,” said **Mrs. Ward**. “Yes, that’s what we should do...have the mayor and Ms. Taylor,” said **Mayor Pro Tem Conner**.

**Deputy Cheshire** said he forgot to mention that he has spoken with **Daryl Crowder** with the **Shriners Club**, and that they want to be in the parade. “They have an old hillbilly truck...and **Charlie Johnson**, a firemen in Eden, walks in all the parades, dressed up like a snowman and he has agreed to walk in our parade, too.”

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**Article VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Mayor Paschal** advised that no one signed the Speaker Register for public comments.

**Article VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ⇒ The next regular meeting of the Town of Wentworth **Planning Board** will be held on **Tuesday, September 16, 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, October 7, 2008**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the **Town Hall Meeting Room** at the National Guard Armory.
- ⇒ **Celebration Ten Fall Festival: Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>** / The Town of Wentworth will host a **Fall Open House** at the Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Center / 11:00 – 3:00—**Mark the Date!**

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

**Mayor Paschal** made a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Councilwoman Powell** seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting stands adjourned.

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

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