
**TOWN OF WENTWORTH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 4, 2010
7:00 P.M.**

The Wentworth Town Council held their regular monthly meeting in the Town Hall Council Chambers, on **Tuesday, May 4, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.**

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

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 Robert Aswell called the May 4th, 2010, Wentworth Town Council Meeting to order.

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

Article III. **Approval of May Agenda**

A. Requests and Petitions of Citizens

Mayor Aswell asked if there were any changes to the May Agenda, and advised that Deputy Clarence Cheshire and Captain Billy King with the Rockingham County Sheriff's Department, signed the **Speaker Register** to address Council.

Mayor Pro Tem James Belcher made a motion, *"That we add those speakers to the Agenda and approve the Agenda for the May 4, 2010 meeting of the Wentworth Town Council."*

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

Article IV. **Approval of Minutes**

A. Town Council Meeting: April 6, 2010

Councilwoman Powell made a motion, *"That we accept them as written."* Mayor Aswell seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

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Article V. Old Business – There was no Old Business for discussion.

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS

**A. Submission of Budget Message / Budget Summary / Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2010-2011
- Town Administrator & Finance Officer**

Mayor Aswell asked the Town Administrator and the Finance Officer to present the new budget. **Mrs. Ward** said that the Finance Officer might have a few comments to make about the budget, "...and then we'll be glad to answer any questions you might have."

Mrs. Russell noted, "I really don't have any comments other than what has been mentioned in the Budget Message. We have budgeted for a patrol car...but we also said we might be able to expend that out of this year's budget, so that is something to consider. That is really the only thing I had to mention."

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher said, "I think if we are able to pay that out of the 09-10 Fiscal Year Budget, in light of the fact that we haven't had any monetary requests from the (Wentworth) fire department yet, that it would behoove us to do that, given the economic situation at this time. That would be my desire if we are able to pay that out of the current budget."

Mayor Aswell asked, "Are you putting that in the form of a motion?"

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher replied, "Yes. *I would like to make a motion that if we have the funds in the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year Budget, that we do a Budget Amendment to cover the cost of the new vehicle.*"

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

Mrs. Russell noted that she will have Budget Amendment No. 3 for Council to consider at the next meeting, reflecting the transfer of funds from the Public Safety-Fire Department line item and from Other Operating Costs-Miscellaneous, to Public Safety - Patrol Car.

Town Attorney, **Fred Baggett**, asked if the Public Hearing on the budget had been scheduled.

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Mrs. Ward referenced the last paragraph of the Budget Message, "...asking Council to set the Public Hearing at this meeting."

Mayor Aswell made a motion, "*That we set the Public Hearing for the Budget at the June meeting...June 1, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.*"

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

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS - Continued

B. Consideration of "Resolution for the Establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund for Recreational Grounds/Facilities for the Town of Wentworth"

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher questioned the wording of the resolution, specifically the part that said "...the Town Council *will* appropriate or transfer an amount of *no less than* \$25,000.00 each year to this fund."

He continued, "Once again, given the current economic climate and forecast that I hear...that do not give increases but actually give decreases in state and local government revenues, I don't feel that it would be a good idea in this budget to set a minimum amount that we then obligate ourselves to every year. I think that we should have a goal, but give ourselves an option of saying 'if the economic conditions merit, we may not be able to do that.'"

Councilwoman Powell asked, "Haven't we already decided on this?"

"No," replied **Councilwoman Conner**, "we just discussed it at the Budget Work Session."

The **Town Administrator** asked the Town Attorney, "Isn't it true that Council, when they consider the budget each year, could change the amount at that time?"

"Yes," replied **Mr. Baggett**, "but it is a statement to the community and a commitment on your part..."

"Right, and I would feel more comfortable," said **Mayor Pro Tem Belcher**, "if it said something along the lines of, 'we would appropriate or transfer an amount of \$20,000.00 each year to this fund as the economy or the budget, whatever is appropriate, as financial conditions allow...'"

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The **Town Administrator** advised, “We can change the wording any way you want to change it...just make a motion, and we’ll be glad to do it.”

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher said, “Don’t get me wrong, I would like to see ball fields, tennis courts and a facility out there. I think those things would benefit the community, but at the same time...”

Councilwoman Conner remarked, “We discussed the \$25,000.00 amount at our Budget Work Session and we all felt like that is what we could do this year.”

Councilman Paschal added, “What we can do is just approve the amount every year, as far as what amount we put in the budget for it.”

“Just so we have some flexibility, depending on the economic conditions,” said **Mayor Pro Tem Belcher**. “The economy, the forecast that I see as far as what I read, it concerns me a great deal the shortfalls that municipalities and the State...are going to see in the next three to five years. I hate to use a statement of such force, and then we would feel obligated, whether we are *bound* by it or not, to do that amount. It could be that we find ourselves in a situation where we want to spend that money for something else.”

Councilwoman Powell said, “Well, we are only voting on what we are going to do this year, or in the new year, right?”

Councilwoman Conner explained, “We are just looking at changing the wording so that each year, depending on the Town’s financial condition, we can decide on an amount.”

“I think we should leave it like it is,” **Councilwoman Powell** said.

“I am trying to come up with the wording that says we want to do \$20,000.00 *or more*, as the economy allows...” **Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** added.

“You could just say approximately \$20,000.00,” said **Councilman Paschal**.

The **Town Administrator** asked, “So you just want to reword Section 3...”

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Mayor Pro Tem Belcher said, “Yes, in Section 3, *‘The Town Council will appropriate or transfer an amount of \$20,000.00 or more each year to this fund, as the Fiscal Year Budget allows.’*”

“So, in essence, you are just going to decide at the Budget Work Session each year, how much you want to put in the fund. Was that a motion?” **Mrs. Ward** asked.

“Yes,” replied **Mayor Pro Tem Belcher**. **Councilwoman Conner** seconded the motion.

Mayor Aswell asked for any additional discussion. There was none. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher then made a motion, *“That we approve the Resolution for the Establishment and Maintenance of a Capital Reserve Fund for Recreational Grounds/Facilities for the Town of Wentworth as amended.”*

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

Councilman Paschal asked, “So, does that mean we are putting \$20,000.00 in the fund this year, or do we have to vote on that separately?”

The **Town Administrator** replied, “You mean next (fiscal) year...the budget will need to reflect the amount...and we would make that change before the Public Hearing next month.”

The **Finance Officer** said, “You have said \$20,000.00 *or more*, so do you want the budget for next year to show \$20,000.00...or more?”

“Since we should be able to move the purchase of the patrol car for the sheriff to the ’09-2010 Budget,” **Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** said, “I would feel comfortable doing the \$25,000.00 since we now have that money available...”

“Is that a motion,” members of Council asked **Mayor Pro Tem Belcher**.

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“Yes, I make a motion *that we change the 2010-2011 Budget to reflect that (\$25,000.00)*,” replied **Mayor Pro Tem Belcher**.

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

Mayor Aswell asked for further discussion. There was none. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

C. Consideration of Budget Amendment No. 2 for Fiscal Year 2009-2010

- **Yvonne Russell, Finance Officer**

Mayor Aswell asked the Finance Officer to present the Budget Amendment.

Ms. Russell advised, “This is our second Budget Amendment for the year and it will reflect a decrease of \$6,105.00 in the budgeted amount for General Fund Revenues and a decrease of \$6,105.00 in the budgeted amount for General Fund Expenditures.”

Ms. Russell reviewed the Memorandum provided for Council and advised that the amended totals for Budget Revenues and Expenditures is \$536,730.00 each.

She said that the transfer of funds to Other Operating Costs: Office Equipment “...is for the purchase of sound equipment and a new copier. The other transfer to Travel would be for conferences/schools, and mileage.”

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher made a motion, “*That we approve the Town of Wentworth Budget Amendment No. 2 for Fiscal Year July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010.*”

Councilwoman Powell and **Councilwoman Conner** seconded the motion. **Mayor Aswell** asked for discussion. There was no further discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

D. Consideration of “Certificate of Municipal Declaration to Repeal Speed Limits and Request for Concurrence”

- Repeal of 45mph Speed Limit on NC 65, from a point 0.12 mile west of SR 2218 (Percy Road) eastward to the eastern corporate limits of Wentworth, a point 0.02 mile east of SR 2910 (Roberson Lane) in Wentworth. (*Note: This will default the speed limit to a municipal 35mph.*)

Mayor Aswell asked for discussion or a motion concerning the speed limit change.

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher made a motion, *“That we adopt the Certificate of Municipal Declaration to Repeal Speed Limits and Request for Concurrence.”*

Mayor Aswell seconded the motion and asked for discussion.

“The speed limit is 25mph in downtown Wentworth and nobody goes 25 mph,” said **Councilwoman Powell**.

There was no further discussion. Four council members voted in favor of the speed limit change, and one opposed. The motion carried.

E. Update on Recycling Options Under Consideration by Rockingham County

- Councilman Dennis Paschal

Councilman Paschal advised, “At the last Solid Waste Committee meeting, the County unveiled their recycling program. They have looked at a couple of different options...one was to offer curbside recycling, where they would put out another container at each residence, at a cost of \$53.00 per year. However, they felt like with the economy the way it is, it may be best not to go that route at this time. What they decided to do is put recycle bins at six different sites in the county—Oregon Hill Fire Department, Huntsville, Stoneybrook, Williamsburg, Bethany No. 1, and Monroeton.”

“What they will do is use two bins, one will be empty at the landfill, and one will be at one of the sites for a period of 2 days. They will work it out over a two-week period, three days out of each week—Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Then they will move it to the next site for two days and so forth until all six sites have been served in a two-week period.”

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Councilman Paschal continued, “If one of the bins fills up, they will take it to the landfill to empty and bring it back. The county estimates this will cost them approximately \$97,500/year for the equipment—truck, recycle trailers, bins, etc. They estimate \$65,000/year for operation...two part-time employees, fuel, maintenance, and fees.”

“I think the County met with Robert (Mayor Aswell) and Commissioner Bass to talk about how they were going to handle the recycling, but evidently they decided to move ahead and do this.”

“I checked with Waste management and they do *not* have full-scale recycling as far as plastics...they offer paper and cardboard only...an eight cubic yard dumpster for it. They will put it anywhere you want it, and will come and service it once a week. The delivery of the recycle bin would be \$50.00 and then a \$75.00 per month cost. They do have an 18% surcharge for fuel and a 7.5% environmental charge in there.

“That wouldn’t take care of all our recycling needs, and we are really closer to the landfill than anyone else, I guess, so it’s not like we can’t get over there, but it is now illegal to put certain plastics, like this bottle, for instance, in the landfill.”

Mayor Paschal added, “Unless we look to a different avenue, Waste Management, who is currently picking up our solid waste for us in the Town, can’t do anything for us except paper and cardboard at this time.”

“We can always look at doing something with the county on down the line. They have two employees and could probably charge us if we got the bins...”

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher said, “If the County is going to do that and not going to have a location in Wentworth...and I see that they wouldn’t want to provide it for one municipality and not the other; but since they would benefit a great deal, too, I wonder if we were to purchase a bin, would they provide a location...at the old Wentworth School or the fire department... somewhere central to this area. I wonder if they would contract with us to use their employees and put our bin in the rotation.”

“I think it would be a good idea if we approached them about that,”
Mayor Pro Tem Belcher said.

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher mentioned that his parents, who live outside the Reidsville city limits in Norwood Park, have curbside recycling. He asked about checking on the cost of that for Wentworth.

Mayor Paschal said that the person he spoke with at Waste Management only mentioned paper and cardboard.

He asked, “Does Council want me to contact Waste Management to reconfirm what they offer in the way of curbside recycling?”

“I think it will be October before the County gets the other in place, so we have some time” **Councilman Paschal** added.

“I think it would be a good idea,” said **Mayor Pro Tem Belcher**. **Mayor Aswell** agreed, and asked Councilman Paschal to continue his research.

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

F. Consideration of Recommendations from Personnel Committee

1. Changes in Benefits

(a) Vacation Time

(b) Longevity Plan

2. Recommended Changes in Business

Hours

- Councilman Paschal & Councilwoman Conner

Mayor Aswell asked the Personnel Committee to give their recommendations.

Councilwoman Conner said that she and **Councilman Paschal** met to review some changes in personnel benefits regarding Vacation Time and a Longevity Plan.

She explained, “The Personnel Committee recommends the following change in Vacation Time, effective May 4, 2010.”

“Under Section 3—“Time Away From Work and Other Benefits”, and on Page 3 of the Employee Handbook, we propose adding an additional step to the three provisions listed under the following paragraph:

“Vacation is calculated according to your anniversary date as follows:”

- After ten full anniversary years, and each year thereafter, you shall be entitled to four weeks of paid vacation.”

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

F. Consideration of Recommendations from Personnel Committee

Councilwoman Conner continued reading from the memo to Council:

“ As a reminder and as noted in the body of the text of Section 3, Page 3, ‘...vacation time can be carried over to the following year, *up to a maximum of five days* with special management approval.’ ”

(b) Longevity Plan

Years of Service	Longevity Amount
5 but less than 10	1%
After 10 years	2%

Note: In addition to the above information, the following remarks should be added to the Employee Handbook under “Longevity Plan”:

“Longevity pay *may* be approved each fiscal year *depending upon the financial condition* of the town and will not be considered a part of the annual base pay. *Nothing herein shall create an entitlement to longevity pay.* The decision to fund longevity pay is with the sole discretion of the Town Council by voting on same in November of each year. All customary payroll deductions will be made and a check written at the usual pay period ending November 30th each eligible year.”

Councilwoman Conner advised, “Attached to your memo are examples from other towns, which we considered in coming up with these changes.”

She asked if anyone had any questions about the changes. There were no questions from Council.

Mayor Aswell made a motion, “*That we approve the Vacation Time as the committee has recommended—‘After ten full anniversary years, and each year thereafter, you shall be entitled to four weeks of paid vacation.’*”

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

“Regarding the Longevity Plan,” **Mayor Aswell** said, “*I make a motion that we adopt this as recommended by the committee.*”

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

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

F. Consideration of Recommendations from Personnel Committee

(2) Recommended Changes in Business Hours

Councilwoman Conner advised, “The Personnel Committee recommends the following change in ‘Business Hours’, effective May 5, 2010:”

(1) Under Section 4—“On the Job” – “Business Hours,” Page 3, of the Employee Handbook, change the *second sentence* to read as follows:

“Our normal business hours are **8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.** Monday through Friday.”

Personnel Committee’s Comments:

Based on the visibility of our new Town Hall and increased walk-in traffic, the Personnel Committee feels that the Town’s business hours should be more in line with other governmental offices and business in the Wentworth area. The new hours will result in a 40-hour-work week and an hour for lunch, instead of the current 35-hour-week.

In addition to the increased vacation time and longevity plan under consideration, the Town also pays 100% of the employees’ medical insurance premium, and contributes 10% of the employees’ salary to a retirement account each year.

In view of the above, we feel that the Town of Wentworth’s benefit package is second to none and expresses our expectations and appreciation for employees who put forth their best efforts in serving the public.”

Mayor Aswell made a motion, “*That we adopt the new hours as recommended by the committee.*”

Councilwoman Powell seconded the motion.

Mayor Aswell said, “I have talked with Yvonne and I think she and Brenda have talked about it and they are okay with the hours, right Brenda?”

“Y’all are the boss,” **Mrs. Ward** replied.

Councilwoman Powell remarked, “Everything in the County opens at 8:00 a.m. and closes at 5:00.”

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Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

F. Consideration of Recommendations from Personnel Committee

(2) Recommended Changes in Business Hours

There was no further discussion. All voted in favor of the new office hours and the motion carried.

(3) Consideration of Pay Scale/Salary Grades for Employees

Councilwoman Conner advised, “The Personnel Committee presents for Council’s consideration the following Pay Scale/Salary Grade structure:

Note: The following is a sampling of salary ranges for Rockingham County municipalities and comparable locations in the State. Please note that some municipalities who have higher pay grades, also require college degrees in appropriately related fields. Educational requirements, as well as experience, will always be a factor in salary determination.

Position:	Minimum Ranges	Mid-Point Ranges	Maximum Ranges
Town Clerk	\$24,000 - \$35,000	\$30,000 - 38,000	\$38,000 - \$48,000
Deputy Clerk	\$23,202 - \$25,000	\$26,000 - 34,000	\$34,000 - \$39,000
Finance Officer	\$22,000 - \$33,500	\$28,000 - 36,000	\$35,000 - \$53,000
Town Administrator	\$35,000 - \$42,000	\$40,000 - 47,000	\$46,000 - \$52,000

Personnel Committee’s Comments:

The Town Administrator will consider possible revisions to the above to reflect appropriate step increases within each “range.” Longevity and C.O.L.A. would still be considered and factored in accordingly. Employee evaluations resulting in merit raises would escalate progression within the scale.

Council may, of course, change or suggest alternatives to this plan or elect not to have a Pay Scale/Salary Grade structure at all.”

Councilwoman Conner asked if anyone had questions about the proposed pay scale.

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher said, “I think it would be a good idea for us to adopt some type of scale, so that down the road, when the need may arise that we need to add or replace employees, we are consistent and have a good solid reference to present to potential employees.”

“We can always revisit this and made changes down the road, as we need to,” said **Councilman Paschal**.

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher made a motion, “*That we accept the Personnel Committee’s suggestions for a pay scale/salary grade structure and make that part of our Town (Personnel) policy.*”

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

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

F. Consideration of Recommendations from Personnel Committee

4. Employee Performance Evaluation for Brenda Ward, Town Administrator / Town Clerk

Mayor Aswell asked Councilwoman Conner to discuss the Personnel Committee’s recommendations regarding the Town Administrator’s evaluation.

Councilwoman Conner advised, “Based on the recent annual performance evaluation for Brenda Ward, Town Administrator/Town Clerk, the Personnel committee is recommending a 2.5% increase in her annual salary, effective April 1, 2010.”

“On the basis of the professional criteria evaluated, the employee was rated as having exceeded job requirements in all major areas.”

“A 2.5% merit increase was included in the current 2009-2010 Fiscal Year Budget. Current salary is \$49,135.54 and the new annual salary will be \$50,363.92.”

Councilwoman Powell made a motion, “*That we approve the new salary.*”

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

Councilwoman Conner and other member of council expressed their appreciation to Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Russell for their dedication and hard work.

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

G. Recognition of Community Pride Award Winners (Spring, 2010)

- 1. Donnie & Beth Robertson
3020 Ashley Loop Road**
- 2. Michael & Brook Hall
180 Pine Needles Road**
- 3. Terry & Diane Turner
105 Irvin Road (University Estates)**
- 4. Ernest & Thelma Dickens
838 NC 65**

- Dessa Scheffer, Wentworth Appearance Committee

Mayor Aswell asked **Ms. Scheffer** to present the Community Pride awards. **Ms. Scheffer** asked each winner to come forward as she called their names. They were all presented with certificates from the Town, and with gifts donated by Rakestraw Insurance, Rockingham Opportunities Corporation, and the Town of Wentworth.

Everyone applauded as **Mayor Aswell** acknowledged the hard work that it takes for lawn care and additional landscaping. “It shows that you do take pride in the community,” he added.

Article VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Referring to the **Speaker Register**, **Mayor Aswell** asked Deputy Clarence Cheshire to address Council.

Deputy Cheshire said it was mentioned at the Budget Work Session, “... that the Town may, at some point in time, want to have a fireworks presentation.” He said he obtained some quotes and has the information to present to Council.

Deputy Cheshire noted that Hale Artificier Fireworks, Inc. in Lexington, North Carolina quoted \$3,000.00, “...for about 330 different shells being discharged, and lasting about 15-20 minutes.”

Deputy Cheshire also had a quote from Zambelli Fireworks, whose home office is in New Castle, Pennsylvania. He said this company usually does the fireworks for the Town of Stoneville.

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“Zambelli’s quote was \$5,000.00 but they said this fee will double next year for a total of \$10,000.00,” said **Deputy Cheshire**. “Although, they did say that if we sign up now, they would do it next year for \$7,500.00.”

Councilman Paschal asked, “How many shells will Zambelli shoot off for that?”

Deputy Cheshire said the quote does not have that information, but he assumed, “...it may be about the same as Hale.”

There was discussion about where fireworks should be displayed. **Deputy Cheshire** said the football stadium at Rockingham County High School is the best and safest location.

Deputy Cheshire also indicated that the City of Reidsville, and the Town of Stoneville are not having fireworks this year.

Councilman Paschal asked Deputy Cheshire if he knew how much the other towns had been paying for fireworks, but **Deputy Cheshire** did not know.

There was some discussion about what permits would be required and who would issue them.

Councilwoman Conner mentioned that there were “several accidents involving fireworks last year.”

There was no further discussion. **Mayor Aswell** thanked Deputy Cheshire for providing the fireworks information.

Article VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Continued

Mayor Aswell invited Captain Billy King with the Rockingham County Sheriff’s Department to address Council.

Captain King passed out some pricing information for new patrol cars, commenting, “I think some of you may have had some questions regarding whether or not the Town wants to purchase a vehicle this year or out of next year’s budget. The Sheriff is grateful for all that y’all do and anything you decide will be fine with him.”

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“Originally, we had gotten a price on a Tahoe,” **Captain King** said, “but when I called...the way the cycle works is, they do the State bids as of July 1 and it runs until the end of August. Then, they award the bids, and on October 1st, you can begin ordering. So now, if you try to buy a vehicle, you get whatever is leftover. When I first called about a Tahoe, they only had black ones. Now they don’t have any. They do have a white Crown Vic, a white Charger, and also, when I called the Charger place, they actually have an ’09 that didn’t get picked up. It’s a little bit cheaper, so whatever y’all want to do will be alright.”

Councilwoman Powell asked, “Which one is the best car?”

“Honestly,” said **Captain King**, “It just depends on...we have bought Impalas, Caprices, Crown Vics, Chargers...we have a mixture of everything, and it just depends on what we can get the best price on when we call.”

“As of right now, I can still get a Crown Vic or a Charger, but I cannot get a Tahoe. If you want to wait until Fall, you can get whatever you want...but I won’t know until October 1st exactly what the actual price of each car will be. These are the prices they said I can get if the vehicle doesn’t get sold in the next couple of days, weeks, or whatever. Right now, it’s whoever calls and says, ‘I want a vehicle’, and then it’s gone.”

Councilman Paschal asked, “What do you think about the (cost) cycle...are they going to increase? It seems to me that, right now, prices are about as low as they are ever going to get.”

Captain King replied, “When I talked to the gentleman with Bobby Murray Chevrolet, ...they are actually bringing the Caprice back...in 2011, so it will be available this Fall. He thinks the price will be around \$22,000.00 as is, but of course, it all depends on the options you order with it.” He noted that the Impalas are a lot smaller and cost around \$19,500.00.

Mayor Aswell asked, “If we go with the Crown Vic, can we transfer the console from the old one to the new one?”

Captain King said, “When I talked to Gayle (Rockingham County Purchasing Department), there is a note on the title...the Town actually bought the vehicle but when it is sold, the money is supposed to be given back to the Town. We don’t sell the vehicles until August or September, so if you bought one now...”

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Mayor Aswell asked, “But if we bought the same car, we could exchange the light bar...and the radio?”

“If you go with the same car and as long as everything about the light bar is working fine, yes, you could swap it out. The radio is the new 800 radio and it is not in the current vehicle...\$2,100 is about what we think they are going to cost.”

The **Town Administrator** asked, “So, do you always strip the old cars before you sell them?” She said she just wondered if some other agency or Town might want one that is already equipped.

“By the time we get through with them,” said **Captain King**, “nobody wants them.”

“I was just thinking about why we would want to put old equipment in a new car,” **Mrs. Ward** commented.

Councilwoman Conner added, “Yes, because who knows how long it will last...and then you have to take it out to put more in.”

“What we have had a problem with,” said **Captain King**, “is that sometimes the technology is so different it doesn’t work as well with old equipment. These are all new prices for new equipment, but if you want to swap stuff out, it’s whatever you want to do, as long as everything works like it is supposed to.”

Mayor Aswell asked Deputy Cheshire, “Isn’t that a new light on the car you have now?”

“It was put on when the car was bought in ’04 so it’s six years old,” replied **Deputy Cheshire**.

“I don’t call that new,” said **Councilwoman Conner**.

Mayor Aswell asked **Captain King**, “What is the MDT on the quote?”

“That is a Mobile Data Terminal...a laptop that he can run DCI stuff on, and if he gets a new one, he will be able to do reports and other things in the car,” **Captain King** replied.

Councilman Paschal said, “Some of the things might could be switched out. We’ll just have to see.”

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Councilwoman Conner said, "I think Clarence (Deputy Cheshire) should have some say in it, as long as everything is within the price range we agreed on. He knows what's working properly and what could be improved."

Captain King said he would be glad to order whatever the Town wants.

Councilman Paschal asked Deputy Cheshire, "What will it be, Clarence, a Crown Vic or a Charger?"

"I appreciate it and I will drive whatever the Town sees fit to buy," **Deputy Cheshire** replied.

The **Town Administrator** suggested, "Why don't you (Council) set an amount, as mentioned in the Budget Work Session, and then leave it up to them as to the equipment that is needed."

Councilwoman Conner agreed.

Councilman Paschal said, "Why don't we go with the price of the Crown Vic, and say we'll do that much, and then if something is a better deal when he calls...we budgeted \$35,000.00 and that would be under what we budgeted.

Councilwoman Powell said, "Be sure to get something that won't fall apart going around the courthouse."

Mayor Aswell said, "I would like to make a motion, being we've already talked about buying one (patrol car) this (2009-2010) year, *I make a motion that we go ahead and buy the Crown Vic at \$31,429.00. Well, no, it would be the \$20,605.00 and then whatever accessories we need to put on it.*"

Mayor Pro Tem James Belcher seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and 4 council members voted in favor and one opposed the motion. The motion carried.

Article VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS – **Mayor Aswell** made the following announcements:

- **Congratulations to our Finance Officer, Yvonne Russell, on completion of the 2009-2010 Municipal Administration Course at the UNC School of Government in Chapel Hill.**

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Article VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Continued

- There will be a brief prayer service in front of the Town Hall at the flag poles at **12:00 Noon**, on **Thursday, May 6, 2010**, the **National Day of Prayer**. Everyone is invited to participate.
- The next regular meeting of the **Town of Wentworth Planning Board** will be held on **Tuesday, May 18, 2010**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall Council Chambers.
- The **Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Center** will host a County-wide Chamber of Commerce After Hours and **Ribbon Cutting for the New Swimming Pool and Bath House** on **Thursday, May 20, 2010, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.** (Invitations were mailed to Elected Officials—please RSVP by May 14th.)
- The next regular meeting of the **Wentworth Town Council** will be held in the Town Hall Council Chambers on **Tuesday, June 1, 2010, at 7:00 P.M.** (Note:) *A Public Hearing will be held regarding the Town of Wentworth's Budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011.*

Article IX. A D J O U R N

Mayor Aswell made a motion, *“That the meeting be adjourned.”*
The motion was seconded by **Mayor Pro Tem Belcher**, and all voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted By: _____
Brenda Ward, Town Clerk

Approved By: _____
Robert P. Aswell, Mayor