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**TOWN OF WENTWORTH  
MINUTES FOR**

**THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE  
WENTWORTH TOWN COUNCIL  
DECEMBER 6, 2011  
7:00 P.M.**

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The Wentworth Town Council held its regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, December 6, 2011**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

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

A quorum was present.

**Staff Present:** Brenda Ward, Town Administrator & Town Clerk / Yvonne Russell, Finance Officer & Deputy Clerk / Fred Baggett, Town Attorney, and Deputy Travis Loftis.

**ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Robert Aswell**

**Mayor Aswell** called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the Wentworth Town Council Organizational Meeting. He noted the presence of many special guests, but said he would not call names because he might miss someone. He thanked everyone for coming.

**Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Aswell** asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, led by local Scouts, **Daniel & Caleb Parrish**. He asked that all remain standing for the Invocation.

**ARTICLE II. INVOCATION: Rev. Dave Huggins**, Interim Pastor at Calvary Baptist Church, gave the invocation.

**ARTICLE III. Approval of November 1, 2011, Town Council Meeting Minutes**

**Mayor Aswell** asked for a motion to approve the November Town Council Meeting Minutes.

**Councilman Paschal** made a motion to, *“approve them as written.”*

**Councilwoman Conner** seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**ARTICLE IV. Recognition of Outgoing Council Member & Mayor Pro Tem, James Belcher**

**Mayor Aswell** advised, “At this time we would like to recognize outgoing Council member and Mayor Pro Tem, James Belcher.”

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**Mayor Aswell** asked Mr. Belcher if he would come to the front with him, at which time he presented Mr. Belcher with a plaque inscribed as follows:

“For your dedicated service to the citizens of Wentworth as a member of the Wentworth Town Council from December 2007 to December 2009, and as Mayor Pro Tem from December 2009 to December 2011. Thank you for your leadership and loyalty in *planning for the future while preserving our past.*”

After a round of applause for Mr. Belcher, **Mayor Aswell** commented, “We want to thank you for the job you have done and say we’ll miss you.”

“Thank you,” said **Mr. Belcher**. “I would like to take this opportunity to thank a couple of people myself. First, Larry Terrell—he’s the one originally, who first encouraged me to run back in 2000 during the first Council election. I was fortunate enough to win at that time, and I have been able to have the support of the citizens and to serve on the Council several times throughout the last 11 years. It has been my honor and privilege.”

“I would also like to thank Dennis and Evelyn, who were members of the original Council, who welcomed me right in, and Robert and Iris, as well, have supported me and we have been able to work together, and I do appreciate it.”

“It is with deep regrets that I was not able to throw my hat in the ring and run again, but I hope in the future that I will be able to serve the Town and the Council in some other capacity. Thank you again.”

After another round of applause and as he was taking his seat, **Mr. Belcher** added, “I neglected to mention my thanks to Brenda and Yvonne, too.”

**ARTICLE V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION –  
Fred Baggett, Town Attorney, Smith Moore, LLP**

**Mayor Aswell** turned the Organizational Session of the Town Council over to the Town Attorney, **Mr. Fred Baggett**.

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**Mr. Baggett** began, “Thank you, Mayor. This is the time and the meeting set by the Wentworth Charter and State law, for new council members who have been elected to be sworn in, and for a new mayor to be elected.”

“First, we will call on the Honorable Mark Pegram to administer the oath of office to Mr. Paschal, Jr. and Ms. Conner, and Dennis Paschal, III in that order, please.”

Clerk of Superior Court, **Mark Pegram**, administered the Oaths of Office to Councilman Dennis Paschal, Jr., Councilwoman Evelyn Conner, and to Dennis Paschal, III consecutively.

The audience applauded after each individual, supported by family members, was sworn in.

**1. Election of Mayor – Fred Baggett, Presiding**

**Mr. Baggett** opened the floor for nominations for mayor.

**Councilwoman Conner** nominated Dennis Paschal, Jr.

**Mr. Baggett** asked if there were other nominations. There were no other nominations and **Mr. Baggett** stated, “Hearing none, all those in favor of that nomination, please indicate by saying ‘aye’.”

All voted in favor and **Mr. Baggett** congratulated Mr. Paschal as the audience applauded.

**The Honorable Mark Pegram** administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Paschal, as Mayor of the Town of Wentworth.

**2. Election of Mayor Pro Tem – Mayor Paschal, Presiding**

**Mayor Paschal** open the floor for nominations for mayor pro tem.

**Dennis Paschal III** nominated **Councilwoman Evelyn Conner**.

**Mayor Paschal** asked if there were any other nominations. There were none.

All voted in favor of **Evelyn Conner** as **Mayor Pro Tem**.

**The Honorable Mark Pegram** administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Conner, as Mayor Pro Tem of the Town of Wentworth.

**Article V. NEW BUSINESS**

**B. Ratification of the Adoption of Interlocal Agreement for the Consolidation of 911 Service, and the Creation of a Joint Agency Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 160A-462 to Provide Emergency Public Safety Communications Services within Rockingham County.**

**Mayor Paschal** moved to the next order of New Business, explaining, “The mayor previously signed this agreement due to some time restraints, and we just need to ratify it. Everybody has a copy, and if there are no questions, I would like to make a motion, *that we ratify the Interlocal Agreement for the Consolidation of 911 Service, and the Creation of a Joint Agency Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 160A-462.*”

The motion received two seconds by **Councilman Aswell** and **Councilwoman Powell**.

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

**C. Adoption of Holiday Closing Schedule for Year 2012**

**Mayor Paschal** asked for a motion to adopt the Holiday Closing Schedule for Year 2012.

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** made a motion, “*That we adopt the Holiday Closing Schedule for the Year 2012.*”

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

**Article VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mayor Paschal** made the following announcements:

- Wentworth’s Fourth Annual Christmas Parade begins at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 10, 2011.
- The next regularly scheduled Planning Board Meeting will be Tuesday, December 15, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

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**Article VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Continued**

- The next regularly scheduled **Town Council Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, January 3, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers.
- **Year 2012 Meeting Schedules** for the Wentworth Town Council and Wentworth Planning Board are available at the Clerk’s table, along with a listing of Town Council and Planning Board members.
- **Applications** are available for volunteers interested in serving on **Town Committees**—Appearance, Recreation, Historic Preservation, and the Wentworth Planning Board.

**Mayor Paschal** thanked everyone for coming and invited them to stay for the reception.

**Article VII. ADJOURN –**

**Mayor Paschal** made a motion, “*That we adjourn.*”

**Councilman Paschal** seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the meeting adjourned.

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

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

**Regarding the Speaker Register for the Organizational Meeting, please see Attachment to these Minutes.**

# ATTACHMENT “A”

**Note:**

Although this was an Organizational Meeting of the Wentworth Town Council, the Town Clerk provided a Speaker Register as usual for anyone wishing to address council. Upon a final check of the table where the agendas and Speaker Register are placed for public access, the clerk saw no signatures on the form. Had there been any signatures, the Speaker Register would have been given to the mayor so that any persons wanting to speak could be added to the Agenda, which is our normal procedure.

As the meeting was adjourned, someone approached the Clerk and told her that Mrs. Beverly Wilcox had signed the Speaker Register and was upset that she was not called upon to address Council. The Town Clerk went to the table to look at the Speaker Register, which was missing from the table. Someone said Mrs. Wilcox took the Speaker Register with her and left the Council Chambers.

The Town Clerk went to search for Mrs. Wilcox and found her outside the Town Hall going down the sidewalk to her car. She stopped Mrs. Wilcox and asked her if she had signed the Speaker Register, and she replied, “Yes, but it doesn’t matter.” The Town Clerk told Mrs. Wilcox she was welcome to come back and speak at the January meeting. Mrs. Wilcox replied, “Oh, I’ll be back.”

The Town Clerk then asked Mrs. Wilcox if she had the Speaker Register in her possession, explaining that she would have to give it back because it has to go in the Minutes Book. Mrs. Wilcox retrieved the Speaker Register from her bag, and it is now filed in the Minutes Book, as usual.

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BRENDA WARD, TOWN CLERK