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**TOWN OF WENTWORTH  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
MAY 3, 2011  
7:00 P.M.**

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**The Wentworth Town Council** held their regular monthly meeting in the Town Hall Council Chambers, on **Tuesday, May 3, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.**

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

**Council members absent:** Councilwoman Evelyn Conner

**A quorum was present.**

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

**Article I.** **Mayor Aswell** called the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, Wentworth Town Council Meeting to order.

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

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

**A. Requests and Petitions of Citizens**

**Mayor Aswell** advised that no one signed the Speaker Register and made a motion, *“to leave 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 – April 5, 2011**

Regarding approval of the Minutes, **Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** made a motion, *“That the Minutes be approved with the provided correction.”*  
*(Note: A correction to the Minutes was made by the Clerk prior to the meeting and corrected copies had already been distributed.)*

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

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**Article V. OLD BUSINESS**

**Mayor Aswell** advised, "There is no Old Business for discussion."

**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Submission of Budget Message / Budget Summary / Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2011-2012**

**(1) Set Public Hearing Date**

**Mayor Aswell** asked the Town Administrator if she had any comments.

Finance Officer, Yvonne Russell, addressed Council regarding the new budget, explaining, "You have in your packets the Budget Message that the Town Administrator provided giving a description of the budget, so I'm just going to briefly go over some things for those in the audience who do not have a copy of the Budget Message."

*(Note: See Attachment A for comments made by Ms. Russell concerning the Budget for Fiscal Year 2011 -2012).*

**Mayor Aswell** asked if there were any questions regarding the budget. There were no questions and the mayor thanked Ms. Russell and the Town Administrator for the work they did on the budget.

**Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** remarked, "It all looks good. I think the two planning sessions we had this year were quite helpful."

**Mayor Aswell** noted that the Public Hearing date for the budget would be at the next council meeting.

**Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** made a motion that "We set the public hearing date for the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012, for the next council meeting on June 7, 2011."

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

**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS - Continued**

**B. Consideration of Resolutions / Proclamation**

**1. Rockingham County's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan**

**- Johnny Bowles, EM Coordinator**

**Mayor Aswell** announced the next item of business, and **Town Administrator, Brenda Ward**, advised that Mr. Bowles could not make it to the meeting. She said he asked her to explain that the County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan is reviewed annually, and must be updated every five years.

She noted, "The plan was originally adopted by Rockingham County in 2005 and has been reviewed and updated. The changes that have been made were necessary to meet State Emergency Management and FEMA requirements."

**Ms. Ward** listed the following changes:

- Statistical data for 2005 - July 2010 has been updated.
- References to tsunamis, volcanoes, and coastal erosion have been deleted from the vulnerable hazards index, as they are not applicable to Rockingham County.
- References to earthquakes, riverine erosion, landslides, and sinkholes are now deleted from the vulnerable hazards index, as they are rated low probability and low frequency.
- No new hazard(s) identified.

"Mr. Bowles said that they review the plan every September and that if anyone would like to serve on the review committee, to let him know," **Ms. Ward** concluded.

**Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** made a motion, "*That we approve the Rockingham County Hazard Mitigation Plan and adopt the Resolution accordingly.*"

**Mayor Aswell** seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor to adopt the resolution.

**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS - Continued**

**B. Consideration of Resolutions / Proclamation**

**2. Resolution to Approve an Electronic Recycling Amendment to the Rockingham County 2009 Solid Waste Management Plan**

**Councilman Paschal**, the Town of Wentworth's representative on the County Solid Waste Management Committee, presented the information regarding the Electronic Recycling Amendment, advising, "Wentworth partners with Rockingham County on their plan, and we are part of it, so we don't have to come up with our own plan...and we attend their meetings."

"There is a place in Madison that handles the recycling of computers and towers, etc. As you know, the State has passed laws preventing us from taking electronics to the landfill. The committee has been working on this amendment...and evidently they have come up with the wording for this. Brenda (Town Administrator) said Jack (Brinkley) did not bring her a copy of the referenced 'attached Discarded Computer Equipment & Television Management Plan', but she called Jack and he said he will bring a copy by for us."

"That's what we are doing—we're amending the plan to be in line with the State rules and regulations, and to have some place to discard our computers."

**Councilman Paschal** then made a motion, "*That we adopt the Resolution.*"

**Mayor Aswell** seconded the motion. There was no discussion and all voted in favor.

**3. Resolution in Support of the 2011 National Day of Prayer**

**(a) Appointment of Iris Powell as Wentworth Chairman for the National Day of Prayer**

**Mayor Aswell** made a motion to "*approve the Resolution in Support of the 2011 National Day of Prayer and appoint Ms. Iris Powell as our chairman*" (for Wentworth's National Day of Prayer).

**Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** seconded the motion and noted that the event will be held, "...this Thursday here at the Town Hall around the flag pole...at 12:00 noon."

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**Mayor Aswell** added, "Invite anyone who would like to come."

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

**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS - Continued**

**B. Consideration of Resolutions / Proclamation**

**4. Proclamation for Municipal Clerks Week—May 1 – 7, 2011**

The **Town Clerk** commented, "I don't put this on the Agenda every year, because sometimes I forget about it...but I didn't forget it this year."

**Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** made a motion, "*that we support the Proclamation for the Municipal Clerks Week, this week, May 1-7, 2011,*" and we are very thankful for our clerk and Town Administrator."

**Councilman Paschal** seconded the motion.

**Mayor Aswell** said, "I would just like to thank Brenda and Yvonne for the work they do for us...we would be lost without y'all."

**Mayor Pro Tem Becher** said, "I second that."

There was no further discussion. All voted in favor of the proclamation for Municipal Clerks Week.

**C. Consideration of Funding Requests:**

**1. Rockingham County Sheriff's Department / \$350 maximum**

- Deputy Travis Loftis

**Mayor Aswell** invited Deputy Travis Loftis to address Council.

**Deputy Loftis** advised, "This is an item that was supposed to be on the list that Sheriff Page brought to y'all at the last council meeting. What it is...it's an outer vest carrier that is being purchased, specifically for me. The other deputies are getting them as well. Instead of wearing the inside vest with your shirt over top of it...like it says, it is an outer carrier vest, a little more breathable and gives us better coverage as far as ballistics go, and allows us to take some of the items off our duty belts and put them on the vests, which helps with the weight around our waists."

**Deputy Loftis** noted that the invoice for the carrier vest should be in their Agenda packets, and said he would be glad to answer any questions.

**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

**Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** asked Ms. Russell (Finance Officer), “This is one of the items y’all said we would be able to purchase out of this year’s budget because...”

**Ms. Russell** said, “Right. There’s enough left to cover the cost of the vest.”

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

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

**C. Consideration of Funding Requests**

**2. Dan River Basin Authority (\$500 - \$5,000)**

**- “T” Butler, Secretary**

**Mayor Aswell** invited Ms. “T” Butler to address Council.

**Ms. Butler** thanked the mayor and council for the opportunity to talk about the funding request.

**Ms. Butler** began, “All of you are familiar with the Rockingham County Competitive Assessment published in January by Drs. Johnson and Parnell for the Kenan Institute at UNC.”

“This report emphasized the need for the County to work together to improve its citizens’ health and economic opportunities. There are lots of ways to do this, but one of them is to build trails and greenways. Trails and greenways in the county can help by providing safe places for county residents to walk for health, attracting new residents, small businesses and entrepreneurs to the county. If someone looks on the web, and the county has a master plan for trails, they consider that a plus for moving to that particular county.”

“It can also help by enhancing tourism, by connecting people with places, providing a venue for trail-based outdoor sporting events, and highlighting the region’s special arts heritage and other cultural resources.”

**Ms. Butler** continued, “On January 20<sup>th</sup>, in this room, the Reidsville Area Foundation hosted a meeting of county leaders and all the leaders of the municipalities to discuss the advantages of creating a master plan for trails and greenways for the entire county. An adopted trails and greenways master plan makes it possible for agencies like the Dan River Basin Association and not for profit organizations, such as ours, to raise funds to build trails for local communities.”

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“Without a master plan,” said **Ms. Butler**, “you cannot get a grant.”

“The Dan River Basin Association is applying to the Reidsville Area Foundation for funds to develop this master plan, contracting with the Piedmont triad Council of Governments for development of a master plan, because they have a long history of working on such plans for other counties, and also working in Rockingham County, as you folks are well aware.”

**Ms. Butler** explained further, “A condition of our receiving this grant from the Reidsville Area Foundation, is demonstration of support from the county and all municipalities, so we are approaching you to ask for your support for development of this master plan, by donating an amount of money of your choosing...we are saying anywhere between \$500.00 and \$5,000.00, to go toward funding this master plan that would then allow us to work on getting grants for developing trails.”

“I would like to mention that a small donation from you is an evidence of your support for the idea. As we look at the map of Rockingham County, there is just a ready-made trail system in the Town of Wentworth—publicly owned property, trails already in place. Connecting the dots is all it will take. It is a *no-brainer*, as they say. It is really exciting, and I can’t wait for this to get underway, but to start the whole thing, we have to have this master plan.”

**Ms. Butler** concluded, “We have the offer of money from the Reidsville Area Foundation, provided we get support from you and the other municipalities, and we are approaching everybody in the county for this.”

**Councilwoman Powell** asked, “Would these trails be part of what we addressed in our Land Use Plan and our Central Business District?”

**Councilman Paschal** said, “Yes, I would think that a master plan would incorporate any trails we talked about.”

**Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** agreed.

“Yes,” replied **Ms. Butler**. There are plans in Reidsville, Eden, Wentworth, and Madison...and what we would be looking at, would be a system to incorporate all of these. I believe the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments participated in your planning, so they already have that information and that would be part of the plan.”

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**Councilwoman Powell** said she remembered that when the Town was working on their plans, "...there were a lot of people who were interested in trails."

**Ms. Butler** replied, "Yes, and we don't need to reinvent the wheel. It's already there in your plan. You're exactly right."

**Councilman Paschal** commented on the wide range of funds requested, asking, "What amount would it take for us to be a viable participant?"

"It is your choosing," **Ms. Butler** replied. "We have word that one of the other towns is going to contribute \$2,000 but I don't know about the others."

**Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** referenced a memo from the Town Administrator about the funding requests on the agenda, and asked the Finance Officer to confirm that sufficient funds are in the current year's budget to meet this request.

**Ms. Russell** said that a budget amendment would be done to move the funds from Miscellaneous Other Operating Costs to the Cultural and Recreational line item.

**Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** asked about the amount available for transfer. **Ms. Russell** said the approximate amount is \$34,000.00 but explained that this may change with the final budget amendment, to bring individual line items in line with the budget.

**Councilman Paschal** made a motion, "*That we fund the request in the amount of \$2,000.00.* I think if everybody will fall in and give that much, they will still have money to collect from other places also, but..."

**Ms. Butler** said, "Yes, and the Reidsville Area Foundation will make up the difference."

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

**Ms. Butler** thanked council for the funds.

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**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

**C. Consideration of Funding Requests**

**3. Rockingham County Free Dental Clinic  
NCDS Missions of Mercy / \$500 - \$5,000**

**- Janet Rakestraw, Community Coordinator**

**Mayor Aswell** asked Janet Rakestraw to address Council concerning the next funding request.

**Ms. Rakestraw** said, “I would like to tell you that the NC Dental Society Mission of Mercy is a project that Rockingham County has been chosen for...one of eleven sites for this year. It is the first time it has been in Rockingham County. The event is not just a dental van...we’re going to be taking the whole auditorium at Reidsville Christian Church. It will be cleared out...we are hoping to have 40-50 dentists come to this area...for a real dental setting—dental hygienists...they will all be volunteering.”

“We will also have volunteers as greeters, to take down medical information, to help with food for the workers, to run errands, to help load and unload equipment and supplies. There will be something for everyone who wants to volunteer.”

**Ms. Rakestraw** continued, “This is a free clinic that was begun in 2003 as a project of the NC Dental Society. Reidsville Christian Church was selected as the site because of the space and the layout. We can move everything out, off the floor, to set this up.”

“The clients served are supposed to be at least 18 years of age...around the 200% of poverty or below, and when you look at our unemployment rate and the kids in our schools...I’ve been told that there are so many kids in our public schools who have never been to a dentist. And, we also have many seniors, for instance, who still have dental needs.”

“We hope to be able to help between 400 - 500 people. The North Carolina Missions of Mercy, called NC-MOM, is a portable, free dental program, an outreach program for the NC Dental Society. The program is sponsored by the NC Dental Health Fund, a 501 tax-exempt organization, whose mission is to provide free dental services to those in financial need.”

In 2010, the program treated 6,573 people with donated services equal to \$3,101,407.00. Since its founding in 2003, the program has provided more than ten million dollars in free dental care to over 29,000 North Carolinians.”

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**Ms. Rakestraw** explained, “Our community is in the process of raising over \$25,000 to help offset the cost of bring the program to our area. I am coming to you to ask for help. We have already been able to raise \$15,500.00. We have to have a total of \$25,000.00. Part of what this money goes for, is for the generators, the dental van and x-ray machines and staff that is necessary to operate these. Also, the sterilization equipment they have to have...I think this is described in my request, but the \$25,000 is a set-up fee for all this.”

**Ms Rakestraw** said that everything else will be handled by volunteers, as she mentioned earlier. She said that area churches will provide breakfast and lunches for the workers, and mentioned that there will be two tractor-trailer trucks coming in on Friday afternoon, with all the dental chairs and other equipment that will need to be unloaded.

She asked Council to envision all those who may be unemployed, or those who do not have dental insurance, or who may be on Social Security without dental health. “You can just imagine the need,” she added.

**Councilwoman Powell** asked how the candidates are selected.

“It is ‘first come, first served,’” **Ms. Rakestraw** replied. “We open at 5:30 in the morning on July 8<sup>th</sup>. They will come through our registration, and that process will allow us to get their name, where they are located. This first year, we will be on the honor system...if they say they do not have dental insurance, or any other means of paying for dental care, they will be seen. We will be doing extractions, what they call reconstruction, like fillings, and dental cleanings also.”

**Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** said that he has a friend who has helped with these clinics and that he has seen pictures and heard first-hand how big it is.

**Ms. Rakestraw** said, “Yes, it *is* a big event and many volunteers will be needed, in case anyone here is interested!”

**Councilwoman Powell** asked how people will know about it—“How are you getting the word out?”

**Ms. Rakestraw** said, “It has been in the local papers and the Greensboro paper the last couple of weeks. We have been working with Glen Martin at the Department of Social Services and with Kathy DeMason at Rockingham County Schools health centers. Flyers will be sent to all the churches, as well, and we will continue to get the information out.”

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**Mayor Aswell** commented, "It sounds like a good thing...*I would like to make a motion that we give \$2,000.00 for the free dental clinic.*"

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

**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**D. Appointment of New "Piedmont Triad Regional Council Delegate"**

**- Brenda Ward, Town Administrator**

**Councilman Paschal** said that Mayor Aswell has done a good job as the Town's delegate and made a motion, "*That we appoint Robert to continue as our delegate on the new Piedmont Triad Regional Council.*"

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

**Mayor Aswell** expressed appreciation, "for the vote of confidence".

**E. Recognition of Community Pride Award Winners**

**- Dessa Scheffer**

**Mayor Aswell** asked Ms. Dessa Scheffer, of the Wentworth Appearance Committee to announce the "Community Pride Award" winners.

**Ms. Scheffer** advised, "We have three properties we want to recognize tonight, and when I call your name, I would like for you to come forward. We have a certificate for you and some gifts from T & G Greenhouse...nice hanging baskets right outside the door. Please pick one up on your way out."

**Ms. Scheffer** mentioned that photos have been made of each property and will be in the local newspaper soon.

Community Pride Award winners were:

- 1) Al & Terri Prusia - 106 Irvn Road.
- 2) Charlie & Joyce Withers - 548 Peach Tree Road
- 3) Richard and Ann Eanes - 693 Cedar Lane

The recipients received applause and Council expressed appreciation for their efforts to improve the community's appearance.

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**Ms. Ward** said she would also like to thank the Appearance Committee, “for meeting with NCDOT (Department of Transportation) representatives to request that they consider some landscaping around the DOT building there in the triangle. I don’t know if you have noticed, but they have planted some good size trees there inside the fence, and it looks so much better.”

**Mayor Aswell** remarked, “And they are supposed to do some more planting.”

**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**F. Consideration of Recommendation from Personnel Committee, Reference Employee Performance Evaluation for the Town Administrator and Town Clerk**

**- Personnel Committee**

**Mayor Aswell** asked Councilman Paschal for the Personnel Committee’s recommendation.

**Mayor Paschal** said that he and Councilwoman Conner met to do the performance evaluation for Ms. Ward. We do evaluations on the employee’s anniversary date. As usual, we almost couldn’t find any fault (laughter...). She does an excellent job. We included a 2.5% merit increase in the current budget year, but not a cost of living increase. We recommend to Council that we increase her salary from \$50,363.92 annually to \$51,623.00 per year. We are still getting an excellent deal at that. She is our Town Administrator, manager, and Town Clerk...probably one of the best deals in the county here, so that is our recommendation.”

**Mayor Pro Tem Becher** said he would like to make a motion, “*that we accept the recommendation for a merit increase for the Town Administrator/Town Clerk, with our heartfelt appreciation for the job that she does.*”

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

**Article VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No one signed the Speaker Register .

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**Article VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mayor Aswell** made the following announcements.

- A **National Day of Prayer** observance will be held at the Town Hall on **Thursday, May 5, 2011 at 12:00 noon.**
- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Town of Wentworth **Planning Board** will be on **Tuesday, May 17, 2011, 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, June 7, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.**

*Note: A Public Hearing on the FY 2011-2012 Budget Ordinance will be held at this meeting. A copy of the Budget is on file with the Town Clerk and available for inspection at the Town Hall.*

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

**Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** made a motion, *“To adjourn the meeting.”*

The motion was seconded by **Mayor Aswell**. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

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

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