
**TOWN OF WENTWORTH
MINUTES FOR**

**THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 3, 2012
7:00 P.M.**

The Wentworth Town Council held its regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, April 3, 2012**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

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

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 Dennis Paschal

ARTICLE II. INVOCATION: Councilman Dennis Paschal, III.

ARTICLE III. Approval of April 3, 2012, Town Council Agenda

A. Requests & Petitions of Citizens

Mayor Paschal noted that Wentworth Fire Chief, Lee Bedell, signed the Speaker Register, and made a motion, *“That we add Chief Bedell to the Public Comments section under Article VII.”*

Councilman Aswell seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

ARTICLE IV. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes for March 6, 2012

Mayor Paschal said the Clerk advised of a correction she made to the Minutes on Page 14, and said everyone has the replacement page. He made a motion, *“That we approve the Minutes with that correction noted.”*

Councilman Paschal seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

ARTICLE V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on Lobby Floor

Mayor Paschal referenced the “thick stack of papers” given to Council. Included were recent emails to and from the Town Administrator, Steve Auffinger, the engineer hired by the Town for a second opinion, and Jeff Johnson at Alley Williams Carmen & King.

ARTICLE V. OLD BUSINESS – Continued

Mayor Paschal pointed out the pages with various samples of expansion joints that could be used in the damaged area to allow for any future movement without cracking the tiles. He noted that **Mr. (Steve) Auffinger** with ASG Engineering, Clemmons, North Carolina, thinks that Option 2 near the back of the information packet would be a suitable fix.

Mayor Paschal also referenced the different material choices that could be used—“stainless steel, solid brass or aluminum, and if you wanted to paint it, the colors are shown there, too.”

He suggested Council take a look at the information and give the Town Administrator a call with their preference.

Councilwoman Powell asked which finish would last the longest?

Mayor Paschal said the stainless steel, “...would probably be tougher, and even if you painted it and it got scuffed up, you could just repaint it. If we do paint it, we would probably have to choose a contrasting color, because you would never be able to match it to the tile.”

He also said that if Council has any questions after looking over the information, and would like to have the engineer(s) come out to meet with Council, it could be arranged.

Councilman Paschal asked, “How much tile are we talking about replacing?”

Mayor Paschal said, “They actually may be able to use some of the tile...if they follow that crack...they may not have to use a lot of new tiles. The supplier has already ordered some tile because he was worried about it not being available.”

The **Town Administrator** added, “It all depends on whether they can get that tile up without breaking it into pieces. What he said about the tile he has ordered, is that there could be a slight color variation, lighter or darker shade, since it will be from a different run.”

“Most of the time,” said **Mayor Paschal**, “they can take a little grout saw and saw around it, and the tiles will pop up, so they may be able to use a lot of it.”

Councilman Aswell commented, “If it turns out they have to use new tile and it is not real close in color, “We may want to go ahead and use all new tile in a contrasting color all the way down if it’s not going to match, anyway.”

Councilman Paschal asked, “Are we having to pay for this?”

The **Town Administrator** replied, “We’re not planning on it because it happened while under warranty.”

Mayor Paschal reminded Council again, to let the Town Administrator know their preference.

(Note: Information packet given to Council is attached hereto as part of these Minutes - Attachment A.)

Article V.

OLD BUSINESS – Continued

B. Update on Post Office

Mayor Paschal recognized the **Town Administrator** for an update on the Town’s request for a new post office.

Mrs. Ward referred Council to the written summary she provided for Council, and recapped as follows:

“I contacted **Mrs. (Judy) Wall** at the Wentworth Post Office as Councilman Aswell suggested, and asked her how we could reach her daughter, because someone mentioned that she may have some contacts or influence in the facilities area.”

“Her daughter’s name is **Dawn Lambert** and she is the manager at the McLeansville Post Office. Ms. Lambert suggested I call a **Mr. Gardner**. When I called, I was told that Mr. Gardner would be out of the office for a few days, and that Mr. Gardner’s secretary would call me back, which she did.”

“The secretary, Susan Albright, returned my call and asked what I was calling about, and I explained that the mayor and town council asked me to call to set up a meeting with someone to talk about Wentworth’s need for a new post office.”.

“**Ms. Albright** told me in no uncertain terms, ‘I can tell you right now, we are not building any new post offices.’ I told her I read the papers and that I understood why she would say that, but that I was instructed to make the phone call and set up a meeting. She said she would have someone call me back”

“Later on, **Ms. Lambert** in McLeansville called and said Ms. Albright called her about my phone call. **Ms. Lambert** said that I should probably talk to Rufus Hambright.”

B. Update on Post Office – Continued

“At that point,” said **Mrs. Ward**, “I called **Mr. Hambright** who told me right off the bat, ‘We are fighting for our very lives here.’”

Mrs. Ward continued, “He also said that any post office that is not being threatened for closure, should be grateful. He gave me statistics on the decline in mail volume, that there are no funds available even for expansion, much less to build new post offices.”

“All the time I was speaking with Mr. Hambright, I was thinking that his named sounded very familiar. When I mentioned this to him, he said his father was a physician in Greensboro, and that he passed away just two weeks ago. I told him that is why the name was familiar to me, because his dad was my doctor several years back.”

“For some reason, he seemed to calm down a little and became a little less negative. He commented that the Wentworth Post Office should be safe for at least the next four and a half years because they had just signed a new lease with the Historical Society.”

“I explained to Mr. Hambright that the Town Council insisted that I try to set up a meeting with the proper person to at least talk with someone face to face about our need for a new post office.”

“He then gave me the name of a lady—**Esther Tinort**, Manager of Property Management at the Greensboro facility. Attached to your summary is a copy of the letter written to Ms. Tinort, and I have not yet received a reply to the letter...so that is my update.”

Mayor Paschal asked, “Did you mention to him that we were going to pay to build that small post office out here at one time...and not charge him any more rent than the other one?”

Yes, I did,” said **Mrs. Ward**, “but I didn’t elaborate because I didn’t want to give him the impression we were making that offer again...and I thought that could be discussed if and when you meet with Ms. Tinort.”

“I just wonder what he would have said,” **Mayor Paschal** remarked, “if he knew that we offered to build the post office.”

“I’m not really sure what he thought,” said **Mrs. Ward**, “because I don’t know what his position is with the postal service. I should have asked...”

Mayor Pro Tem Conner referenced Mr. Hambright's comment about the decline in mail volume and said she heard on the news recently about junk mail and how much it is going to increase and could possibly save some of the postal jobs.

Councilwoman Powell said, "They do make money on junk mail."

Councilman Paschal asked, "Do you think that when she (Mrs. Ward) talks to them again that she should bring up something about how the Town initially planned to build the small post office and not charge them any more rent than they were already paying..."

Mrs. Ward replied, "I promise you, I have mentioned that to everyone I've spoken to...but I don't know if that means anything to them with the way things are now."

Mayor Paschal said, "If we can get a meeting with the lady, it may make a difference to her..."

Councilwoman Powell remarked, "That lady who told you they weren't going to be building any new post offices, where did she get her information? To me, she was speaking out of turn, unless she has a lot of authority on that."

"I'm not sure, Iris," **Mrs. Ward** replied. "I thought the same thing as you."

(Note: The written summary provided for Council is attached hereto as part of these Minutes - Attachment B.)

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Budget Amendment No. 3 for Fiscal Year 2011-2012

Mayor Paschal recognized the Finance Officer, **Yvonne Russell**, for an explanation of the Budget Amendment.

Ms. Russell advised, "At our last Council meeting, during our Budget Work Session, you talked about the funding request presented to you by the Museum and Archives of Rockingham County for the old fashioned 4th of July Celebration, and you asked us to come back to this meeting with a budget amendment."

"So, this is the third budget amendment for the year and it reflects a transfer of monies from Other Operating Costs, Miscellaneous Other Operating Costs, to Special Events under Cultural and Recreational. These funds are in the amount of \$10,000 and will be transferred to cover the costs associated with the 4th of July Celebration."

Ms. Russell said she would be happy to answer any questions. There were no questions from Council.

Councilman Aswell made a motion, *“That we approve Budget Amendment No. 3 for Fiscal Year 2011 [-2012].”*

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

(Note: The budget amendment referenced above is attached hereto as part of these Minutes – Attachment C.)

ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

B. Consideration of Revised Contract for Legal Services from Smith, Moore, Leatherwood, LLP – Greensboro & Raleigh, NC

Mayor Council noted, “We talked about this earlier (Budget Work Session)—and Fred (Mr. Baggett-Town Attorney), feel free to jump in if you have any comments—and they have proposed to charge us a single fee per month, \$1,000.00, rather than hourly rates...”

Mr. Baggett said, “Yes, that is the suggestion...instead of per meeting and keeping up with each hour and part of an hour...”

“...and emails and everything like that,” said **Mayor Paschal**, “which Brenda and Yvonne have looked at regarding what we’ve been spending versus the new proposal. It probably gives us access to more legal advice without having to worry about the fees as much.”

“We were looking at doing this at the beginning of the next fiscal year,” said **Mayor Paschal**, “but they (Smith Moore Leatherwood) made the offer for us to go ahead and start now.”

“The **Town Clerk** noted that the proposal before Council shows an effective date of July 1...”

“We can still go ahead and do it now, though, can’t we?” asked **Mayor Paschal**. “If no one has a problem, I would like to make a motion, *‘That we accept the new contract and make it effective May 1st’*, so we can go ahead and start reaping the benefits there.”

The motion was seconded by **Mayor Pro Tem Conner**.

Councilman Paschal asked, “They (Smith Moore Leatherwood) are okay with moving the start-date up?”

“Yes,” replied **Mayor Paschal**.

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

ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS - Continued

C. Consideration of a Resolution in Support of “Helping Hands and Linking Arms Day of Service” / County-wide Food Drive; Kick-off on April 14, 2012, Collection Date – April 28, 2012

- Mr. Blake Dawson

Mayor Paschal invited **Mr. Blake Dawson** to address Council.

Mr. Dawson said he would like to explain a little about the event.

“This is the second year we have done this. The first year, we had a Resolution from the County, and that was the *only* resolution, but it has grown ever since. Our collection last year was 20,000 pounds of food that supplied four food banks in Rockingham County for about four months. We have expanded that and our goal is 30,000 pounds, and we have seven food banks we hope to supply.”

“There is always room for more people to be involved in this. We have 50+ churches involved, numerous businesses and civic organizations. I will be glad to give my contact information if you know of anyone or any group interested in helping with this.”

Mr. Dawson added, “There is a real need in this county due to the economic conditions.”

He noted also, that a blood drive will be held on April 28th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on NC Highway 14.

Mr. Dawson said he would like to leave some posters at the Town Hall, and that he appreciated everyone’s support.

Mayor Paschal thanked Mr. Dawson and said, “We appreciate the work that you are doing, and you are right, there is a need in Rockingham County.”

Mayor Paschal asked if anyone had any questions for Mr. Dawson.

Councilman Aswell asked, “What food banks are you supplying?”

Mr. Dawson replied, “The Red Cross, Christian Cooperative Ministries, Hands of God, Reidsville Outreach, both Salvation Armies, ...and the National Guard Armory here in Wentworth will be a collection point.”

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

Mr. Dawson added, “Rockingham County High School is the only school that was involved last year and their ROTC program collected over 900 cans, so schools are a big part of this. One thing that I have stressed to our committee is that we need to get our youth involved now, so that this effort can keep going.”

Councilman Paschal asked, “I know you said that Rockingham County High School is the only school participating thus far, but have you considered contacting the Public Information Officer for the school system?”

Mr. Dawson replied, “Yes, we have contacted them, and there are probably 12 or 14 schools involved *this* year. Sarah Stewart has done a good job with that, so this is continually growing. We probably have 40 or 50 organizations involved that we didn’t have last year.”

There was no additional discussion. **Mayor Paschal** thanked Mr. Dawson again for coming to the meeting.

Councilman Aswell made a motion to, “*Adopt the Resolution in Support of Helping Hands and Linking Arms.*”

Mayor Pro Tem Conner seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

D. Approval of Amendments to Bylaws of Town of Wentworth Committees

Mayor Paschal advised that Council has copies of the bylaws for each committee and noted the amendment to Section 5.1 “Membership,” highlighted in Yellow.

He explained, “There has been a clause added that says, ‘By vote of the Wentworth Town Council on March 6, 2012, a change in Committee bylaws allows a member of the Town Council to serve on a Town committee if he/she volunteers to do so, upon notification to and appointment by the Town Council. No more than one council member may serve on each committee.’”

“We voted to do that,” said **Mayor Paschal**, “so this is the change made.”

Mayor Paschal then made a motion, “*That we approve the amendment to the Bylaws for the Town of Wentworth Committees.*”

ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

Attorney Fred Baggett said, “Excuse me, Mayor, Brenda, and others, for not bringing this up earlier, but I have a suggestion. All three of these committees—I think it would be better and clearer if it stated early under 5.1 that, ‘The committee shall consist of five members.’ Nowhere does it state clearly how many people are on each committee. Under *Terms*, it is clearly implied because it says you appoint two for three years, two for two years, and one for one year. But I think it would read better, under each one, like 5.1 the first one, to say, ‘The Appearance Committee shall consist of five members...’ and then continue with, ‘Interested citizens may complete an application...’ You could just insert that line for each of the three committees.”

Mayor Paschal said he would like to, “*Amend my motion under Section 5.1 - Membership, to say ‘shall consist of five members and approve the amendment with that change for each one (committee).’*”

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

E. Consideration of Applicants for Town of Wentworth Appearance Committee

- 1. Beth R. Robertson / 3020 Ashley Loop / Wentworth NC**
- 2. Mollie H. Vernon / 3134 Ashley Loop / Wentworth NC**
- 3. Kellie Meador / 2500 Ashley Loop / Wentworth NC**

Councilman Paschal said, “It looks like the people on Ashley Loop Road are interested in appearance...”

Mayor Paschal replied, “Yes, and you have their applications and the reasons why they want to serve on this committee.”

Terms were noted as follows: Beth Robertson, 3 years; Mollie Vernon, 2 years; Kellie Meador, 1 year.

Councilman Aswell made a motion, “*That we accept all three for the Appearance Committee.*”

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

ARTICLE VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Requests & Petitions of Citizens

Mayor Paschal invited **Wentworth Fire Chief, Lee Bedell**, to address Council.

Chief Bedell thanked the Mayor and Council, commenting, “About a month ago Councilman Aswell talked about some fire hydrants. I know that Council has budgeted for fire hydrants in the past, maybe one per year. I haven’t requested any lately because I was waiting on the upgrades to the water line so that I could do some more pressure studies.”

“Between yourselves, the County, and Dan River improving this Stretch and adding this new water main, it has increased hydrant flows a lot and has affected areas you wouldn’t think it would affect.”

Chief Bedell said that because of the new line, fire hydrants between the water tank and the new line that were not even credible before, are now all to a point of credibility, “...and in some parts of the town, we have hydrants that are a thousand gallons a minute, which is great.”

“What I am proposing is to have four hydrants installed. I know you are in the middle of your budget planning and I wish I could give you a hard-core price, but prices are all over the place. I have been quoted from fourteen to eighteen thousand dollars.”

“In talking with Mike Lemons at Dan River Water, he said it would probably be cheaper, but he had to know exactly where the hydrants are going. He was trying to explain to me how some lines would take a special saddle where others do not. I wasn’t clear on this because when you tap the line, you tap the line, I thought...but I guess I was wrong.”

Chief Bedell said Mr. Lemons said again that the \$18,000 was probably on the high side. He said he spoke with a contractor who told him he thought that price was a little high.

He added, “That is what the Fire Department is asking from you—if we could get funds for four hydrants, installed this year.”

Councilman Aswell asked, “For this year or next (fiscal) year?”

“However your budget falls...we’ll take them when we can get them,”
Chief Bedell answered.

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting
April 3, 2012**

Page 11

“We may have some money left in this year’s budget and could take care of some of them now and some later,” said **Mayor Paschal**. “We can talk about that during our budget work session.”

“I will touch base with Mike Lemons, myself,” said **Mayor Paschal**, “and talk to him about taking bids...before we were getting those hydrants in for about \$2,500-\$2,700.00 I thought.”

“I know fuel is up, but it doesn’t take but so long to dig a hole...the line is not that far down...” said **Mayor Paschal**.

Chief Bedell said he had something else he wanted to mention: “I was doing a study... my main job is to try to get the fire rating as low as I can, and water is a main issue. Forty percent of the grade is water— what kind of water system do you have?”

“If there is any grant money that can be awarded to run water mains where there are none...for instance, Peach Tree and Blueberry Road down here, have no water main. It is here on 87.”

“The Fire Department is looking at grant money for fire hydrants, but if there is any way the Town can put water where we don’t have it, it would be a great thing, because where I am running 4 trucks to a call now, two of those trucks are just to haul water. The more water we can get out in the area, the better grade we can get. We are a Grade 7 at the Fire Station now...we went from a 9 to a 7, due to the hard work of the members of the Fire Department. I hope that before my tenure ends, I can get it to a 6 or 5. Every time we drop it, it is a reduction in insurance costs for the people living in the fire district.”

There were additional comments from Council and Chief Bedell regarding the water needs, cost to extend lines, and possible grants available.

Mayor Paschal said again that Council will take the Chief’s request into consideration during the Budget Work Session.

Chief Bedell said he would like to mention the tornado siren. He said the Fire Dept has two tones, and, “...if you hear an up and down tone, that is a fire call, and if you hear one that does not go up and down, a solid tone, that is a tornado warning, meaning that a Doppler system

has indicated a tornado warning or one on the ground, so I wanted to remind you and ask you to pass it along to the public.”

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting
April 3, 2012**

Page 12

Mayor Paschal thanked Chief Bedell and moved on to the next Agenda item—**Announcements**.

ARTICLE VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Museum & Archives of Rockingham County and Wentworth Presbyterian Church will host a **Spring Festival and Easter Egg Hunt** on **Saturday, April 7, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** at the Wright Tavern and Presbyterian Church.

Councilwoman Powell added, “That is going to be more than a Spring Festival...there will be a cake walk and an Easter bonnet parade, or contest.”

- The next regular meeting of the **Wentworth Planning Board** will be held in the Town Hall Council Chambers on **Tuesday, April 17, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.**
- There will be a **Garden Tour of Wentworth** on **Saturday, April 28th** from **9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** Tickets are available at the Wentworth Town Hall, and proceeds will be donated to the Arthritis Foundation.
- The next **regular meeting** of the **Wentworth Town Council** will be held in the Town Hall Council Chambers on **Tuesday, May 1, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.**
- **April 2012 is National County Government Month.** There will be a **Rockingham County Health Fair** on **Wednesday, April 4, 2012, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the National Guard Armory in Wentworth.**
- Congratulations to **Mayor Pro Tem Conner** upon completion of the Basic Skywarn Observation Course on March 8, 2012. Mayor Pro Tem Conner received a Certificate of Completion and is recognized as an **Official Skywarn Trained Observer.**

Mayor Pro Tem Conner asked the Town Clerk about the National Day of Prayer Observance. **Mrs. Ward** said there did not seem to be an official observance scheduled by the White House, and that she was wondering if Council wanted to have a Day of Prayer for the Town.

Council agreed that they would like to hold a special day of prayer and asked Mrs. Ward to bring a Resolution and plans to the May meeting.

ARTICLE IX. FIVE MINUTE RECESS

Mayor Paschal called for a five-minute recess prior to the Council's Budget Work Session.

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting
April 3, 2012**

Page 13

ARTICLE X. BUDGET WORK SESSION

Mayor Paschal called the meeting to order from recess, and began the Budget Work Session.

See the attached summary of the Budget Work Session, prepared by the Finance Officer.

(Note: The written summary provided for Council is attached hereto as part of these Minutes - Attachment D.)

As requested at the March work session, the Finance Officer presented to Council, different scenarios for an early payoff of the construction loan for the Town Hall.

After discussion on the different scenarios, and conversation about the extremely low rate of return on the Town's invested funds, **Councilman Aswell** made a motion, "*To proceed with Scenario 2 and make two extra loan payments per year.*"

This would result in a final payment to Fidelity Bank in 2014 as opposed to the scheduled payoff in August, 2017.

Mayor Paschal seconded the motion.

In discussion, council members agreed to make the additional payments if there are no emergency expenditures during the budget year, leaving sufficient fund balance at year-end for the additional loan payments.

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

Councilman Paschal asked Council about looking into paperless agenda packets, including laptops for council chambers, so that council members can view all the agenda information online during the meetings.

Mrs. Ward said the County has a rather expensive setup, including audio / voice-recognition software for the Minutes.

Council agreed that the Town would not have to have an elaborate system at this point in time, but asked the Clerk to investigate costs for basic technology.

In additional discussion during the Budget Work Session, Council asked the Clerk and Finance Officer to inquire about other municipalities' policies for "Funding Requests and/or Grants".

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting
April 3, 2012**

Page 14

ARTICLE XI. A D J O U R N

Councilman Aswell made a motion, *“That we adjourn.”*

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

Respectfully Submitted By: _____
Brenda Ward, Town Clerk

Approved: _____
Dennis Paschal, Jr.
Mayor