
**TOWN OF WENTWORTH
MINUTES FOR
THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2013
7:00 P.M.**

The Wentworth Town Council held its regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, February 5, 2013**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Council members present: Mayor Dennis Paschal, Jr., Councilman Robert Aswell, Councilwoman Iris Powell, and Councilman Dennis Paschal III.

Council members absent: Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Conner, due to illness.

A quorum was present.

Staff Present: Brenda Ward, Town Administrator-Town Clerk / Attorney Pat Kane, and Finance Officer, Yvonne Russell

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Dennis Paschal, Jr.

ARTICLE II. INVOCATION: Mayor Paschal

ARTICLE III. Approval of February 5, 2013, Town Council Agenda

A. Requests & Petitions of Citizens

Mayor Paschal advised of changes to the February Agenda and made a motion to, *“Amend the Agenda and remove Item 2, Old Business—Wentworth Community Building. We won’t address that tonight. Add Timber Benninga to the Speaker Register under New Business, Item A—Consideration of Funding Request of \$2500 for SADD; also adding Item E.—Consideration of an Application for the Town of Wentworth Recreation Committee; and, Item F.—Consideration of Repairs to rental property at 8286 NC 87, next to the Town Hall.”*

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

ARTICLE IV. Approval of Minutes

Mayor Paschal asked if there were any corrections to the Minutes of the **January 8, 2013 Town Council Meeting**.

Councilman Robert Aswell made a motion, “That we approve them as written.”

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

ARTICLE V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Installation of Fire Hydrants: Dan River Water, Inc.

Mayor Paschal said Staff has advised that a Budget Amendment was not needed for the fire hydrants, and noted, “The installations are complete and the actual cost was \$19,635.75.”

The **mayor** asked the Town Administrator to update Council on the remaining items.

B. UPDATES:

1. Campano Property on Peach Tree Road

Mrs. Ward advised, “**Brian Byrd, Attorney** with Smith, Moore, Leatherwood, has been working with us to complete the paperwork on the purchase of Mr. Campano’s property behind us here on Peach Tree Road. He sent me an email on January 24th and said the only open item in connection with that closing is the final title policy which they have not yet received.”

“**Mr. Byrd** noted that as soon as he receives that document, he will send a package to us containing all of the closing documents and the recorded Deed.”

2. Wentworth Community Building (*Removed from Agenda*)

3. Post Office

Mrs. Ward commented, “I’m sure most of you saw the big bold headline in the Reidsville Review saying, ‘**District OKs Post Office**’, but unfortunately, as we all know, they can approve it all day long at the District level, but that doesn’t mean it will be approved at the next level...we’ll just have to wait and see.”

Mrs. Ward said she, “...spoke this morning to Monica Robbs, who is in Corporate Communications for the Greensboro and Mid-Carolinas District. She did not have an update for me, other than saying she sent an email to the Real Estate Office Specialist and that he had not responded yet.”

“I guess our new hours at the Wentworth Post Office will be starting soon, and we don’t know what effect that is going to have on the customer base there,” **Mrs. Ward** said.

Mrs. Ward asked if Council had any questions.

Councilman Paschal asked, “Did they give you any kind of timeline on how long...?”

“No, they did not,” replied **Mrs. Ward**, “and I knew it wouldn’t do any good to ask.”

Councilwoman Powell commented, “It’s already been thirty-some years.”

“We’ll eventually get there, I guess,” **Mayor Paschal** added.

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration of Funding Request (\$2,500) from Rockingham County High School for Students against Destructive Decisions (SADD)

Mayor Paschal asked **Timber Beeninga** to address Council on behalf of the SADD Club.

Ms. Beeninga introduced two other students who came with her—Kaitlyn Ross and Kasie Jones.

Ms. Beeninga explained, “SADD Club will provide an after-prom-breakfast for students. Parents will be in charge of food and preparation and clean-up, and parents, teachers, and the SRO will be present.”

The next student added, “Funds will go toward securing the Golden Corral on Freeway Drive, and will provide our breakfasts and Prom-Promise T-shirts for the students...also covers cost of prom events and activities after the prom.”

The last student advised, “This event will provide a safe environment for students after the prom, keeping them off the road and giving them a positive alternative for the evening.”

The students thanked Council for letting them speak.

Mayor Paschal asked Council if they had any questions.

Councilman Paschal asked, “This is a funding request for next year...we’ve already approved (SADD) for this year, correct?”

“That is correct,” the **Town Administrator** replied. “I explained that you all will take this up when you have a Budget Work Session. They just wanted to be sure they got it to you in time (for budget planning).”

Mayor Paschal said, “We’ve enjoyed working with y’all. You’ve always done a good job. Thank you a lot.”

Councilman Paschal thanked the students for coming, “...to ask for the funds in person. So many people ask for funds but don’t ever come to let us know exactly what is going on.”

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS - Continued

B. Discussion on Acceptance of Sidewalk Maintenance Agreement (NCDOT)

RE: New sidewalks along NC 65 near the Wentworth Area Post Office and the Museum and Archives of Rockingham County (MARC); also, the Removal of Shrubs for Sidewalk Construction

- **Councilman Aswell & Kim Proctor, Museum Director**

Mayor Paschal recognized **Councilman Aswell** and **Kim Proctor**.

Mrs. Proctor came forward to address Council.

“**Councilman Aswell** and I met last week—last Tuesday—with **Bobby Norris** of NCDOT, and **Jesse Day** with the Piedmont Triad Regional Council and the Rockingham County Pathways Plan.”

“We talked about the sidewalk project. I know you are familiar with that. So, we met and looked at what they were proposing, what they plan to do. They only have conceptual drawings at this point, so I couldn’t bring you anything, but I can tell you what is involved.”

“They plan to lay a curb and gutter sidewalk from Councilwoman Powell’s driveway, to just past the Arts Council going west, so their whole front entrance is covered.”

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Mrs. Proctor continued, “Then, on the opposite side from the far edge of the 1910 jail to the east edge of our property at Wright Tavern.”

“We are really fortunate the DOT came in last year and got involved, and found the funding for us to do this. Of course, you are familiar with your obligations in terms of maintenance of the sidewalks and clearing the line of sight. The line of sight is a big issue down there.”

“What they are also putting in is a crosswalk. It solves the safety issue as they will be putting in flashing lights there. I know you all have seen, especially coming from the west, you go several miles from Madison before you come to Wentworth...your mind may be somewhere else...and folks don’t slow down in that 25 miles-per-hour zone. They used to when the Sheriff’s Department was there, maybe that was a deterrent, but it’s not that way anymore.”

“We had 1400 kids come through when the Smithsonian exhibit was here and we had to walk across from the Wright Tavern to the museum and then back across again, because this is a historic complex, you know.”

Mrs. Proctor added, “We really need to make sure that folks can get back and forth across there. When we do have events, the Sheriff’s Department has been very helpful. We have a number of senior citizens, too, who go back and forth, so I think it is a really important project.”

Addressing the second part of this item, *the removal of shrubs*, **Mrs. Proctor** explained, “The component of line of sight—we have Judge Allen’s house/office and he was at the meeting, too. We also have Wright Tavern, and on the street-side of the mock Lemon (tree/shrub) in the parking lot that we share with the post office, and Judge Allen’s bushes on the front of his house, impede the line of sight, so they have to come out. **Judge Allen** was very responsive to this and we were glad to have that positive response.”

“The hedge row, which is very tall, runs between the Wright Tavern and his house. That has to come out all the way back to our Crepe Myrtle. It will line up with our Crepe Myrtle and the full front of his house. When you imagine it, it really does open that space up and help you to travel through there a little more safely.”

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Mrs. Proctor advised, “Part of the reason that **Jesse Day** was there is because they are looking at connecting the RCC trail and eventually Chinqua-Penn and all through this area with the Pathways plan.”

“Since I’ve been here, I have told you this many times—I really want to see Wentworth not just be the governmental center of the county, but also the cultural and arts center. I think the museum really helps makes that happen. We have the Arts Council there, and the Fine Arts Festival Association has just taken offices in the museum.”

“We really are working in partnership to bring art and history and other alternatives to the area, and to make sure our kids are safe and educated and that they find places that will interest them more than video games.”

“Is there anything else I should cover?” **Mrs. Proctor** asked **Councilman Aswell**, who replied, “Just the proposal we have from Chris Witherspoon.”

“Yes, we do have a proposal from **Chris Witherspoon** to do that line of sight work. That estimate is \$700.00, but we have a line on an estimate that may be lower. I talked to Sy Rothrock. Many of you probably know Sy. He is our general contractor on work we have done at the museum and at the Wright Tavern. He said, ‘I’ll bring my tractor and we’ll get those shrubs out of there, if we can pay Milton Hundley to be my assistant.’”

Mrs. Proctor said, “Milton has a good reputation...he does a lot of landscaping work here and throughout the county. He is well-known throughout the community and has done work for us at Wright Tavern. I do not have that estimate yet. I am waiting on it, but I will be glad to forward it to Brenda so you have that alternative, should you want it. On the other hand, Chris does my yard, he does the Presbyterian church down there and I’m sure he would be just as invested in the project as Milton Hundley would, so I leave it to your choice, of course.”

She asked if Council had any questions or comments.

Councilwoman Powell asked Mrs. Proctor if the Department of Transportation could do anything about the runoff from the courthouse parking lot (museum) so that the water would not run down into her yard.

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Mrs. Proctor replied, “They’re going to look at that...they have looked at the water box...I think that’s the right term...that is underneath the front parking spaces at the Presbyterian Church, and they think they can use that. We have a major problem at the Wright Tavern from the runoff and it goes all the way to the back of the property and the cellar that we have down there with a fireplace, is one of the earliest parts of Wright Tavern, and it has been flooded for years.”

Mrs. Proctor suggested that **Councilwoman Powell** come to the next meeting with NCDOT, “...so we can have that conversation with them.”

Mrs. Ward advised that **Councilwoman Powell** attended the very first meeting with NCDOT, and explained, “I was out of town when the last meeting occurred and I did not think to let **Councilwoman Powell** know about it, but yes, she does need to be at the next one.”

Mrs. Proctor concluded, “There is no harm in asking them...the project has been approved and funding has been approved, pending you all’s decision concerning maintenance and line of sight issues.”

“If I could just get in a little publicity here,” **Mrs. Proctor** added, “...Fox 8 is covering the museum pretty aggressively now. They came in today and did two interviews—one on the law enforcement collection that came in. It will air tomorrow at 7:30 in the morning and then again at 5:00 p.m. in the evening.”

“They were so impressed with the museum that they filmed another interview that will show up in two weeks. So, we’re getting Wentworth’s name out there.”

“We also have snow codes so that when there is snow they announce that the museum will be closed, and people will say, “Umm, I didn’t know there is a museum there.”

Mrs. Proctor thanked the Council for allowing her the time to, “talk about all that is going on.”

Mayor Paschal thanked Mrs. Proctor and addressed Council. “We have talked about having to do maintenance on sidewalks but of course, all we have here is a sample of an agreement from another municipality.”

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The **mayor** asked the Town Attorney, “We may have to ask you to draw something up, but at this point in time, can we just say that we will do the maintenance on it and approve this other (removal of shrubs)?”

Attorney Pat Kane replied, “I think that is okay. The one thing that jumped out at me...is there anything from DOT in writing, regarding the line of sight issue, that assures that this will be sufficient to create the necessary line of sight that will satisfy them. What I wouldn’t want to see happen is, without something written down, the Town would go through the process of clearing out 15 feet of shrubs and then they say, ‘Oh no, we really needed to take out 18 feet, now that we see it.’”

He asked, “Has the DOT given anything other than...**Councilman Aswell**, you met with them...”

“No written word,” replied **Councilman Aswell**. “We just met with them and they showed us what they wanted done. Judge Allen agreed that we could take the shrubs out there next to the house, completely. We agreed to take the big shrubbery back 15 feet.”

The **Town Administrator** commented, “This is preliminary to their drawings, I guess, because they don’t have those yet.”

“So this is to be done before they can determine what else has to be done?” asked **Attorney Kane**.

Councilman Aswell said, “Well, no, because they are sure this is all that needs to be removed.”

“There are no other shrubs and nothing else in the way there,” added **Mrs. Proctor**.

“Okay, I understand what you are saying now,” said **Attorney Kane**.

Mayor Paschal commented, “In the end, we are going to foot the bill for it no matter what. If they have to go another four or five feet or whatever, we will end up having to take care of it.”

Attorney Kane said, “I just thought that if you could get it done in one full sweep as opposed to piece-meal, that would be better.”

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“True,” said **Mayor Paschal**. “If they come up with something else that Stan (Judge Allen) does have a problem with, that’s different. They have mentioned the shrubs from the beginning, but if they start moving on over towards his front porch or something like that, he may have a problem with it.”

“Especially if they start pulling up those big shrubs with large roots and mess up the foundation somehow,” said **Councilwoman Powell**.

Mayor Paschal and **Councilman Aswell** said they didn’t think that would cause a problem.

Councilman Paschal said, “I think the point **Mr. Kane** is trying to make is that before we do it, we have something in writing saying that is DOT’s formal recommendations to us.”

“Yes,” said **Attorney Kane**. If it is between you, **Mayor**, or **Brenda** or **Councilman Aswell**, since he has been the one communicating with them, something that just confirms this is what we need to do in order to go forward, at your recommendation. That is an easy thing to do.”

Mayor Paschal said, “Sounds like it will have to be when they get them (shrubs) up and they finalize the plans that we will know for sure at that point in time...”

The **mayor** asked, “What about a motion to proceed with drawing up the agreement between the Town and the State so they can get everything going, and we can approve it at a later date?”

Attorney Kane replied, “Sure, absolutely.”

The **Town Administrator** commented, “I think they really just wanted to be sure that we understand that the maintenance of the sidewalks will be our responsibility and that we are willing to sign the agreement to do so.”

“But we don’t have anything to approve so we can’t vote to approve anything tonight. They will have to go on faith also,” said **Mayor Paschal**.

Councilman Aswell said, “They may have a maintenance agreement.”

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The **Town Administrator** replied, "They do have standard agreements. Fred Baggett (former town attorney) showed me one back when we were planning the new intersection at NC 87/65 for the judicial center, but the Minutes of this meeting will reflect that Council seems to be okay with the Town assuming maintenance of the sidewalks, pending final approval of the written agreement."

Mayor Paschal, addressing **Mrs. Proctor**, suggested, "As far as our approving the quote for removal of the shrubs, we'll just hold off until you get us the estimate from the other gentleman, especially if some folks want to come down there and help. We may be able to save some money."

Mayor Paschal made a motion, "*That we proceed to have an agreement drawn up between the Town and the State (NCDOT) for maintenance of the sidewalks there, and have our attorney take a look and get it back to us so we can proceed.*"

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

Councilman Aswell asked, "Do we still need to get something in writing from DOT about the sight distance?"

Mayor Paschal replied, "I am hoping they will go ahead and do that but they can't until we get the shrubs removed. As soon as we get that quote back (from Mrs. Proctor), we can move ahead, as far as taking the best price. The amount should be well under the amount that can be approved at Staff level, so that would allow them to go ahead with it."

"We never know what is going to happen. I hope there are no problems but if we end up with a line of sight problem and they start moving closer one direction or another, we will have to go back to Judge Allen," **Mayor Paschal** added.

Councilman Aswell assured the mayor, "What they have talked about removing, is all that's there, anyway."

As an afterthought, **Mayor Paschal** commented, “As far as the flashing light they are going to install, when you have big groups down there, you will probably still have to have someone there helping them across, because people don’t pay a lot of attention to flashing lights.”

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

C. Consideration of Current Contracts—New Requests for Quotations (RFQ/Bids)

- 1. Lawn Care Services (with & without snow removal, etc.)**
- 2. Janitorial Services**
- 3. Building Maintenance**

Mayor Paschal asked the **Town Administrator** to comment.

Mrs. Ward said she added this item to the Agenda because several people had inquired about when the Town would be considering new contracts.

She explained, “I didn’t know if that is something you want to consider doing now, or if you want to wait until the new Town Administrator comes and let them review the contracts with you, or do you want to leave everything as it is for the time being?”

Mrs. Ward asked the Finance Officer if she could recall when any of the contracts are up.

Mrs. Russell said the housekeeping and lawn care contracts are up in September and added, “There is a 60-day written notification requirement to terminate them.”

Mayor Paschal said, “Let’s take this up at the July meeting...”

Attorney Kane reminded Council that with the sixty-day termination requirement, they need to consider the time to advertise and collect the bids.

Mayor Paschal made a motion, “*To table Item C—Consideration of Current Contracts, until the May meeting.*”

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

D. Consideration of Approval for Finance Officer/Deputy Clerk to Attend Upcoming Schools:

- 1. NC Finance Officers’ Spring Conference – Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Research Triangle Park, Durham, NC (\$125 Registration Fee + Mileage and/or Hotel)**
- 2. Clerks’ Certification Institute – UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC (\$1900 Fee + Mileage and/or Hotel)**
 - Feb. 18-22, 2013**
 - May 6-10, 2013**
 - July 22-26, 2013**
 - October 21-25, 2013**

Mayor Paschal asked the **Town Administrator** to comment on the request for school attendance.

Mrs. Ward said she has no problem with Mrs. Russell attending the Finance Officer’s Conference—“It is only two days in March.”

She added, “We also talked about the four classes that are a week long, one week in each of the months listed.. I had some concerns about the timing—if it was a good time for her to be out of the office in case we did hire a new Town Administrator and I would be doing some training there. But Yvonne said she had thought about it and concluded that it may be better to go now than later on, leaving a new person in the office alone. So, it is really up to y’all. I’ll work around it either way.”

Mayor Paschal said the four-weeks were spread out, “which should help. He then made a motion, *“That we approve the Finance Officer / Deputy Clerk to attend the upcoming schools—the Finance Officers’ Conference and the Clerks’ Certification school.”*

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

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

**E. Consideration of Application for Town of Wentworth
Committees—Recreation Committee**

**1. Mr. William (Bill) Sinclair
1420 County Home Road
Wentworth NC**

Mayor Paschal asked if anyone had any questions. There were none.

Councilman Paschal made a motion, *“That we approve William (Bill) Sinclair’s application to serve on the Recreation Committee.”*

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

**F. Consideration of Repairs Needed to Rental Property at 8286
NC 87 next to the Town Hall**

**- Keith Bolden Proposal Addressing Water Problems in
Basement of Residence**

Mayor Paschal asked the Town Administrator about the proposal for repairs.

Mrs. Ward said she asked Keith Bolden to do a proposal...“because he has done previous work at the rental house and is aware of the water problem in the basement of the residence.”

She noted also that the person who rents the house, **Kim Proctor**, was present in the audience and suggested she may want to give Council some background information.

Mayor Paschal asked **Mrs. Proctor** if she would like to address Council.

Mrs. Proctor said she didn’t know this item was on the agenda, but said she would tell them what she knows.

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Mrs. Proctor explained, “We have water problems. The water in the basement comes in, in rivulets, according to Keith, because where the additional room there was added on, there is dirt underneath and where the water runs in under there, it makes its way to the basement.”

“Apparently it starts on the stairway and goes down the steps into the basement. Unfortunately, there are rivulets in the corners of the basement where water is apparently coming in from different directions. When we had the first bout of rain and then snow, we had a lake in the basement.”

“We have learned to put our stuff up off the floor, but Keith has been looking at it the last couple of years, and he has mentioned that there may be a problem foundation-wise.”

Mrs. Proctor concluded, “It’s alright with us either way...we adapt, but it is your problem and it’s up to you.”

Mayor Paschal commented, “If you have water coming in like that, it’s only going to get worse...it’s not going to get any better.”

Mrs. Ward said, “I don’t know if you have had an opportunity to review the proposal, but you will note at the bottom, that Keith indicated that his proposal covers trying to take care of the problem from the inside, as opposed to going on the outside of the house and digging and installing, what I believe he referred to as a “French drain.”

She added, “I think he just wanted you to know that his quote covers what may be only a temporary fix...”

“That is what I was thinking,” said **Mayor Paschal**. “It may not work.”

“It’s just a band-aid,” added **Councilman Aswell**.

The **Town Administrator** replied, “I think, too, it depends on what we are going to do with that property...whether or not you want to put money into it.”

Councilman Paschal added, “That would be my question.”

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Mayor Paschal asked, “Did he tell you what all he thought would be involved doing it from the outside. You mentioned a French drain...”

Mrs. Ward replied, “Not really. He just said it would cost quite a bit more than what he quoted for the inside. He just wanted you to have this option, but I am sure he would work up a quote for you if that’s what you would like to do, or maybe get someone else to as well.”

Councilman Aswell said he thought Council should get a quote on the outside, too.

Mayor Paschal said, “I do, too. I’ve never seen water damage repaired much from the inside that holds for any length of time.”

Councilwoman Powell asked, “What has changed in the land over there to make water run in when it didn’t use to?”

Mrs. Ward said that Mr. Bolden thinks it is from the add-on and the foundation not going all the way into the ground like the rest of the house does.

Mrs. Proctor agreed that the dirt underneath the add-on stays wet from the rains and when there is a lot of rain, it has no where to go, but down, and into the basement.

Mrs. Proctor noted also that someone had apparently tried to address the problem at some point in time when the “octopus drains were added that come off the house.”

Mrs. Ward added, “That is why you will see in the quote that he added costs for replacing one of those gutters.”

Mayor Paschal said, “Well, and time also has something to do with it—the older something is and the longer the water has to work on it.”

“I think we need to get a bid on doing the outside work,” **Councilman Aswell** said.

Mayor Paschal made a motion, “*That we get a couple of quotes on the outside to see what it would cost us.*”

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

The **Town Administrator** asked, “Do you want me to advertise it in the newspaper?”

“You can if you want to,” **Mayor Paschal** replied, “but if anyone knows somebody who specializes in this kind of work, as opposed to just waterproofing, you can ask them to quote. Instead of just putting it out there for quotes and somebody comes in and says, ‘Yeah, I can do it’, when they really can’t.”

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

Article VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The **Town of Wentworth Planning Board’s** regularly scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, February 19, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Town Hall Council Chambers.**
- **February 20, 2013 / 8:30 a.m.**
As part of their program curricula, the “**Leadership Rockingham**” group will meet at the Town Hall for a brief introduction to the Town of Wentworth and to begin their tour of Governmental sites in Wentworth.
- The **Wentworth Historic Preservation Committee** will meet in the Town Hall **Conference Room on Wednesday, February 20th at 1:00 p.m.**
- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the **Wentworth Town Council** will be **Tuesday, March 5, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.** in **Council Chambers.**

ARTICLE IX. A D J O U R N

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

Councilwoman Powell seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the February 5th, 2013, Wentworth Town Council Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted By: _____
Brenda Ward - Town Clerk

Approved: _____
Dennis Paschal, Jr. - Mayor