
**TOWN OF WENTWORTH
MINUTES FOR
THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 5, 2012
7:00 P.M.**

The Wentworth Town Council held its regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, June 5, 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, and Councilwoman Iris Powell

Council members absent: Councilman Dennis Paschal III.

A quorum was present.

Staff Present: Brenda Ward, Town Administrator & Town Clerk / Yvonne Russell, Finance Officer & Deputy Clerk / and Captain Perry Brookshire attended in Deputy Travis Loftis' absence.

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Dennis Paschal

ARTICLE II. INVOCATION: Councilwoman Iris Powell

ARTICLE III. Approval of June 5, 2012, Town Council Agenda

A. Requests & Petitions of Citizens

Mayor Paschal noted that Beth Robertson of 3020 Ashley Loop in Wentworth, signed up to speak about the Wentworth Garden Tour.

Mayor Paschal made a motion, *"That we add her to the Agenda under Public Comments, Article VIII, and approve the Agenda."*

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

ARTICLE IV. Approval of Minutes

▪ **Town Council Meeting on May 1, 2012**

Regarding the Town Council Meeting Minutes for May, **Councilman Robert Aswell** made a motion, *"That they be approved as written."*

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

ARTICLE V. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Submission / Adoption of Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2012-2013

Mayor Paschal called the Public Hearing to order, "...for Submission and Adoption of the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2012-2013."

He noted that no one signed the Speaker Register for the Public Hearing, and added, "Everyone has a copy and we have worked on it quite a bit. Unless someone has some changes I would like to make a motion *that we adopt the Budget Ordinance for fiscal Year 2012-2013 that we have here before us.*"

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

The Public Hearing was closed and **Mayor Paschal** moved on to Old Business.

ARTICLE VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on Post Office

Mayor Paschal advised, "Brenda and myself are going over to meet with Ms. Tinort at the Greensboro office. We had asked for a meeting and we will be going over on the 13th to talk with them about a new post office here in Wentworth. We can give you an update at the next meeting. Everybody wish us luck."

ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Budget Amendment No. 4 for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 / Yvonne Russell, Finance Officer

Mayor Paschal acknowledged the Finance Officer, **Yvonne Russell**, who advised, "This fourth budget amendment is the final budget amendment of the year, hopefully. These will be adjustments to bring the budget in line with our year-end estimates. Your memo explains each line item under the revenues that have been decreased or increased."

“The Debt Service is being increased by \$57,327.00. During our Budget Work Session, we discussed paying off our construction loan early, and you voted to make two extra loan payments per year if funds are available, so that’s what this is for.”

Ms. Russell continued, “The Transportation line item has been decreased by \$100,000.00 in addition to the Fund Balance Appropriation of \$100,000.00 being eliminated. This is due to the Rockingham County Commissioners declaring that project inactive, the NC 87/65 intersection improvements.”

“The amended total budget dollars are \$590,096.00.”

Mayor Paschal thanked Ms. Russell and asked if anyone had questions.

Councilman Aswell made a motion, “*That we approve Budget Amendment No. 4 for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.*”

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

Article VII. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

B. Consideration of a Petition for Voluntary Annexation of Contiguous Area

- **Charles E. Cooke and wife, Barbara T. Cooke / 136
Hearthstone Trail, Reidsville NC 27320**

- (1) A Resolution Directing the Town Clerk to Investigate a Petition Received Under G.S. 160A-31**
- (2) Certificate of Sufficiency**
- (3) A Resolution to Establish a Public Hearing Date for Voluntary Contiguous Annexation Pursuant to G.S. 160A-31**

Mayor Paschal introduced the next item of New Business, advising, “We have before us a petition submitted by Barbara T. Cooke and Charles E. Cooke for Voluntary Annexation of a Contiguous Area. This property is located at 136 Hearthstone Trail, right off NC Highway 65 near Hancock Road.”

“We need to adopt a Resolution Directing the Town Clerk to investigate the petition at which time she will certify the sufficiency of the petition.”

Mayor Paschal then made a motion, “That we adopt the Resolution I have referenced along with the Resolution to Establish a Public Hearing Date, set for Tuesday, July 3rd at 7:00 p.m. here at the Town Hall.”

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

Article VII. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

B. Consideration of Audit Contract from Rouse, Rouse, Penn and Rouse, LLP

Previous Fiscal Year Fee: **\$6,865.00**
Proposed for FY 2011-2012: **\$7,210.00**

Mayor Paschal said he thought the figures were in line with what Mr. Rouse proposes every year...

Mrs. Ward agreed, “Yes, and Yvonne usually adds in about five percent to the budget every year to cover the increase.”

Mayor Paschal said, “I think the audits have been going well and Mr. Rouse seems to do a good job.”

Ms. Russell added, “They always have more they have to do each year, based on LGC and GASB, they usually have more work that they have to do and documentation each year, so I don’t think it’s unreasonable.”

“Instead of less red tape, there’s more red tape each year,” **Mayor Paschal** said.

Mayor Paschal then made a motion, “*That we approve the audit contract from Rouse, Rouse, Penn and Rouse, for Fiscal Year...the next Fiscal Year, what is this one? We have 2011-2012 on here, which threw me off a little bit. Okay, so it’s for 2012-2013.*”

Councilwoman Conner seconded the motion.

Mayor Paschal asked for any discussion.

Ms. Ward said, “The audit fee is for auditing our records from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. That’s why I used Fiscal Year 2011-2012.”

Ms. Russell said, “And the fee for the audit comes from the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year budget.”

Everyone seemed to be on the same page and voted in favor of approving the audit contract.

Article VII. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

D. Consideration of Adoption of a Resolution Approving the Revised Rockingham County Solid Waste Management Plan: 2012 - 2022

Mayor Paschal explained, “This is a ten-year plan and has to go before the County Commissioners, and will not be taken up by them until their next meeting. We would not be meeting after that or before the June 30th deadline for approval, so we are taking it up tonight and will ratify at our July meeting. I will read it to you, because it explains what is taking place.”

Mayor Paschal read the Resolution for everyone.

(Note: See Attachment A, attached hereto as part of these Minutes.)

Mayor Paschal then made a motion, “*That we approve the Rockingham County Solid Waste Management Plan.*”

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

E. Consideration of Funding Request from Rockingham County High School Football Boosters - \$500.00 for Academic Excellence Award

- Andy Skrobola

Mayor Paschal invited **Mr. Andy Skrobola**, representing the Rockingham County Football Boosters Club, to address Council.

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting
June, 2012**

Page 6

Mr. Skrobola thanked Council and commented, “Earlier this year the Football Boosters created an academic scholarship to recognize excellence in the classroom amongst its football team. It is a \$500.00 non-repeating scholarship given to the graduating high school football senior with the best class rank.”

“That way,” said Mr. Skrobola, “there would be no...discussion about favoritism or anything else. It takes all the academics into play, when you use the individual’s class rank.”

“What we are asking is, if you could match what the Football Boosters have done here. We feel it is very important to award academic excellence in the classroom. I will give you an example...as with this particular individual who received the award this year. He is a three-year letterman in football, he received three other letters in athletics other than football. He is a National Beta Club recipient, National Honor Society, and actually graduated 12th in his class. A very good representation of the football team.”

Mr. Skrobola explained further, “The money that we have given goes directly to the tuition account of the student, to the school he will be attending in the fall. That way, there is no misrepresentation of the funds or what’s going to happen to the money. Whatever school the individual decides to attend, that’s where we will send that check.”

He added, “Rockingham County High School has always been at somewhat of a disadvantage. Eden, Reidsville, McMichael—they have all had communities to lean on for requests to help out academics. Until recently, Rockingham County High has had no one. We have had to solicit help from other areas.”

“Now, with Wentworth being a town, we are hoping that we can get some help to forward the academics for these students as they go on to school. I realize, though, that in today’s economy, this is a lot of money, but when you look at the cost of college tuition, it really isn’t much, but every little bit helps.”

Mr. Skrobola said he would be glad to answer any questions.

Mayor Paschal asked, “You have already awarded the \$500.00?”

Mr. Skrobola said, “Yes, we have a winner that was named on Senior Night, and it was determined strictly by class rank.”

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting
June 5, 2012**

Page 7

Councilwoman Powell asked, “Do you know who won?”

“Yes, I do,” said **Mr. Skrobola**, “and he has received a plaque to signify that and when this individual goes off to school, we will send the check. We feel this is a good program and that athletes need to be recognized for their academic excellence...a lot of the time they are stereotyped as being just athletes and not recognized for their academic prowess.”

Mayor Paschal asked, “Who was the winner?”

Mr. Skrobola replied, “The winner is Will Skrobola. He graduated with a 4.2 grade point average and he is going to Clemson in the fall, but will not be playing sports.”

Mayor Paschal asked, “Will this be something that y’all will be doing every year?”

“Yes, it is something that we are going to repeat year after year,” said **Mr. Skrobola**. “Again, he would only receive the \$500.00 this one time. Then, next year we would have another winner and continue on, but this winner would not continually receive it...it’s a one-time, non-repeating scholarship for this individual.”

Mr. Skrobola added, “We have looked at the list of some of the kids coming along, and we think that in the not too distant future, we may actually have a valedictorian receive this award from us.”

Councilman Aswell asked, “If we match the \$500.00 tonight, will he get that in the fall also?”

“That is up to you guys,” **Mr. Skrobola** replied. “If you would like that to happen this fall, it would be great; or, if you would like to draw into next year, that is fine, too. Any help will be appreciated and I know it will be appreciated by the parents and the players themselves. But, yes, that would be okay...you can donate the money to the Boosters and we can see that it goes that way, or we can give you the pertinent information at the university and you can send it there. However you prefer to do it.”

Councilman Aswell said he would like to make a motion, “*That we match the Booster Club’s \$500.00 and let it be for this year.*”

Mayor Paschal seconded the motion and asked for any discussion.

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

Councilman Aswell suggested that a representative from the Boosters Club come before Council, “a little earlier next year before we work on our budget.”

Mr. Skrobola agreed saying, “We could come back maybe in March...that timeline, since graduation is in May. At that point, we could even ask one of you to come and be a part of the presentation, up on stage with us.”

ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

F. Clarification on Status of Council Members’ Volunteering to Serve on Town Committees—Will the council member be *one of the five members on a committee (per the bylaws) or will he/she serve in addition to the five?*

Mayor Paschal commented, “As far as voting on a committee goes, if you add another person (to the five members) for a total of six, you could have ties...so it seems like the thing to do would be to make them one of the five members on the committee.”

Councilman Aswell said, “Or they could not be a voting member...”

Mayor Paschal said, “If someone is going to take the time to be on the committee and serve, they will probably want to have a vote.”

“Unless someone has a problem with it,” **Mayor Paschal** said, “I would like to make a motion *that the council member would be one of the five members, per the bylaws we have now.*”

Mayor Pro Tem Conner seconded the motion.

Mayor Paschal asked for discussion.

Councilman Aswell asked the Clerk if any of the Town Committees have five members.

.

Ms. Ward replied, "The Historic Preservation Committee and the Appearance Committee have five. What we need are members for the Recreation Committee, so if anyone wants to volunteer for that one, let me know. We have some applications in the back."

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

ARTICLE VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS (SPEAKER REGISTER)

The **Mayor** invited **Beth Robertson** to address Council.

Mrs. Robertson said, "I want to thank y'all for allowing me to be here tonight. I just wanted to come back and give you an update. I came in January and told you about an idea for a Garden Tour of Wentworth, which was April 28th, and I saw most of you there and all of you contributed, and I really appreciate that."

Mrs. Robertson advised that \$3,657.50 was collected and donated to the Arthritis Foundation. She said the average attendance was 146 people per home, in spite of the cool weather.

"It was a great turnout for a great cause," said **Mrs. Robertson**. "The Arthritis Foundation has praised us. Several had asked, 'where is Wentworth?' so they know where Wentworth is now. They were really thankful and I received several nice emails."

"Our committee met about a week after the event to talk about what we did well and what we need to do better next year, so there *will* be a Garden Tour of Wentworth next year. Again, I will ask for your support when we do it again next year, but I mainly wanted to thank you."

"You are welcome and we thank you for all your hard work," **Mayor Paschal** replied.

ARTICLE IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The **Wentworth Planning Board's** Regularly Scheduled Meeting is **Tuesday, June 19, 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, July 3, 2012, at 7:00 P.M.**

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting
June 5, 2012**

Page 10

- There will be an “**Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration**” at Rockingham Community College on **Wednesday, July 4th, 2012**, from **2:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

Note: Event sponsored by the Town of Wentworth, RCC & the Museum & Archives of Rockingham County.

Ms. Ward added, “We do have some vendor applications at the back if anyone is interested in having a booth or in participating in one of the contests.

ARTICLE X. A D J O U R N

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

Councilman Aswell seconded the motion. All voted in favor to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted By: _____
Brenda Ward, Town Clerk

Approved: _____
Dennis Paschal, Jr.
Mayor