
**TOWN OF WENTWORTH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 5, 2010
7:00 P.M.**

The Wentworth Town Council held their regular monthly meeting in the Town Hall Council Chambers, on **Tuesday, October 5, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.**

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

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 Pro Tem James Belcher** called the October 5th, 2010, Wentworth Town Council Meeting to order, and advised that he would be presiding over the meeting due to Mayor Aswell having laryngitis.

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

Article III. **Approval of October 5, 2010 Agenda**

A. Requests and Petitions of Citizens

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher advised that no one signed the Speaker Register to address Council, and asked if Council would agree to moving **Item D.** under **Article VI. New Business** ahead of Old Business. He explained that Council may want to hear the Town Administrator's report on her meeting with the county building inspectors at the McCollum house, prior to considering the Witherspoon proposal under Old Business.

Councilman Dennis Paschal said he may want to change something else on the Agenda, and asked Town Attorney, Fred Baggett, if the wording of **Item B.** under **Old Business** regarding the 35 mph speed limit along NC 87/65 would mean that other alternative speed limit changes could not be considered and voted on.

Mr. Baggett advised that the wording would not have to be changed because the Council Agenda states, "All items are for discussion *and possible action.*"

With that clarification and no other comments on the October Agenda, **Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** made a motion to, "*Change the order of the Agenda to consider Item D. under Article VI. New Business, prior to taking up Old Business, and to approve as amended.*"

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Councilwoman Evelyn Conner seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All voted in favor and the Agenda was approved.

Article IV. Approval of Minutes

➤ **Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 7, 2010**

Councilman Paschal made a motion, *“That the Minutes be approved.”*

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

Article VI. New Business

D. Administrator’s Report Reference Meeting w/ County Inspectors at McCollum House

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher asked the Town Administrator to give a report of her meeting with county inspectors.

Mrs. Ward referenced a memo in Council’s packets, “...I am just going to go over it with you.”

Mrs. Ward said she met with **Mark Langel** from the Rockingham County Planning and Inspections Department, and noted, “Mayor Aswell also accompanied us to the McCollum house for the meeting.”

“As you know”, said **Mrs. Ward**, “I was asked to get their opinion on what needs to be done to the house if we were to decide to rent it as a business. In the memo, I have given you a brief description of what the building inspectors recommended.”

“They advised that we can get by with one bathroom, a unisex facility, which would need to be completely redone to make it handicap accessible.”

Mrs. Ward said she later considered having someone look at the house to give her an estimate of what it would cost to make the bathroom handicap assessable, but noted, “You didn’t really ask me to get any estimates for the work, only to find out what had to be done to bring it up to code.”

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Mrs. Ward continued with her review: “The inspector said that the hallway and interior door spaces appear to be okay, but it is possible the doors would have to be removed from the frames to make room for a wheel chair.”

“He also said that we would have to make the front entrance, handicap accessible with a ramp. ADA compliance requires one handicap space for every 1-25 parking spaces and that *one* space has to be *van accessible*... 16 x 18’.”

She noted also, “The ADA requires all interior and exterior spaces...the floors *inside* the house and the sidewalk and parking area outside, must be a smooth surface, fixed, firm, and non-slip; that is to say, paved with concrete, brick, or cobblestone. The sidewalk and curb must have the cuts for wheel chair accessibility. The inspector said that the remaining parking area can be gravel, but the space for the van has to be a smooth surface.”

Mrs. Ward concluded, “To rent the house as a residence, which has been the previous use, it is okay as is, except the inspectors said we should install smoke alarms.

Moving to the second page of the report, **Mrs. Ward** talked about the rental income potential, explaining, “I spoke with several real estate professionals...Century 21, Brian Washburn, owner of the Wentworth Shopping Center, Mr. Jimmy Thompson who has rental property in the area, and Southeastern Properties.”

“I was told that if we rent it with the tenant paying utilities, we could charge \$750 - \$850.00 per month. If we provide utilities, go with \$900 - \$1,050 per month, but they strongly recommend that you let the tenant pay their own utilities.”

“A third recommendation was that you can get \$12.00/square foot for *business* rental of *new* property, which the McCollum house is not, but that is something we could consider if we decide to rent space here at the Town Hall.”

“Mr. Thompson said that he rented the house next to the Vocational Rehabilitation building for \$450.00/month, but I believe that house is much smaller than the McCollum house. He also said that our offices here in the Town Hall could rent for much more than that.”

“The overall recommendation was to rent the house as a residence, because people want to be in this school district.”

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Mrs. Ward concluded, "I was also quoted a 'handler's fee' of 8-10% of monthly rental for a real estate agent to handle this for you, which would include screening applicants for credit, criminal check, landlord references, verification of income, etc."

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher asked, "What about responding to calls for maintenance?"

Mrs. Ward replied, "I don't know. We didn't talk about that."

Councilman Paschal said, "Normally, that is included, but we may have to be the one to contact somebody to come in and do the work."

Councilman Paschal asked, "Was the \$750.00 to \$850.00 for domestic rental?"

"For a residence," replied **Mrs. Ward**, "but actually, the remark was made that in this area there is not much commercial property for them to compare to, and they were quoting mostly for residential rentals."

"What is the square-footage of the house?" asked **Councilman Paschal**.

Mrs. Ward advised that the square footage is 1625 and an additional 1410 in the basement.

Councilman Paschal asked if the Town would have to put in new curb and sidewalk, or would the existing drive be okay.

Mayor Aswell said he thought the paved area around the garage would be okay, "...unless you wanted it closer to the front."

"I'll bet we could get the house fixed up for less than \$15,000.00," said **Councilman Paschal**, "and probably get it in real good shape."

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher said, "The bathroom would probably be the biggest expense...if we decided to rent it as a business."

Councilman Paschal said, "I think we should get somebody to look at it and see what it would cost, because we could probably get more money if we rent it as a business."

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Mayor Pro Tem Belcher said, “Outside of getting some quotes on that, I think that’s all we need to do at this time...that being the case, I would like to move to **Article V. Old Business...**”

Article V. Old Business

A. Consideration of Proposal from Chris Witherspoon for work, not included in first proposal, on the (McCollum) property next to Town Hall

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher asked Mr. Chris Witherspoon to present his proposal.

Mr. Witherspoon said he refigured everything, “...like you asked me to do last month...for the tree and stump removals in the front...”

“That’s the additional tree...” asked **Mayor Pro Tem Belcher**.

“The one that had all the ice damage,” **Mr. Witherspoon** replied. “This would be for completely removing the tree, grinding up both stumps that are out there, removing all the debris from that, putting in new dirt and sowing grass, as if nothing had been there.”

Mr. Witherspoon continued, “For the car shed (garage), we basically took out the walkway, bridge, and picnic tables, and that left cleaning up, trimming the limbs on that tree, graveling underneath the shelter and cleaning up that tree line and underneath...for basically everything except the tables and bridge.”

Councilman Paschal said, “*I make a motion that we approve the additional work.*”

Councilwoman Conner seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher asked, “This is for both proposals, right?”

Both **Councilman Paschal** and **Councilwoman Conner** said, “Yes.”

There was no other discussion.

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher asked for a vote on the motion to “*approve the work by Chris Witherspoon for both the tree and stump removal and the clean-up around the car shed area.*”

The motion carried with four votes in favor and one opposed.

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Article V. Old Business – Continued

**B. Discussion / Consideration of the 35 mph Speed Limit on NC 65/87
- Councilman Paschal**

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher asked Councilman Paschal to address Council.

Councilman Paschal passed out a listing of “Possible Speed Modifications for Hwy 65 & 87.”

Councilman Paschal commented, “I have listed some time options, but we can change anything as we go through. The first time option is...and what I was looking at was marrying one of the time options to the speed zone down there. The first one is from 7:15 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The 7:15 was part of the original school zone. That is when it started...the high school time zone was 7:15 and I figured we need to at least start in that area...5:00 p.m. would run us all the way through...most of the college would be out and we would just have mostly governmental workers coming out, and people from the courthouse.”

Councilman Paschal continued, “The second time option there...7:15 to 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The earlier times on each one of those was following the school zone times...the 7:15 and 2:30 there.”

“I went up and down the road during the middle of the day and at different times, and once all the traffic packs into the schools and the courthouse...you’ve got half the amount of traffic out here on the road than normal...everything is flowing around fine.”

“I talked to...about fifteen or twenty people out there and they all felt that after 4:30 (p.m.) or so and on the weekends there wasn’t any need (for 35 mph ?) ...and highway patrolmen writing tickets out there. That kind of was their main concern, but the speed zones down there (on the list provided by Councilman Paschal), 35 mph from the southern town limit on Hwy 65 and 87...and that would be at our sign down here, next to Calvary Church.”

“ ‘A’ would be the southern boundary of the town property on 65 & 87; ‘B’ would be Highway 65 & 87 split, which is right down here at the BP station. ‘C’ would be Highway 65 and County Home Road...the intersection there at the armory where our office used to be; ‘D’, the southern entrance to the Ag Building; I put ‘E’ on there...J. Van Sharpe northern property line because that is right before the big curve where you’ve got all the houses in that curve there. I thought that would be another option for us if we wanted to start slowing it down there;

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and, of course, we're all sensitive to the speed limit down at the courthouse."

Councilman Paschal added, "I put the gas line in there ('F')...I wouldn't want to go any closer because after you pass the gas line, in just a little ways, you get to the 25 mph speed limit down there (NC 65)."

"The thing about it, on the weekend and in the afternoons, it is dead all the way down through there, after the traffic clears out. You have some folks who may be going to Reidsville from Madison and over towards Stoneville through there...and you never want to cross the road in front of Iris' (Councilwoman Powell) house, because that's always dangerous...just one car can get you there."

"Anywhere in there...like I said, around J. Van Sharpe's before the curve, would be a good place to slow them down, or we could go on down to the gas line. This would still let everyone from the Ag center all the way up, be able to get out in the afternoons, and those people around the (old) courthouse, they're just going to have to be careful. They could get a ticket any time because it's 25 (mph) and they'll just have to be mindful of that."

"Everybody I talked with seemed to think we would be better off if we had something that was tied into a time that would allow everybody to once again resume their normal life after 4:30 or 5:00 in the afternoon. So, I threw those options out there for everybody to look at."

Councilman Paschal read from the information he provided council, "The zone would be posted as 45 mph with the above selected time zone and speed zone restriction just as a school zone would be posted. The old high school speed zone was 7:15 a.m. till 8:15 a.m. and then 2:30 p.m. till 3:30 p.m."

Mayor Aswell asked Councilman Paschal if he had spoken with anyone from the Department of Transportation about the changes he was recommending.

Councilman Paschal replied, "They have always gone along with us on anything we change. I did talk with the D.O.T. guy and told him we were looking at it because people were getting tickets out here. Of course, he said he would do whatever we wanted, and that we are looking at some growth in the area. I told him we understand that, and that what we wanted to do was have some control of the speed after people leave the businesses up here."

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Mayor Aswell said he was just wondering if (NCDOT) traffic services was going to go along with the 7:15 till 5:00 p.m.

“Well,” said **Councilman Paschal**, “they were doing it for the school...”

“That was just in a school zone, though,” said **Mayor Aswell**, “and I don’t know if they will do it for the whole section.”

Councilman Paschal replied, “Well, the thing of it is, if we vote on it and ask them to...if we request it, then they’ll have to undertake it...you don’t get anything if you don’t ask for it. If they don’t want to do a zone for us, then maybe we open that section back up somewhere out here...to 45 (mph). It would be just as easy as putting a school zone back up there, because they were controlling a zone from down there to there, so I know they can put the same kind of sign up from here, down to there.”

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher said, “What you are saying on this list, is that these are possible places where the speed limit could end, with the beginning there at the Town limits...”

“During the last month,” **Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** said, “I was on vacation and also worked 2 or 3 different schedules at work and literally came through here at different times throughout a 24-hour period... sometimes at 2:00 a.m. and sometimes at 2:00 p.m. or at 9:00 or 11:00 or 1:00. I tried real hard to make it a point to look at how much difference in time it took me to travel through, versus speeding or driving the speed limit, to see what kind of time difference it made.”

“I also talked to some people and most of them, kind of like me, just found it to be an annoyance, but...and I noticed it didn’t literally make one minute’s difference in my travel through town, home. I know that when I’m not paying attention, it’s hard for me to remember to slow down to that speed, although since we have focused on it more, I’m getting better at it. I just wonder about how much of a problem it really is, now that I look at it, and I do agree with you that it is personally annoying because I don’t like to slow down to that (35mph). However, when I really looked at it and timed it out, it wasn’t as big a difference as I perceived it to be.”

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher continued, “I also worry a little bit about having the shift in the time zone as far as saying a certain speed at this time and that time. Although we do it with school zones, we also have the big strips painted across the road that kind of helps get your attention a little bit. I wonder if we would need to get the State (N.C.D.O.T.) to do that at the beginning...”

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“Right now,” said **Mayor Paschal**, they show 35 mph Speed Limit Ahead signs, out in front of us, so they are already doing that. The thing that gets me is the tickets...people getting the tickets and you having to go slow through there in the middle of the night. It almost feels like somebody could run up next to your car and get you...”

“But to me,” said **Mayor Pro Tem Belcher**, “when I timed it out, it was *less* of a reality and more a perceived feeling. My personal feeling is that I wish it was still 55 (mph) through there, but as far as it making a big enough difference to go back and change it...since I have paid closer attention to it, I am actually less inclined to do it now than I was when we held our meeting last time. Like I said, the people that I talked to were kind of like me...they were annoyed but they understood the possibility of more traffic eventually, down the road, and even if we changed it back now, they felt it wouldn’t be too much longer before we would have to go right back and do what we have already done.”

Mayor Paschal said, “I asked the (D.O.T.) engineer if there would be more traffic at the courthouse now than it was...he said no, but that when we develop this commercial area...and it will be a while before we develop that...”

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher added, “I will say this...one thing that did surprise me when traveling through here this last month, is that there was more traffic at certain hours during the day than I seemed to have remembered from times before.”

Mayor Aswell said, “And when you live on this road, you see that, too. It’s about all day, wouldn’t you agree, Iris?”

Councilwoman Powell who also lives on NC 65 near the old courthouse agreed, explaining, “I sat on my porch one day before we decided on this, and just started counting the cars. About 145 cars or more went by my house in half an hour.”

“What time of the day was it?” **Councilman Paschal** asked.

“It was in the afternoon,” replied **Councilwoman Powell**.

“I have had so many requests on this, that I still feel compelled to change this...” **Councilman Paschal** said. “...and if you think it is going to be a problem to have speed zones, then I say let’s make it 45 mph from the town limits, where it is 45 anyway, up to the southern edge of the town property, and then we don’t have to have a speed zone, D.O.T. doesn’t have to approve a speed zone...”

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Mayor Aswell suggested that the 45 mph speed zone stop at Fleming Road, rather than at Town property. He explained, "That would be a good place to stop, because you've got those 4 rental houses there, and that would give everyone time to slow down before the entrance to the high school, and the new development possibly going in there."

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher asked Deputy Clarence Cheshire if he had any feelings on the traffic situation along NC 65/87, and what he thought of the recommendations to change the speed limit again.

Deputy Cheshire said he thought it would be a good idea to have NCDOT do a traffic count at various times of the day, "and go from there."

The **Town Administrator** noted that such a count was done fairly recently, but not since some of the new development began. "Perhaps after the courthouse is completed, we could get them to look at it again," said **Mrs. Ward**.

The **Town Administrator** commented, "I just think someone should make a motion to leave it like it is."

That statement brought the discussion to a close, and **Councilman Paschal** made a motion, "*That we request NCDOT to change the speed limit from 35 to 45(mph) from Fleming Road, south to the Town limits.*"

Councilwoman Conner seconded the motion.

In discussion, **Councilwoman Powell** asked, "Why can't we get D.O.T. to do a traffic count?"

"We can, but we never have before..." said **Councilman Paschal**.

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher noted, "We have a motion on the floor and a second. Is there any further discussion?"

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

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Article VI. NEW BUSINESS

**A. Consideration of Resolution Adopting a Code of Ethics for the
Wentworth Town Council**

Re: State Government Ethics Act / NCGS Chapter 160A-86 & 87

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher asked the **Town Administrator** to address Council concerning the Resolution.

Mrs. Ward said the Town Attorney, Fred Baggett, "...may want to elaborate on this a little bit more, but basically, as you can see here, they are actually publishing books now...this one is, A Model Code of Ethics for North Carolina Local Elected Officials."

"As the introductory statement explains, 'In 2009 the North Carolina General Assembly passed a law requiring all North Carolina cities, counties, local boards of education, unified governments, sanitary districts, and consolidated city-counties to adopt a resolution or policy containing a code of ethics to guide actions by the governing board members in the performance of their official duties as members of that governing board.'"

Mrs. Ward said that each governing board must adopt its resolution or policy by January 1, 2011.

She continued, "We have already, a Conflict of Interest Policy, and the attorney agreed that we could refer to it in the ethics resolution and make it a part of the resolution." **Mrs. Ward** asked Mr. Baggett if he would like to comment on that for Council.

Mr. Baggett added, "That's right...I have reviewed this, and the new law requires certain elements be in an ethics policy, and Brenda did a good job of incorporating those, and this complies with the State requirements now, and all you have to do is adopt it."

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher made a motion, "*That we adopt the Code of Ethics Resolution for the Wentworth Town Council and have it entered into the minutes as presented.*"

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

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Article VI. NEW BUSINESS

B. Consideration of Contract Renewals

1) Perennial Landscapes (Jimmy Jones)

General Lawn Care: \$260/month

2) S&K Services, LLC (Ed King)

General Janitorial: \$165/month

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher asked if either of the service providers had increased their fees.

Mrs. Ward said that Perennial did not change their fee of \$260.00/month, but noted that S & K requested an increase of \$10.00/month due to the increased cost of cleaning supplies, “which will make their monthly fee \$175.00.”

Councilwoman Conner asked, “Did we get any other estimates?”

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher said, “No, this is just consideration of renewing the contracts that are in place.”

The **Town Administrator** added, “We are happy with the performance of both of these, but if you want us to go out again and get quotes, we can.”

Councilman Paschal said, “Probably we would get the same quotes we did before...the same people would be doing it...he (Mr. Jones, Perennial) *did* tell us that he was going to re-sow the yard this...”

Mrs. Ward advised that Perennial “...just finished reseeding, right before the rains came.”

Mayor Aswell made a motion, “*That we renew the contract with Perennial Landscapes.*”

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

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher asked the Town Administrator if S & K had met their obligations with the cleaning of the town hall.

Mrs. Ward replied, “Yes, they always come at the scheduled times, but occasionally we have had to remind them of a few things, but I felt like we need to let them know if something isn’t right, and give them an opportunity to correct it. So, we are willing to renew if that is okay with you.”

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Mayor Pro Tem Belcher made a motion, *“That we approve the contract for S & K Services for general janitorial in the amount of \$175.00 per month.”*

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

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS

C. Approval of Changes to Employee Handbook:

- Section 1, Page 10 (Hours Worked)
- Section 2, Page 6 (Longevity)
- Section 3, Page 3 (Vacation)
- Section 4, Page 3 (Business Hours)
- Section 4, Pages 16, 17 (Changes to Parking & Lounge Provisions)

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher asked the Town Administrator for her comments.

Mrs. Ward said, “I really don’t have anything to add. You will notice that the changes are in blue, and this is the result of some changes the Personnel Committee recommended...you voted on them several months ago, but we are just now getting the handbook revised.”

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher made a motion, *“To approve all of the changes as presented to us for the Employee Handbook.”*

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

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS

D. Administrator’s Report Reference Meeting w/County Inspectors at the McCollum House

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher reminded everyone that this item of business was taken up earlier in the meeting, prior to Old Business.

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS

**E. Discussion / Decisions Regarding 2010 Christmas Parade
- Deputy Clarence Cheshire**

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher asked **Deputy Cheshire** to address Council.

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“Thank you for the opportunity to speak,” **Deputy Cheshire** began. “We have about two months before our third parade, and as I like to do sometimes, I’ve been thinking outside the box to try to make it more interesting and draw more people out to see the parade.”

“The first thing I wanted to talk to you about is Santa Claus...to make sure you are satisfied with last year’s Santa, or do you have other suggestions. I think he did a good job, myself...”

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher commented, “I liked the Santa Claus...he complimented me on my beard.”

Mr. Baggett (Town Attorney) reminded everyone, “There’s not but one (Santa Claus) anyway!”

Deputy Cheshire said, “I spoke with Mr. Capps last week and he said he would be more than happy to come back this year. He really enjoyed that.”

Council agreed that last year’s Santa was welcome to come back for this year’s parade.

Deputy Cheshire moved on to discussion of a Grand Marshal for the 2010 Christmas Parade. He said that he, “...really went outside the box on this one. I had the idea to use ‘Susie,’ the little dog that was burned real badly in Greensboro...I spoke to her owner, Donna Lawrence, and she said she would be extremely happy to bring her to the parade.”

“Since we are moving along with the animal shelter here, I spoke to Adam Lindsay at the County and expressed my idea to him and suggested they might want to promote the shelter, or animal adoption, something like that, in the parade, and he seemed to think that was a good idea.”

Deputy Cheshire continued, “Back to Susie...Ms. Lawrence asked me if we wanted her to dress Susie up, or what were we expecting...I told her just to leave her as natural as could be...not to cover the scars. I think people need to see the reality of how bad that was. She said she might just put a string of pearls around her neck, and she is not charging anything to come...no appearance fee or anything, but said they are open to donations for ‘Susie’s Hope’, the charity for abused animals.”

“That was one idea (for Grand Marshal), but if you have other ideas, that’s okay...we just need to know as soon as possible.”

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The **Town Administrator** suggested that if Council wanted someone else as Grand Marshal, Susie could ride on the Animal Shelter float.

Councilwoman Powell said, "I'll bet you we would be the only Parade that would have a dog as Grand Marshal."

Deputy Cheshire commented, "It could be a big thing, especially with all the notoriety that comes with this particular dog..."

Councilwoman Conner said, "...if the Animal Shelter group would have a float...it would be good to put the dog on there, and then we could have a Grand Marshal, too."

Deputy Cheshire advised Council that they should decide and let him know by the next meeting. Everyone agree that one way or another, they would like to have Susie in the parade.

Deputy Cheshire moved on to discussion of "**Pink Heals**," explaining, "The Pink Heals Tour is composed of pink fire trucks that travel all over, and at various stops, cancer survivors get to sign their names on the trucks. It is meant to be a memorial to cancer survivors, to their families, and geared more towards women and breast cancer."

"The closest 'Pink Heals' truck in our region is in Whiteville, NC. Next year, the High Point Fire Department will have their own Pink Heals truck, but it won't be ready in time for our parade this Christmas. The gentleman in Whiteville that I spoke with does not charge anything for coming...not for gas or anything. The only thing they ask for is that we provide a motel room or some place to stay overnight for two people. They would come up on Friday before the parade and spend Friday night here."

"One of the reasons they want to come up on Friday, is to try to meet with local fire chiefs, local law enforcement or EMS personnel who would be willing to attend, to try to get the Pink Heals tour started in Rockingham County."

Deputy Cheshire commented further, "This is a great charity and promotes cancer awareness...and you don't see many pink fire trucks around here, so people should appreciate this addition to the parade."

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Deputy Cheshire said he also emailed the gentleman in Whiteville and suggested they could stay at the Wentworth Fire Department. “He is supposed to let me know.”

Mayor Aswell said he thought it would be good for the Town to pay for a motel room if staying at the Fire Department was not an option. He added, “The fuel bill will probably be well over a hundred dollars.”

Deputy Cheshire said he would let Council know what the gentleman decides.

Councilwoman Conner suggested that one of the motels might even donate a room.

Councilman Paschal said he agrees with Mayor Aswell as far as helping them out, because of the cost of fuel alone.

Deputy Cheshire mentioned some other entries he is working on, including Guilford County’s motorcycle fleet.

He advised that Deep River Pipes and Drums has disbanded since last year’s parade, but said he has found another group, the Triad Highlanders, who have agreed to come, “for the same fee we paid Deep River last year, \$650.00.”

Deputy Cheshire asked Council if they had anything specific they wanted him to work on, or any questions or changes they wanted to make.

Councilwoman Conner asked about the prize money for this year’s parade.

Finance Officer, **Yvonne Russell**, confirmed that first prize is \$1,000.00, second prize is \$650.00 and third prize is \$350.00.

Deputy Cheshire also mentioned that the Rockingham County High School Band and ROTC are interested in coming back, but said they were concerned about the length of the parade and having to carry the larger instruments.

In further discussion, **Council** agreed that the parade route was shortened last year and does not need to be shortened any more.

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Deputy Cheshire asked Council if they would consider a plaque or some type of recognition for the best marching unit in the parade, "...since they know they cannot win the cash prizes which go to the floats."

Council talked about the fact that there would be several "marching entries" but that, "for instance, the bagpipers group is being paid to come and therefore would not qualify for additional recognition or prize money."

It was suggested that the high school bands and ROTC should be given monetary donations in addition to a plaque or certificate.

Mayor Aswell asked what Santa Claus would be riding in.

Deputy Cheshire and **Ms. Russell** confirmed that the current budget approved by Council, allows for a professional float for Santa this year, instead of the carriage.

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher told Deputy Cheshire, "Of the proposals you have made, I don't have a problem with any of them. I personally, don't have anyone in mind for Grand Marshal, unless someone else has a prominent citizen in the town who they feel is deserving..."

Councilwoman Conner said, "How about (former Sheriff) Bobby Vernon?"

Others agreed that Sheriff Vernon is deserving of the honor.

Councilman Paschal said, "We *could* have co-grand marshals."

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher suggested, "Maybe have Bobby (Vernon) as the Grand Marshal and do the parade in honor of "Susie."

Councilwoman Conner agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Belcher's idea.

Deputy Cheshire suggested Council think about it and make a decision at the November meeting so that articles and advertisements could run in the newspapers to promote "Susie" in some way.

Council decided that if they select a "human" Grand Marshal to ride in the front of the parade, that "Susie" could be the second entry.

Councilwoman Conner suggested that if the Animal Shelter group participates, it could be the second float with "Susie" on-board.

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Mayor Pro Tem Belcher added, “When we advertise, we can stress that this year’s parade is *in honor of* ‘Susie’ and to promote awareness of animal cruelty.

Deputy Cheshire said he would discuss it with Ms. Lawrence (Susie’s owner) and let her know that council wants to do the parade in honor of Susie, and that he would work out the details with her as to how to present Susie, whether it be in a separate vehicle, or with the animal shelter or similar group.

Deputy Cheshire added, “If he (Sheriff Vernon) does not want to be the Grand Marshal, then maybe we could move Susie up to Grand Marshall instead of saying ‘in honor of.’”

Councilwoman Conner said she thought it would be better to, “leave it *in honor of* right now, and still find out about a Grand Marshal.”

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher suggested, “I think we should ask Bobby (Vernon) first before we make it public...”

Deputy Cheshire said he didn’t have any other information for Council, but commented that he wished he could get some more high school bands for the parade.

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher mentioned Council’s discussion on giving a plaque and a monetary donation to the bands and asked, “What amount of money are we talking about?”

Councilman Paschal said, “We already do a donation every year, don’t we, to the high school band...what is the amount?”

Neither the Finance Officer or Town Administrator could recall doing so, but they said they would check the records to find out.

Councilman Paschal said, “I think you’ll find the check, because I think I gave it to them...the high school band or the band boosters, maybe.”

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher thanked **Deputy Cheshire** for taking care of everything and urged Council to be thinking about the parade and to let Deputy Cheshire know if they had any ideas or questions.

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Mayor Pro Tem Belcher, before moving on to Public Comments, recognized the **Town Administrator** who asked to review some information with Council.

Mrs. Ward advised, “Tom Wiggins, Rockingham County Operations Manager and, I presume, still Director of Planning and Inspections, stopped by the office today with some information on the naming of the road there by the bank...you will recall they asked about renaming Prison Camp Road, and you made a suggestion for that, as well.”

“Mr. Wiggins said the commissioners decided to allow the judicial center committee—the group of folks who worked on the new courthouse, to have some input regarding the renaming of Prison Camp Road. He said the commissioners would then consider the suggested names at their October 11th County Commissioners’ meeting. At that time, they will adopt a resolution requesting the name change, and then we would do the same at our November meeting.”

Mrs. Ward Continued, “The second topic of discussion was the proposed intersection changes there at NC 87/65, for access to the new courthouse. It seems that this is now on hold due to some problems or issues that need to be worked out with the property owner there—Mr. Jimmy Thompson. Mr. Wiggins didn’t seem very hopeful about reaching a satisfactory agreement with Mr. Thompson, so I have no idea when this will be resolved...and that’s all I have at this time.”

Article VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher said no one signed the Speaker Register for Public Comments.

Article VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher made the following announcements:

- The next regular meeting of the Town of Wentworth **Planning Board** will be held on **Tuesday, October 19, 2010**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall Council Chambers.
- **Don’t forget to vote!** Election Day (November 2nd).
- The next regular meeting of the **Wentworth Town Council** will be held in the Town Hall Council Chambers on **THURSDAY, November 4, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.**

“Due to the elections, we are not meeting on the first Tuesday, but will be meeting on Thursday of that week,” **Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** advised.

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Article VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The 2010 Wentworth Christmas Parade** is scheduled for **Saturday, December 11, 2010, at 11:00 a.m.**

Entry Deadline: November 22, 2010

Article IX. A D J O U R N

Councilman Paschal made a motion *to adjourn the meeting*. **Mayor Aswell** seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted By: _____
Brenda Ward, Town Clerk

Approved By: _____
James Belcher, Mayor Pro Tem