
**TOWN OF WENTWORTH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 2, 2010
7:00 P.M.**

The Wentworth Town Council held their regular monthly meeting in the Town Hall Council Chambers, on **Tuesday, February 2, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.**

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

A quorum was present.

Staff Present: Brenda Ward, Town Administrator - Town Clerk
Fred Baggett, Town Attorney / and Deputy Clarence Cheshire

Article I. Mayor Aswell called the February 2nd, 2010, Wentworth Town Council Meeting to order.

Article II. Councilman Dennis Paschal gave the **Invocation.**

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

A. Requests and Petitions of Citizens

Mayor Aswell asked if there were any requests to change the Agenda and noted, "No one has signed the Speaker Register so I make a motion *that we approve the Agenda as is.*"

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 – January 5th, 2009

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher made a motion, "*That the Minutes be approved as presented.*" Councilwoman Powell seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Article V. **OLD BUSINESS**

B. Consideration of Proposal from John Davenport Engineering, Inc. (± \$6,000) for Traffic Impact Analysis

Mayor Aswell invited Mr. Howard Fleming of Davenport Engineering to address Council.

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Mr. Fleming referred Council to an 11 x 17 exhibit in their packets, "...which is like the one I have here on the (easel). This also represents the plan we prepared for Rockingham County...related to trying to provide a Phase I entrance here, to a (traffic) signal, as part of the Rockingham County Jail/Courthouse facility. This particular rendering (Alternative E) seems to be the favorite of a number of different alternatives we looked at." (*Note: Alternative E attached hereto as part of these Minutes.*)

Mr. Fleming continued, "We have prepared a Traffic Impact Analysis for Rockingham County relative to their development and have just imposed background traffic, basically, on the entire area. What you may want to do in what I call the *core* area of your Central Business District concept, could have a great effect on this (traffic) signal and these improvements that we are indicating there."

"We met with Brenda (Town Administrator) and Mayor Aswell, and previously with Mayor Paschal and talked about how we might help the Town in making some determination of what should be constructed on that piece of land, and get it zoned properly, so as not to cause that intersection to fail or become an undesirable improvement. Associated with that, we are proposing to also study this intersection and this intersection as well (NC 87/Peach Tree Road), to try to come up with the best solution possible. We realize there is a problem there, with regard to traffic and the misalignment at that intersection, when school lets out or when parents are dropping off as well."

Mr. Fleming said that out of the Traffic Impact Analysis and study, would be some recommendations on improvements. He noted that Alternative E. shows a round-a-bout at the school intersection, "which is one of many solutions."

He continued, "Primarily where you have a traffic signal, a round-about tends to be the preferred solution, but round-a-bouts don't always work and traffic signals don't always work; apparently, there had been some discussion already about a round-a-bout. This solution would have to be proven as a good option at that location."

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“What we are proposing to do for you for the \$6,000 fee, **Mr. Fleming** explained, “is to prepare a Traffic Impact Analysis with recommendations on what should be placed on that piece of land. We refer to it as a sensitivity analysis. Basically, we have to do some trial and error on the different types of zoning you might place on that piece of land there to determine at what point does the signal fail. That would maximize your development on that piece of land, and then you would know...okay we don’t want to approve something to be developed on this land, that is any more intense than this particular zoning.”

Councilman Paschal asked, “You are talking about looking at the underlying zoning and then applying the traffic patterns that you think will occur to that...to look at the overall stability of the area.”

“Correct,” said **Mr. Fleming**. “The traffic generation numbers that we get for land of certain zones is what we utilize in doing a study.”

Councilman Paschal asked, “You can’t look at that with respect to how we have that zoned already? We have done a lot of work zoning that area for certain types of businesses. I don’t think we can tell you that we are going to put this or that in there. We have a certain zoning range to allow certain types of businesses in there.”

Mr. Fleming replied, “We would be able to tell you if what you have planned is a good mix to propose on the plan. If it is not, then we will propose to back up from that. Based on the improvements shown hereon, there may be other options available to be able to increase the density on a piece of land, but then again, it is a study that you must go through in order to determine the results and make adjustments.”

“We had initially proposed to do this in conjunction with the Rockingham County Jail and Courthouse study for a combination of \$12,000 between the two. It was intended that we would proceed with the two at the same time...but they had us move forward faster than we were able to come to the table for your input and approval. But we have committed to hold the line on the fee that is proposed there.”

Mr. Fleming explained that the proposal includes an additional line item for meetings “...which would cover me coming here tonight, should you approve the proposal, and also meetings with NCDOT to discuss the results of the TIA to make sure that they are on board with the solutions. Ultimately, they need to buy into the improvements that are put forth.”

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“There still needs to be some discussion involving Rockingham County,” said **Mr. Fleming**, “with regards to maintenance and what portion is going to be state maintained and who is to maintain the rest of it.”

“Let me say in closing,” said **Mr. Fleming**, “that I have been reprimanded a bit by my boss for having proposed such a low fee on this project. He tells me that this study is more or less a \$12,000 study. So, we would hope that should you authorize us to proceed with this, that maybe you might mention us and steer our way, some of these developers who may come into the mix later on, directing them to develop in accordance with your Traffic Impact Analysis and your zoning, and maybe share our name with them in case we can assist them in the future.”

“Thank you very much for your consideration. Are there any other questions?” **Mr. Fleming** asked.

There were no questions, and **Mayor Aswell** asked, “What is Council’s pleasure on this?”

Mayor Paschal asked the Town Administrator, “How much time did the COG (Piedmont Triad Council of Governments) put into this (CBD) plan and the Land Use Plan? I know we talked at length about the traffic circle and some other stuff.”

“I don’t think what they did is anything like what Mr. Fleming is proposing. What I gather from Mr. Fleming is that he does the TIA and then makes suggestions based on his findings as to whether this or that kind of development would create too much traffic, and I don’t think the Central Business District Plan addressed that.”

Mrs. Ward asked Town Attorney **Fred Baggett** what he thought.

“Not that I recall,” said **Mr. Baggett**. It was more of a land-use planning and zoning-type effort. A Traffic Impact Analysis involves different things...”

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher commented, “What they will tell us is...what will work best for each area...based on our land use plan and the ideas we have..., looking in detail, based on current (traffic) patterns and future flow, and will tell us...this is what will best suit the plans we have—if a traffic light will work better than a round-about or vice-versa. Is that a correct assumption?”

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“Yes, that is correct,” replied **Mr. Fleming**. “Basically, what we have proposed here is parking throughout, adjacent on the street.”

Pointing to the map illustrations he provided, **Mr. Fleming** continued, “We have a three-lane section proposed down through here, all the way to this intersection, and two-lane sections proposed down here with parking on each side of the road, and then this is just a three-lane section as you approach the intersection with no parking on either side, because of all the traffic you are trying to move through this area. It provides for a left-hand turn onto NC 65 at that location, and a separate right-hand turn into the facility. That’s all part of what is going on with the Rockingham County Jail and Courthouse. We have proven that through TIA...that works, the stacking works for left hand turns and right hand turns...”

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher added, “What we want to do is continue to have reasonable development but also safe, and good traffic flow...”

Councilman Paschal said, “What we are seeing there is the main artery going in and out. In our Central Business District Plan, we have a lot of small streets for shops and businesses...you wouldn’t, at this point in time, have access to that, I guess...”

Mr. Fleming noted that he does have a copy of the Central Business District Plan for the Town of Wentworth, and said, “I think you’re going to be abandoning much of that particular concept on that area. You’re not going to get any development with that sort of thing going on in there.”

Councilman Paschal replied, “Your streets might have to be wider, you can’t go with alley ways and that kind of stuff...that’s the general gist of it. But that would act as the main artery going in.”

Mr. Fleming replied, “That’s correct. The former plans in that area had about a third of that area dedicated to open space and parks as well. We would need to work with someone...whoever you would designate for us to work with as far as what you want to try for initial zoning on this particular area, or we would use a mix of what you have here, which is mixed use and commercial and open space park area in there. We would see how that works with the intersection and then make adjustments from there, based upon imposing that traffic on that particular network of roads.”

Councilman Paschal asked, “But that would be based on a mixture of what we came up with in the Central Business District, right?”

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Mr. Fleming replied, “We could start there...you really need to guide us a little bit as to what you want us to try to place on that piece of land...whether you want to stay with all of that open space, I believe they were shooting for 30% open space, but rather than letting the developers determine that open space within their particular development, this plan seems to indicate that you are going to take about a third of that land just as park land, and we would need some direction there as to whether that is what you want to continue to do.”

Councilman Paschal commented, “We had a committee to work long and hard on that plan, so we would probably want to stay within the same guidelines.”

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher added, “Yes, if we were to approve this (TIA Study), we would definitely want to coordinate the information we have through Hanna Cockburn (PTCOG) and Frankie Legaux (Planning Department). That would give him (Mr. Fleming) direct access to the background information that led to this plan.”

Mr. Fleming asked, “Was your Central Business District Plan ever adopted, because this was listed as a concept map on your website.”

The **Town Administrator** and **Council** confirmed that the CBD Plan was formally adopted.

Councilman Paschal said, “Since this area was to be a business district, we didn’t want someone coming in and just putting in apartments, for instance. But if someone had a shop on the lower floor, they could have a residence above, and other stipulations like that.”

Mrs. Ward, Town Administrator, asked, “If we sign this contract, I think we would want someone to sit down with Hanna Cockburn and Frankie Legaux, and Mr. Fleming, to be sure he has an understanding of what our goals are as far as the CBD Plan is concerned.”

Mr. Fleming, “If that is where you want us to get our direction, yes, that is what we would do. We have a certified planner on staff as well.”

Councilman Paschal stated, “*I would like to make a motion that we approve the contract with Davenport Engineering for \$6,000.*”

Councilwoman Conner seconded the motion.

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Mayor Aswell noted, “We have a motion and a second...any discussion?”

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher commented, “I saw also this stipulation for the meeting attendances and negotiations, for an additional \$2,000. I guess we need to approve that as well?”

Councilman Paschal asked, “Is that all considered in the \$6,000 or is that separate?”

Mr. Fleming replied, “It is in addition to, depending on the time and materials required to have additional meetings..., but not to exceed.”

Councilman Paschal amended his motion, “*to also include the meeting language there.*”

Councilwoman Conner agreed to second the amended motion. There was no more discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Article VI. New Business

A. Consideration of Request for Town of Wentworth to Partner with Rockingham County to Share in the Cost of:

(1) 12” Water Line from Dan River Water Tank at Wentworth VFD Along NC 65 to New Courthouse (Town’s Share: Approximately \$86,350.00)

(2) Reconfiguration of Intersection at NC 65/87 and Extension of Intersection Across Jimmy Thompson Property and Behind Fidelity Bank for Access to New Courthouse (Town’s Share: Approximately __?__)

- Tom Robinson, County Manager**
- Tom Wagoner, Environmental and Engineering Department**

Regarding the first item of New Business, **Mayor Aswell** noted, “Mr. Robinson is not here tonight to discuss this with us, and also the reconfiguration of Intersection ...”

Mayor Aswell then made a motion, “*That we table this until the next meeting, and see if we can get them here then.*”

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

Article VI. New Business

B. Consideration of “Secondary Subdivision Plat of Survey” for Anne Q. and Robert D. Paschal, & Hurley W. Quackenbush

2.960 Acres (Net) / 9700 NC Highway 87

In the absence of Assistant Planning Director, Frankie Legaux, the **Town Administrator** read the Staff Review and Recommendation provided by Ms. Legaux, as follows:

“The subdivision you are reviewing is classified as a secondary subdivision. A secondary subdivision occurs when one lot less than 10 acres is cut out and the residual (remaining) lot is greater than 10 acres. In this case the new lot, consisting of 3.284 acres, is being cut out of a 29.94 acre lot, and .324 acres of the new lot are in the NC 87 right-of-way, leaving a net acreage of 2.960 acres in the new lot. The new lot does include a residence and the existing septic system is required to be evaluated by a certified on-site wastewater inspection representative in accordance with the NC General Statutes, and the system must be found to be in compliance with the N.C. Administrative Code 1800-A.1900 before the Environmental Health Department will sign the plat.

All items required by the Subdivision Ordinance of the Town of Wentworth, NC, have been met. Staff recommends approval of this subdivision.”

Mayor Aswell made a motion *“That we approve the secondary subdivision plat of Anne Q. and Robert D. Paschal and Hurley W. Quackenbush.”*

The motion was seconded by **Mayor Pro Tem Belcher**. There was no discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

C. Consideration of Approval for Mayor Robert P. Aswell to Continue as Rockingham County’s Transportation Advisory Committee Representative; and for Mayor John Grogan of the City of Eden, to Serve as the Alternate TAC Representative.

Councilman Paschal made a motion, *“To approve Mayor Robert P. Aswell to continue as Rockingham County’s Transportation Advisory Committee Representative, and for Mayor John Grogan of the City of Eden, to Serve as the Alternate.”*

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

Article VI. New Business – Continued

**D. Plans/Update from Recreation Committee
- Richard Capps, Chairman**

Mr. Capps apologized for being “under the weather” and advised, “The Recreation Committee wanted to update you on where we are, and present some recommendations to you. At this time, the Recreation Committee is recommending that we discontinue negotiations for the leasing of the old WW School. Due to the cost involved....we just do not think it would be feasible, based on the Town of Wentworth’s goals and the county’s current objectives for the use of the building.”

He continued, “The cost involved up front for surveying, appraisals, and ultimately, the writing of a grant, all propose many uncertainties. The funds for these expenses could be better utilized in the projected growth for future facilities, which someday, the Town would own as opposed to ownership by the County should we lease the facilities.”

“What we propose,” said **Mr. Capps**, “is that we move forward and look at other avenues...possibly partnering with area schools, the college, and surrounding facilities...perhaps through some sort of lease agreement.”

“I currently work with Dale Page, a community banker with Wachovia in Burlington. He also happens to be the Chairman of the Recreation Committee for Alamance County. They just went through a long process of obtaining the necessary documentation in order to be able to coordinate with the schools, colleges, and recreational facilities in the area, for lease of the facilities.”

“I am checking into this to see how the agreement(s) are worded...what needs to be included... Because the schools fall under certain specific guidelines, there is specific wording and legal issues that have to be considered...certain preparation that has to take place, but he has promised to get with me or attend our meetings to help us with that.”

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Mr. Capps continued, “We would also like to recommend that the Town look at doing some things that won’t require a building. We want to pursue alternatives for providing a means of addressing current as well as future needs and facilities. By organizing some events to generate funds and contributions for a future facilities project—this facility to be owned by the Town of Wentworth—we can begin to work toward that goal.”

“We believe that securing a grant is still possible, as the Town owns several acres of land which could satisfy the matching funds requirement. The Recreation Committee has pledged to meet on a regular schedule, the second Monday of every month, in order to discuss other options and plan events that will address immediate recreational concerns.”

“With that being said, I will go back to our last update. Part of the grant requirements is that we must have liquidity or real property in order to match the funds. If we have a piece of property or liquidity valued at \$100,000, we could possibly acquire a grant to match that.”

“There are several ways we can go about this. In talking with Brenda (Town Administrator) about how we can accomplish this, I understand that we could ask Council to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for this (Recreational Facilities), and that any funds that we raise from upcoming events could go into this future facilities fund.”

“Another proposal, in being proactive, is that we make the immediate recommendation that the Town sponsor a Town event we have named ‘Farmers’ Day.’ This would honor and remember the foundation of the Town and what has contributed to the day-to-day existence of the citizens. It doesn’t have to be called ‘Farmers’ Day’, but we are looking for some catchy name, for an identity. Reidsville is known now for the Antique Alley and the car show they have every year. We are proposing that we do something to bring recognition and foster citizen participation.”

“When we say, ‘Farmers’ Day’, we aren’t talking about bringing in trailers and funnel cakes, but something more authentic to the community, ...allowing local citizens who still do crafts, canning, gardening, baking, etc. to set up a booth. We could rent the booth and allow the citizens or clubs, such as the Ruritan Club, to set up as vendors and sell or market their wares.”

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Mr. Capps explained, “We have people wanting to start a bicycle club, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes, or Rockingham County Youth football, baseball, and basketball leagues, for instance. These groups could have a booth to get out information on their respective purpose, and this would also be an opportunity to survey the people to see what their recreational interests are.”

“We could have some performances...people singing, sell hot dogs, popcorn, etc. We have actually discussed having our first event on May 1st, but again, these are just recommendations for you to consider.”

“In summation, I was put in charge and I led the way, so I will take the blame for it, but I think we had on blinders as far as the old school is concerned. I prayed about it and the more I thought about the burden for the next 20 years, and the citizens’ money we might have tied up in something that may never be ours (belong to the Town), it was more than I was willing to accept responsibility for.”

“I don’t know what the Town proposes to do with the 18 acres or so that you have, but maybe three acres or so could be set aside for recreation on a small scale.”

Councilman Paschal commented, “We have budget negotiations coming up, and we’ll have to look at everything, but maybe we could look at a Capital Reserve Fund to deposit some funds each year.”

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher said, “I think some of our original discussions, when we talked about purchasing the school was that we *do* want to provide recreation for our citizens, whether it be walking trails, ball fields, or a gymnasium.”

Councilman Paschal added, “About 9 years ago, we tried to partner with the school system, and they were wanting to build a ball field at the elementary school. We offered to pay for it if they would make it big enough for the Town to be able to use it, too, but there was too much bureaucracy at the time, and you have to deal with the school board, which is bigger now than it was then. But if we could start setting money aside, then we could have our own and wouldn’t have to worry about going through all that.”

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Mr. Capps replied, “In response to that, Mr. Paschal, as I said earlier, Dale Page in Alamance County, dealt with those same issues and actually had to go before the State of North Carolina in a two-year process of getting all the attorneys to work together to come up with this lease agreement. Finally, what it boiled down to, they originally wanted a school-paid employee on site, and then eventually said, ‘Well, no, if you have a person representing the county or recreation committee, there is blanket insurance that covers that sort of thing.’ Although it was a long process, the great thing is, now, that battle has already been fought for us.”

Mr. Capps thanked Council for listening and for considering the recommendations of the Recreation Committee.

Council discussed the May 1st date recommended by the committee for the first event of the year.

Councilman Paschal asked, “Does Council have to approve it?”

The **Town Administrator** said she thought the committee should come back to Council with at least some estimated costs for the event and a more definite plan for the event.

Councilman Paschal asked if the committee would solicit donations for the event, such as soft drinks, etc.

Mr. Capps replied, “We really don’t anticipate the need for much funding. We thought we would use the Town parking lot, and chalk off some spaces for each vendor to set up. For instance, I sell (garden) ponds...I can build a fountain, set in some plants. If someone wants to buy a plant, I will sell them a plant, if they want a free consultation on a pond/fountain, I will sign them up for that. If Mary Jane has baked goods or canned goods, she can sell them. Mr. & Mrs. (Jimmy) Talley make pottery, so they can bring their pottery to sell. We just want to make people aware of what is available right here in Wentworth...”

“Like a Community Day,” said **Mayor Pro Tem Belcher**.

Mr. Capps said, “It will be a good opportunity, as I mentioned before, to do a survey to see what people are interested in—do they want us to build a ball field; do they want events like the one we are planning; do they want gospel singings; should we partner with the college for outdoor dramas? We want the citizens to tell us what they want to happen.”

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Councilman Paschal said again, “I just didn’t know if Council has to approve it, unless we are putting money into it.”

The **Town Administrator** commented, “You have allowed them \$500.00 in the budget, so they can spend that without further approval, but they are a committee appointed by the Council in an advisory capacity, so I think you would want to approve anything they do on behalf of the Town, to at least show Council’s support and participation.”

Councilman Paschal said, “I think that as strapped economically as this area is, anything that allows our citizens to come in and sell their wares, or having bluegrass festivals and gospel sings, things like that will bring people in from two or three counties away. I think we don’t have enough of that sort of thing around here, so maybe it’s a good fit for us.”

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher added, “Maybe the committee can come back with an itinerary and any costs, and you may want to consider a date that would provide better chance of good weather, like June, which would give you more time to plan and promote the event.”

Mayor Aswell advised, “Keep in mind that you do have the \$500.00 budgeted and can use that, but anything else, Council would have to approve it.”

Councilwoman Conner said she would like to thank Mr. Capps, “...for all the hard work you have put into the committee and for your interest. I appreciate it.”

Article VI. New Business

E. Consideration of Funding Request from Rockingham County High School for SADD Club (± \$2,500)

- Deputy Jeff Strader, SRO

Mayor Aswell introduced the next item of business, and **Mrs. Ward** noted that Jeff Strader was not present, but said she believed he just wanted to let Council know prior to planning next year’s budget, that they would be requesting these funds.

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher asked, “So this would be for the next fiscal year...it says 2011.”

Mrs. Ward replied, “Yes, the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year Budget.”

Mayor Aswell asked the Clerk to note in the Minutes that this request would be considered in budget work sessions, upcoming.

Article VI. New Business – Continued

**F. Consideration of Funding Request from Rockingham County
Sheriff’s Department for Equipment and Uniforms (± \$8,000)**

- Deputy Clarence Cheshire

Deputy Clarence Cheshire thanked Council for letting him speak. He also said he would like to commend the Wentworth Recreation Committee’s efforts, and suggested they consider helping with the Town Christmas Parade this year.

Deputy Cheshire said, “The Town of Wentworth has shown everyone in the past that they are serious about public safety in their community. If you look across the street, you can see a fire department that is second to none in this county and I would dare say not even in Guilford County.”

“Sheriff Page and the men and women of the Rockingham County Sheriff’s Department have had no greater ally than the Town of Wentworth. The funding you have provided us in the past has enabled us to undergo special training, and purchase some good equipment.”

“The request amount is \$8,000, which may sound like a lot with times being what they are and funds being tight, but let me just say that any amount the Town approves will be greatly appreciated. The equipment we purchase will be used to assist the Town as well as other areas of the County, as we carry out our responsibilities.”

Deputy Cheshire said that one of the things the department is requesting is a “Flir Thermal Imaging Monocular.” He explained, “What this is, is a device that works off of body heat emitted by humans.”

He reported an incidence of a man in Stoneville who wandered from his home, and said that if the Sheriff’s Department had had a device such as the Thermal Imaging Monocular, the outcome may have been different.

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“With the monocular device,” **Deputy Cheshire** said, “you could actually track someone through the woods or wherever at night, by their body heat.”

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher asked, “Is that residual heat from the footprints, or...”

“It is actually the body heat,” replied **Deputy Cheshire**.

Mayor Aswell asked how far away you could be and still track the individuals with such a device.

Deputy Cheshire said he did not have the specific range, but that he would guess it to be several meters... “Probably the same as viewing through a pair of binoculars.”

“If they were a ways off, they would just appear smaller,” said **Councilman Paschal**, “but you could still pick them up...”

“Not only would the monocular device aid the Sheriff’s Department in tracking elderly folks who walk off and are lost, but it would also help in catching the bad guys,” **Deputy Cheshire** said.

As far as night-time patrol,” said **Councilman Paschal**, “you could use this for seeing intruders or trespassers in the shadows and dark, too.”

Deputy Cheshire agreed, saying, “The uses for the device are numerable and certainly it could pay for itself in finding people old or young, who are lost for whatever reason.”

Deputy Cheshire reviewed the need for a ballistic shield that is used for protection from bullet projectiles and dangerous weapons of many types, saying it would decrease the chances of officers getting injured.

Part of the funds requested by the Sheriff’s Department would be used to purchase new uniforms and a new bulletproof vest for Deputy Cheshire since his vest is “way out of date.” Other equipment requested to assist Deputy Cheshire with daily patrol functions, is a warning device and vehicle lockout kits, and a set of stinger spike sticks for a mobile command vehicle to be used anywhere in the County as needed.

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Councilwoman Powell said, *“I make a motion that if we have the money, we approve it. I have read all the information you provided and it is all for a good cause.”*

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher asked the Town Administrator if there was enough money in the Public Safety Budget to grant the request.

Mrs. Ward advised that there is approximately \$6,000 available under “Public Safety-Miscellaneous,” and said that the funds budgeted for the Fire Department, “have not been requested, so we could transfer whatever is needed from that line item to the ‘Miscellaneous’ line item.”

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher said he would like to second Councilwoman Powell’s motion.

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

The **Town Administrator** advised Council that the Sheriff’s Department would provide the Finance Officer with receipts and verification of the expenditures.

Deputy Cheshire said, “I am your police department and I represent you one hundred and ten percent when I am out here. We want everyone to know that you support us and that we are behind you.”

Mayor Aswell said that the Town appreciates what Deputy Cheshire and Sheriff Page do for the Town and the rest of the County, and for “Clarence’s efforts and help with the Christmas Parade.”

Article VI. New Business

G. Consideration of Approval of Attendance at Upcoming Schools/Classes

- (1) Essentials of Municipal Government
(3 Council Members and 1 Staff Person)
Registration Fee: \$325.00 each**
- (2) Quasi-Judicial Training Session
(6 Planning Board Members and 1 Staff Person)
Registration Fee: \$90.00 each**

**(3) Ethics Training (1 Council Member)
Fee: \$10.00 each**

Councilman Paschal made a motion, *“That we approve all three items.”*

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

Mayor Aswell mentioned that there may be an opportunity for council members who cannot attend the Essentials of Municipal Government Classes, to take the Ethics training on-line.

Article VI. New Business

**H. Consideration of Request by Appearance Committee to Change
Timeframe for Community Pride Awards, from 4 Times per Year
to 3 Times per Year: (Eliminating the Winter Quarter and
Awarding in Spring, Summer, and Fall Only)**

There was discussion among Council as to whether the signs should be left out in the “middle of winter”. The **Town Clerk** explained that the request from the Committee is to eliminate the winter awards, and that if council approves it, the signs in the middle of winter would no longer be an issue.

Councilman Paschal asked how long the signs normally stay at the recipients’ location. The **Clerk** replied, “They usually leave them there until they are ready to move them to the new winners’ locations.”

Council agreed that the signs should be taken up after the fall quarter is past, and not left out all winter.

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher made a motion, *“That we approve the request by the Appearance Committee to change the timeframe for the Community Pride Awards.”*

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

**I. Appointment of National Day of Prayer Chairperson for the
Town of Wentworth**

- **David Smith / 206 Hartwell Lane, Wentworth NC**

Mayor Aswell asked the Town Administrator to comment on the National Day of Prayer appointment.

Mrs. Ward explained that after Mrs. Pat Wulfeck passed away, the Town had a volunteer, Mrs. Exie Gunn, who stepped in the next year to coordinate the National Day of Prayer in Wentworth.

Mrs. Ward said, “We didn’t have anyone to do it last year, and Mr. Smith has volunteered to be the representative this year, if the Town Council wants to support it.”

Mayor Aswell made a motion, “*That we appoint David Smith as National Day of Prayer Chairman for the Town of Wentworth.*”

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

J. Presentation of Service Award Plaques

- 1. Councilman Dennis Paschal**
- 2. Cindy Shannon**
- 3. Robert “Tinker” Witherspoon**

Mayor Aswell asked former Mayor, **Dennis Paschal**, to join him at the podium, where he presented him with a plaque of appreciation for his service as mayor and for his work in the incorporation and reactivation of the Town of Wentworth Charter.

He added, “We present this to you in grateful appreciation for your dedicated service as Mayor of the Town of Wentworth from July 1998 to December, 2009. Thank you for your leadership and loyalty.”

The **Town Administrator** advised that Councilman Paschal would also receive the gavel he has used as mayor since the Town’s incorporation. She explained, “We had to use it tonight because we haven’t purchased a new one yet.”

As the audience applauded, **Councilman Paschal** thanked everyone for the plaque.

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Next, **Mayor Aswell** recognized **Cindy Shannon** for her years of service on the Town of Wentworth Planning Board from 2000 to 2009. The plaque read, in part, “Thank you for your leadership and loyalty in planning for the future while preserving our past.”

“Last but not least,” **Mayor Aswell** said, “We would like to ask **Robert ‘Tink’ Witherspoon** to come forth. Tink, we would like to present you with this plaque in recognition of all the times you have volunteered to assist the Town Council and Staff in various ways. Your dedication and willingness to serve is appreciated.”

Article VII. Public Comments

Mayor Aswell noted that no one signed the Speaker Register.

Article VIII. Announcements

Mayor Aswell made the following announcements:

- The **Town of Wentworth Planning Board** *will not meet* in February. The next regularly scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, March 16, 2010**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall Council Chambers.
- The next regular meeting of the **Wentworth Town Council** will be held in the Town Hall Council Chambers on **Tuesday, March 2, 2010**, at **7:00 p.m.** (*Note: This meeting was rescheduled for Tuesday, March 9, 2010, due to the death of the Town Administrator’s Father, and notice was duly posted. All future “regular” meetings of the Wentworth Town Council will be held per their original published schedule—the first Tuesday evening of each month.*)

Article IX. A D J O U R N

Mayor Aswell made a motion, “*That we adjourn.*” **Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted By: _____
Brenda Ward, Town Clerk

Approved By: _____
Robert P. Aswell, Mayor