

---

---

**TOWN OF WENTWORTH  
MINUTES FOR  
THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 7, 2012  
7:00 P.M.**

---

---

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

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

**Council members absent:** Mayor Dennis Paschal

**A quorum was present.**

**Staff Present:** Brenda Ward, Town Administrator-Town Clerk / Tom Terrell, Attorney, and Deputy Travis Loftis

**ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Conner**

**ARTICLE II. INVOCATION: Councilwoman Iris Powell**

**ARTICLE III. Approval of August 7, 2012, Town Council Agenda**

**A. Requests & Petitions of Citizens**

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** noted that no one signed the Speaker Register to address Council, and asked for a motion to approve the August Agenda.

**Councilman Robert Aswell** made a motion, *“That we approve the Agenda as is.”*

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

**ARTICLE IV. Approval of Minutes**

▪ **Town Council Meeting on July 3, 2012**

Regarding the Town Council Meeting Minutes for July, **Councilwoman Powell** made a motion, *“That they be accepted as written.”*

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

**ARTICLE V. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Update on the Post Office**

**1. Submission of Preliminary Estimate from Alley Williams  
Carmen & King**

**(a) Consideration of Making a Formal Offer to USPS for  
Construction of a Town-owned Facility for Lease to the  
Postal Service**

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** introduced the first item of Old Business, explaining, “We have a preliminary estimate from Alley, Williams, Carmen & King. Brenda (Town Administrator) and Dennis (Mayor Paschal) met with the Postal Service and you have a quote, a proposal in your packet.”

“Tonight, we are not voting on the size (of a building). What we are voting on is to make a formal offer to the postal service for the Town to build a facility with space for the Wentworth Post Office, which would be leased to them.”

**Councilman Paschal** said he would like to ask the Town Administrator a question before a motion is made—“As I understand it, our current post office has been cut or is about to be cut to 4 hours a day?”

**Mrs. Ward** replied, “At first they were saying this would happen in 2013, but then I heard recently that it would be 2014, but as we all know, things could change any day...they do change every day.”

**Councilman Paschal** asked, “Is this going to have any bearing on that, if we...”

**Mrs. Ward** said, “We really don’t know. They (postal service personnel) listened to us, they seemed interested in the fact that *we* were even considering making an offer to build a building for them to lease. They were very nice about it and said if we wanted to make the offer again, they would send it up the ladder to the proper people. They still may turn us down, or they may not.”

**Councilman Aswell** commented, “I would hope that if we did get the new Post Office that it will be a 24-hour facility instead of just being open when the clerk is there.”

**Town of Wentworth  
Town Council Meeting  
August 7, 2012**

**Page 3**

**Mrs. Ward** replied, “The impression I got from them, unless things change, is that they would agree to lease the same amount of space as we have now, and not any more boxes than we have now.”

“What I’m saying”, **Councilman Aswell** explained, “is that it should be a 24-hour facility, where you can go in, day or night, to pick up your mail.”

“I don’t see why that wouldn’t be possible...after all, it would be in our building,” **Mrs. Ward** replied.

**Councilwoman Powell** expressed the desire for the town to be recognized as Wentworth and not Reidsville, “...because the rural route comes through here.”

“But would that change with a new post office?” asked **Councilman Aswell**.

“We still need our zip code,” said **Mayor Pro Tem Conner**.

“I don’t know why we are still under Reidsville as far as addresses are concerned anyway,” said **Councilwoman Powell**. “The first thing they said was, we had to have a zip code for a post office, and we have that.”

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** asked the Town Administrator, “Is that when we would poll the citizens?”

“We wouldn’t get an address change,” **Mrs. Ward** replied, “until we have the Postal Service survey the citizens, and I believe they say at least 51% of the citizens have to be in favor of changing the bottom-line delivery address to Wentworth instead of Reidsville.”

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** said she would like to make a motion, “*That we make a formal offer to the Postal Service for the Town to build a facility with space for the Wentworth Post Office, which would be leased to the Postal Service.*”

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

**ARTICLE V. OLD BUSINESS**

**B. Update on Lobby Floor**

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** commented, "It looks great...be sure you see it if you haven't had a chance to look at it...they did a good job."

**C. Consideration of Monetary Donation for Sponsorship of Permanent Exhibit Honoring Jeff & Betsy Penn's Chinqua-Penn Legacy**

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** recognized Councilman Paschal, III. for comments on this item of Old Business.

**Councilman Paschal** explained, "At the last council meeting when I brought this up, I suggested that we all look over the list and select something we would contribute to annually, something that would be displayed at the museum...our name would be posted with whichever item we decided upon. It is a five-year commitment, so you would pay the amount in the right column for five years, just so everybody knows. Did anyone look at anything in particular that you thought we could afford to do? There are some pretty inexpensive things on here."

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** said, "I think maybe the Karastan rug, since it was possibly made here..."

"I was thinking of something more permanent," said **Councilwoman Powell**. "They could just pick that up and carry it off somewhere."

"What do you mean, pick it up and carry it off?" asked **Councilman Paschal**. "This is going to be in the museum."

"They have an alarm system," **Mayor Pro Tem Conner** added.

**Councilwoman Powell** related an instance when a former county manager left his office in the courthouse and took some items with him.

**Councilman Paschal** explained, "Technically, this would be owned by the Historical Society, so if something were to happen with their lease at the courthouse or something like that, the Historical Society would retain the property...whichever item we sponsor."

**Councilwoman Powell** mentioned the rock picnic table and benches that were moved from Chinqua-Penn to the museum grounds, commenting, “Nobody could pick those up and take them off.”

“You’re right,” **Councilman Paschal** agreed.

The **Town Administrator** advised, “They did say that we would not have to start payments in this fiscal year since our budget is already set, if we wanted to wait until after June 2013, to make the first payment, if that makes any difference to you in making your decision.”

**Councilman Paschal** asked, “But could we go ahead and pay this year if we wanted to?”

“Oh yes,” replied **Mrs. Ward**.

**Councilwoman Powell** asked Councilman Paschal what he had in mind.

**Councilman Paschal** said, “I liked the rug...and the portraits, but they were kind of expensive.” He mentioned a monogrammed toilet set... “something no more than \$1500/year.”

**Councilman Paschal** asked Councilman Aswell and the Mayor Pro Tem if they had any other items in mind.

**Councilman Aswell** referenced “...the smaller items under number 36...two or three of those...”

**Councilwoman Powell** commented, “But they add up to almost what the big item (rug) is.”

There was additional discussion about the table, the hitching post, and the Karastan rug.

**Mrs. Ward** added, “I think perhaps there are some citizens who might like to purchase some of the smaller items, and leave the more expensive ones for organizations, or the Town, for instance.”

“That’s a good point,” **Councilman Paschal** replied.

**Councilman Paschal** pointed out the expense of the table and benches.

“We would not actually own the item or items we purchase,” **Councilman Paschal** commented. “They have already been purchased, but we are helping recover some of the cost to help the Museum and Archives. Out of all the things we have mentioned, is there any one item that we can all live with? I just think the benches and table are a bit expensive.”

Council continued their discussion and **Mrs. Ward** commented, “The rug would be inside where more people would probably notice it.”

“I like the idea of something *inside* the museum,” **Councilman Paschal** said, “so I’m going to make a motion, *that we sponsor the Karastan Rug for \$1500/year for five years, beginning this fiscal year.*”

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

## **ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Recognition of Deputy Travis Loftis for his Service to the Town of Wentworth**

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** asked **Deputy Travis Loftis**, “...who will be leaving the Sheriff’s Department...” to come forward.

**Deputy Loftis** was presented with a plaque, which **Mayor Pro Tem Conner** read for everyone:

*“In honor and appreciation of Deputy Travis Loftis, having served with the Rockingham County Sheriff’s Department, and as our Town Deputy; the Town of Wentworth appreciates your loyalty and service to the Sheriff’s Department and to the citizens of Wentworth, North Carolina. Gratefully, Wentworth Town Council and Staff. Presented this 7<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2012.”*

After a time of applause, **Councilman Aswell** commented, “Travis, I am sure Brenda and Yvonne really appreciate all the help you gave them with the Christmas Parade, too.”

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** added, “We have been very fortunate to have had three great, well-qualified deputies to serve the Town of Wentworth, and we appreciate it.”

**Councilman Paschal, III.** wished Deputy Loftis good luck and thanked him "...for all you've done here."

**ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

**B. Sheriff Sam Page: Update for Council and Wentworth Citizens**

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** recognized Sheriff Sam Page for the next item of New Business.

**Sheriff Page** began, "First of all, I would like to thank you for recognizing Travis. He's done a wonderful job. There are no guarantees in life...you hope things will last a long time, but things come up...we are trying to build our team and as soon as we get it right...I want to say that Travis has done a tremendous job. I've known his family for many years. Travis came to us from the Marine Corp, and law enforcement down in Roxboro area, Person County, and then came to us and has worked for us diligently for eight years, worked really hard. He has come through some adversities and bounced back from those adversities which a lot of guys couldn't do, because he laid his life on the line for us and today, because of the Lord, a lot of prayer and a lot of thought and a lot of support, he is here with us today. Again, we appreciate what he has done for us and for the Town."

**Sheriff Page** continued, "You know, I always try to bring you the best that I can, and then sometimes my best leaves and I have to find another best. I do want to say that we are losing a marine but we're gaining another marine."

**Sheriff Page** introduced **Deputy Bob Terry** and asked him to stand, saying, "I would like to introduce you to Deputy Terry, retired Sgt. Major, former Force Recon Sniper, working with the United States Marine Corp from 1980 to 2012. As I said, I'm losing a marine but gaining a marine...but again, Bob brings a lot to the table. I did ask Bob, 'Why did you select the Town of Wentworth as your home?'"

"Bob's wife has some ties to Mayodan, but he said he was riding around, looking, and kept seeing all these Marine Corp flags all over Wentworth, so he said, 'I've got to live there.'"

"Bob lives here with his daughter...who is a Junior at Rockingham County High School. He's married and his wife works in Reidsville at Doctor's Vision Center, and he has a few dogs, some horses, and a pot-bellied pig that is trained and house broken at eight weeks."

**Sheriff Page** continued, “I do want to welcome Bob because I believe he brings a lot to the table. We will be doing some continued training there, and again like I said, he has a lot of expertise and we’re glad to have him on board. He has been with us for a little over a year and I just want to welcome him and thank both of these fine young men.”

**Sheriff Page** added, “I do want to tell you one more thing—July 4<sup>th</sup>—I really enjoyed myself, and Chief (Lee Bedell/Wentworth VFD), I didn’t get a chance to get in on that water slide, but y’all had the nicest tent, you had a good attendance, I heard a lot of good things, and I’m looking forward to next year’s Fourth of July Celebration because I think it was great. We appreciate everything you do for us, the Sheriff’s office, and the relationship we have. If you need me, call upon me, and again, Mayor, all the Council, and Brenda, thank you.”

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** thanked Sheriff Page for coming.

**ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

**C. Consideration of Resolution to Enter Into an Offer to Purchase One Tract of Land on Peach Tree Road**

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** explained, “Council met in Closed Session at the July meeting and instructed the Town Administrator to make an offer of \$125,000 (one-hundred, twenty-five thousand dollars) to the owner, Mr. Ralph Campano, for 4.87 acres of land on Peach Tree Road near the Town Hall.”

“The owner has accepted our offer, and the Town Administrator has prepared this Resolution.”

**Councilman Paschal III** confirmed, “For the reasons listed in this Resolution, I make a motion *that we approve the Resolution to enter into an Offer to Purchase One Tract of Land on Peach Tree Road at a price of \$125,000 because this is in line with the fair market value of the property sold recently in the same general area.*”

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

**ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

**D. Consideration of Generator Service / Maintenance Agreement  
from Nixon Power Service Company, Charlotte, NC**

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** referred to the Maintenance Agreement in Council's packets and asked the Town Administrator, "Doesn't this company also service other generators in the area—the judicial center...and fire department, too?"

**Mrs. Ward** replied, "Yes, that's correct."

**Councilman Aswell** added, "Chief Bedell said our generator is the same one the Fire Department has."

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** made a motion, "*That Council approve the Maintenance Agreement provided by Nixon Power Service Company for our annual maintenance of the Town's generator.*"

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

**E. Consideration of Proposals for Town Attorney**

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** continued with the next item of New Business, explaining, "We have in our packets, three proposals. The first one is Smith Moore Leatherwood, Greensboro, North Carolina, the second one is from the law office of Cathy Stroupe, Reidsville NC and third, the law office of Fred Baggett, Raleigh, North Carolina."

**Attorney Tom Terrell** advised the Mayor Pro Tem, "You may choose, because this is a personnel decision, to do this in closed session under the Open Meetings Law. If you choose to do so in the open, which is also your prerogative, then I would ask permission to leave the room."

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** asked, "What is Council's pleasure?"

**Councilman Paschal, III** asked, "What have you usually done in the past?"

The **Town Administrator/Clerk** replied, “We have never had the occasion to go into Closed Session over personnel issues and usually just handle attorney contracts in open session. Y’all have had these (proposals) for some time now, so I don’t know how much discussion there may be, but Tom, if you would like to leave, maybe that would be best...”

**Attorney Terrell** commented, “I think that would be the appropriate thing, for me to leave the room, so if you will excuse me...”

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** opened the floor for discussion.

**Councilman Paschal III** said, “After looking through the proposals, we have been with Smith Moore Leatherwood for awhile. They are one of the best law firms in the state as far as I am concerned, when it comes to municipalities and land use law. They have an extensive background and they have an extensive army, so to speak, of backup, if we were for some reason to wind up in some kind of lawsuit. Tom is, hands down, one of the best land use attorneys in the state and we would have him at our disposal.”

He continued, “While I think Mr. Baggett has done an excellent job for the Town, I have some concerns about him operating independently from Raleigh and not having the additional resources available to us that we would have by remaining with Smith Moore Leatherwood. As far as what I’ve seen, they have provided very competent attorneys for the Town and have represented the Town well. I think they are well worth what we would be paying them for their expertise.”

**Councilman Paschal** urged other council members to make their comments as well, and **Mayor Pro Tem Conner** asked Councilman Aswell and Councilwoman Powell if they had anything they wanted to say.

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** remarked, “Fred (Baggett) was once with Smith Moore and they are one of the top firms in the state.”

**Councilman Paschal III** added, “If Fred was still with Smith Moore Leatherwood, we would be happy to still have him here. I think he is a great attorney, but I think to have the firm behind whoever the attorney is, means a lot.”

**Councilwoman Powell** commented, “He (Tom Terrell) is going to be keeping up with the laws and all of them will for a long time...that’s another reason we need them.”

“That’s a good point, Iris,” replied **Councilman Paschal**. “They are going to be very up-to-date with what is going on.”

**Councilman Paschal** asked the Town Administrator, “Are we already in a contract with Smith Moore for this Fiscal Year...?”

**Mrs. Ward** advised, “We were in the process of revisiting the contract when Fred resigned, so actually, they have just continued on until we decided what we want to do. At first, Smith Moore didn’t think they had anyone else on their staff that they could spare, so we put the notice out requesting proposals. Later on, they decided they did have someone, so I asked them to submit their proposal.”

With that said, **Councilman Paschal** said, “*I would like to make a motion that we approve the contract with Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP, out of Greensboro, North Carolina.*”

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

Deputy Loftis brought Attorney Terrell back into the Council Chambers and **Mrs. Ward** said, “Congratulations!”

**ARTICLE VII. PUBLIC COMMENT** (No one signed the Speaker Register)

**ARTICLE VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Everyone is invited to the “**Grand Opening**” of the **Museum and Archives of Rockingham County** (MARC) on Saturday, August 11, 2012, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- The **Wentworth Planning Board**’s regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, August 21, 2012, 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, September 4, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.
- The Town of Wentworth will host the **Rockingham County League of Local Governments Dinner Meeting** on Monday, September 17, 2012, at the MARC (old courthouse); Social and Networking at 6:00 p.m. and Dinner/Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** asked the Town Administrator if she wanted to “mention the refreshments at the back”.

**Mrs. Ward** said, “The refreshments are in honor of Deputy Loftis, and the sign was back there, to let you know that you could help yourself before, during, or after the meeting.”

**Attorney Tom Terrell** asked Mayor Pro Tem Conner if he could say something before the meeting adjourned...“I assume ‘congratulations’ means you approved us...”

“Yes sir,” everyone replied.

**Mr. Terrell** continued, “This Council may know that my firm represents some very large governments. Currently, as we speak, I am representing the City of High Point on a large matter...Nash County... and I represent the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation, and this (Wentworth) is the smallest, but I’ve got to tell you, I enjoy coming up here more than any place. I’ve said this, I know, to Robert and others, and Brenda...it’s almost like going into a Norman Rockwell painting where everybody has the best of intentions and serve their community. I just feel good...I was the...interim attorney for Guilford County, I’ve been in so many places where there was dysfunction, but here...everyone gets along and I thank you for the opportunity for our firm to do this.”

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** said Council is also thankful for Smith Moore Leatherwood’s assistance in the past.

**ARTICLE IX. A D J O U R N**

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** made a motion, “*That the meeting be adjourned.*”

**Councilwoman Powell** seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the August 7, 2012, Wentworth Town Council Meeting was adjourned.

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

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