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**TOWN OF WENTWORTH  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
DECEMBER 1, 2009  
7:00 P.M.**

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**The Wentworth Town Council** held an Organizational Meeting at their regularly scheduled meeting time in the Town Hall Council Chambers, on **Tuesday, December 1, 2009**, at **7:00 p.m.**

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

**A quorum was present.**

**Staff Present:** Brenda Ward, Town Administrator - Town Clerk / Fred Baggett, Town Attorney / Yvonne Russell, Finance Officer, and Deputy Clarence Cheshire

**Article I.** **Mayor Dennis Paschal** called the December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, Wentworth Town Council Organizational Meeting to order.

**Article II.** **Mayor Paschal** asked everyone to stand and face the United States Flag for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Article III.** **Dr. Ron Boswell**, Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, was asked to give the **Invocation.**

**Article IV.** **Recognition of Special Guests**

**Mayor Paschal** recognized several special guests who were present for the Organizational Meeting—**Mr. Graham Pervier**, President of the Rockingham County Partnership for Economic Development; **Deputy Clarence Cheshire**, the assigned deputy for the Town of Wentworth; **Charles Boswell**, President of the Wentworth Ruritan Club.

**Mayor Paschal** thanked Mr. Boswell and the Ruritan Club for donating the Christmas tree on the front lawn, and promised to, “get some lights on it right away.”

**Mayor Paschal** said he would also like to thank **Rev. Ron Boswell** for coming to give the invocation.

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

**A. Town Council Meeting – November 5, 2009**

**Mayor Paschal** asked for approval of the November 5, 2009, Town Council Meeting Minutes.

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** made a motion, *“That the Minutes stand approved as written.”*

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

**Article VI. Approval Discussion / Revisions / Adoption of Agenda**

**A. Requests and Petitions of Citizens**

There were no additions or changes to the **December Agenda**. **Mayor Paschal** noted that no one signed the **Speaker Register**, and made a motion to, *“approve the Agenda as presented.”*

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

**Article VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Organizational Session**

**Mayor Paschal** turned the meeting over to **Town Attorney, Fred Baggett**, who presided over the organizational part of the meeting.

“Thank you, Mayor,” said **Mr. Baggett**. “It is my honor as the Town Attorney to administer the oaths of office to the two re-elected Council members, **Ms. Powell** and **Mr. Aswell**.”

**Mr. Baggett** invited Ms. Powell to take the oath of office first.

After taking the oath of office as Councilwoman, **Ms. Powell** was congratulated by **Mr. Baggett** and others.

**Mr. Baggett** then administered the oath of office for **Councilman Aswell**, and congratulated him on re-election to the Town Council.

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**Mr. Baggett** noted, “Now that we have a full Council once again, duly installed, it is time for the election of Mayor. Do I have a nomination?”

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** nominated **Dennis Paschal**.

**Mr. Baggett** asked if there were other nominations.

**Councilman Belcher** nominated **Robert Aswell**.

“Are there other nominations?” asked **Attorney Baggett**.

**Attorney Baggett** continued, “Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed. In order of their nominations, could I have a vote for Mr. Paschal for mayor.”

**Mayor Paschal** said, “I would like to withdraw my name from the nominations. I have served at Council’s pleasure for ten years, and have two more years left. I think maybe it is time for someone else to step up and learn the ropes, and be ready for the next critical thing that may happen to Wentworth, so at this point in time, I would like to withdraw my name from the nominations.”

“Duly noted,” said **Mr. Baggett**. “Your name is withdrawn, that is your privilege.”

“The remaining nomination is **Mr. Robert Aswell**,” said **Mr. Baggett**.

**Mayor Paschal** made a motion, “*that the nominations be closed.*”

The motion was seconded by **Councilman Belcher**.

**Mr. Baggett** asked that everyone in favor say, “aye,” and all opposed, likewise. **Mr. Baggett** declared the nominations closed.

“All in favor of Robert Aswell for Mayor,” said **Mr. Baggett**, “please signify by saying, “aye.” (The Clerk recorded three (3) audible “ayes” and no one expressed opposition.)

**Attorney Baggett** advised, “**Robert Aswell** is duly elected Mayor.”

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**Attorney Baggett** congratulated **Mr. Aswell** and asked him to return to the podium to take the oath as Mayor.

The **Oath of Office as Mayor for the Town of Wentworth** was administered by Mr. Baggett, who congratulated Mayor Aswell.

**Attorney Baggett** advised Mayor Aswell that his first order of business would be to elect a mayor pro tem.

**Mayor Aswell** opened the floor for nominations for mayor pro tem.

**Councilman Paschal** nominated **Evelyn Conner**.

**Mayor Aswell** nominated **James Belcher**.

**Councilman Belcher** made a motion that, "*the nominations be closed.*"

**Councilman Paschal** seconded the nominations. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**Mayor Aswell** asked, "All in favor of Evelyn for Mayor Pro Tem, signify by saying aye." There was one vote for Ms. Conner.

**Mayor Aswell** asked, "All in favor of James Belcher, signify by saying 'aye.'" (The Clerk recorded three audible votes for Mr. Belcher.) There was no opposition.

**Mayor Aswell** declared **James Belcher** as the new **Mayor Pro Tem for the Town of Wentworth**.

**Attorney Baggett** administered the Oath of Office to **Mr. Belcher** as **Mayor Pro Tem**, and congratulated him.

**Mayor Aswell** said he would like to thank the Council for their vote of confidence. "I will have to ask you for your help this coming year, and I will try to do the best I can to serve you as mayor."

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**Article VII. NEW BUSINESS - Continued**

**B. Consideration of Secondary Subdivision Plat for Harry Rakestraw  
(Corner of NC 65 & Foch Farm Road)**

**- Frankie Legaux, Assistant Director  
Rockingham County Planning Department**

**Mayor Aswell** introduced the next item of business and asked **Ms. Frankie Legaux** to discuss the secondary subdivision plat for Harry Rakestraw.

**Ms. Legaux** passed out some larger copies of the subdivision plat to Council, commenting, "This is a very simple secondary subdivision where they are cutting off a 1.129 acre lot out of a lot that is in excess of a hundred acres. It is pretty straight-forward, but I will entertain any questions you may have."

**Councilman Paschal** said, "It is pretty cut and dry, so I make a motion *that we approve the subdivision.*"

**Councilwoman Conner** seconded the motion.

**Mayor Aswell** asked for any discussion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**Mayor Aswell** asked Ms. Legaux if the County Commissioners approve similar subdivisions.

"No, they do not," **Ms. Legaux** replied. "This is something that Staff approves in-house. We really don't have any that are approved by the Commissioners or the Planning Board. She said the Commissioners normally rezone for anything over five lots, and that this was a change made recently.

**Ms. Legaux** went into greater detail on how and why the County handles subdivisions like they do, explaining how many other people, including NCDOT, Soil and Water, Environmental Health, etc. review the plats if there are more than five lots being subdivided.

**Mayor Aswell** remarked that the Town Council may want to consider making similar changes in the future.

**Article VII. NEW BUSINESS - Continued**

**C. Consideration of Request for Town of Wentworth to join N.C. Urban Archery Program**

- **Mr. J. R. McInnis, 1010 Vernon Road, Wentworth NC**

**Mayor Aswell** asked **Mr. J.R. McInnis** to address Council.

**Mr. McInnis** said he was present to ask the Council to consider joining the State's Urban Archery Program for White-tail Deer.

He explained, "This program provides, for participating municipalities, an additional bow-hunting season from about mid-January to mid-February. The same hunting rules and regulations that apply in current hunting season, including permission regulations, also apply to the urban archery season."

"I could talk about this all night," **Mr. McInnis** said, "but when I started hunting, there probably weren't a hundred deer in Rockingham County, and there were 90,000 in North Carolina. Now there are more than a million. Most all of us have had run-ins with them on the highways. It is prudent to reduce those numbers and this (Urban Archery Program) is a way we can do so in our municipality, so I would like for Council to consider that. If you have any questions about the program, I will try to answer them."

**Councilman Paschal** said, "To put this into play, you're going to have to make a request now to get it in place for the 2010 season, right?"

"Actually," said **Mr. McInnis**, "it is too late for 2010, but if we apply by April 1<sup>st</sup> (2010), with a letter asking the State to do this, along with a map of the area to be included, we can get in the program for 2011."

**Councilman Paschal** asked, "A map of the town would be sufficient, right?"

"I think it would," said **Mr. McInnis**. "In some cities that are more urban, they sometimes knock out some areas but since we are mostly rural, I would think the entire city limits would be included."

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**Councilwoman Conner** made a motion, “*That we consider the request.*”

**Councilman Paschal** seconded the motion.

**Mayor Aswell** asked for discussion.

**Councilman Paschal** commented, “I think that all it does is add a month or so to hunting season and allows people to hunt for deer with their bows during that particular time, so I think it would be a good thing.”

**Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** agreed, saying it would be beneficial to the Town to help decrease the deer population. “Also,” he said, “we have a local deer-processing business in town, now.”

**Mr. McInnis** added, “We had almost 20,000 accidents last year involving deer in North Carolina, and six or seven deaths...9.2 percent of all motor vehicle accidents in the state involved deer last year.”

**Councilman Paschal** noted that a motion and a second were made.

The **Town Clerk** asked for clarification of the motion—“The motion was that Council *consider* the request, does that mean that you are not taking action tonight, or do you mean that you *approve* the request?”

**Councilwoman Conner**, who made the initial motion, said she meant for council “to *approve* the request.”

“All in favor of approving the request,” said **Mayor Aswell**, “please signify by saying aye.”

There was no further discussion and all voted in favor of requesting that the Town be included in the North Carolina Urban Archery Program.

**Article VII. NEW BUSINESS - Continued**

**D. Consideration of Proposals for Pest Control Services for the Town Hall**

- **Four Seasons Pest Control / Reidsville NC (\$28/Month; \$75/Qtr.)**
- **Terminix / Eden, NC (\$125/Quarter)**
- **Orkin / Greensboro, NC (\$89/EOM; \$534/Year)**

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**Mayor Aswell** referred Council to the proposals in their packets for pest control services for the Town Hall.

**Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** asked, "Beyond their proposals, did they give any information, any suggestions or recommendations...as to whether it would be better to go with a monthly or a quarterly service?"

The **Town Administrator** replied, "I think all of them thought that a quarterly visit would be sufficient."

"I would have thought the opposite," **Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** said. "At least start out on a monthly basis until we get the situation under control."

"Actually, that is what we requested," said **Mrs. Ward**, "and they were agreeable to that, except for Orkin, who still preferred to quote a quarterly fee."

**Mrs. Ward** said that the gentleman from Four Seasons, "...seemed to be more inclined to work with us."

She said that Four Seasons bought out General Pest Control, "...a locally owned business, whose owner, Bob Williams, passed away Saturday."

**Councilwoman Conner** said, "I would be in favor of Four Seasons."

**Mayor Aswell** made a motion, "*That we sign a contract with Four Seasons for a year.*" **Councilwoman Conner** seconded the motion.

**Mayor Aswell** asked for any further discussion. **Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** asked, "Would this be on a quarterly basis or a monthly basis?"

**Mayor Aswell** replied, "Monthly."

**Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** and **Councilwoman Conner**, who seconded the motion, were in agreement. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**Article VII. NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

**E. Adoption of Holiday Closing Schedule for Year 2010**

**Councilwoman Conner** made a motion, *“to adopt the Holiday Closing Schedule for 2010.”*

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

**Article VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Mayor Aswell** advised that no one signed up for **Public Comments**.

**Article IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mayor Aswell** made the following announcements:

- **Wentworth Ruritan Club** is selling Christmas Trees at Reynolds Nursery / 10500 NC 87 North.

**Mayor Aswell** recognized **Charles Boswell**, President of the Wentworth club, who asked to speak about the Ruritans.

**Mr. Boswell** said the club is named, “Wentworth, because that’s where we started out, but we would like to feel that we are a county-wide organization. Our Christmas tree sale is going on...we hope you will take advantage of some good prices...we have 3 different sizes and price ranges. We are always looking for new members, people interested in helping our community, because all the funds we raise go right back into the community. Thank you.”

**Mayor Aswell** continued with the announcements.

- The next regularly scheduled **Planning Board Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, December 15, 2009**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall Council Chambers.
- The next regularly scheduled **Town Council Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

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**Article IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Continued**

- **Year 2010 Meeting Schedules** for the Wentworth Town Council and the Wentworth Planning Board are available at the Clerk’s table.

**Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** said he would like to thank everyone for electing him as Mayor Pro Tem, and would like to, “...thank Dennis and Evelyn for their lengthy service to the town as mayor and mayor pro tem.”

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

**Mayor Aswell** made a motion, “*that we adjourn.*”

**Councilwoman Powell** seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

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

**Approved By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Robert Aswell, Mayor**