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

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The Wentworth Town Council held its regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, May 7, 2013**, 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 / Attorney Tom Terrell, and Deputy Bob Terry

**ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Paschal**

**ARTICLE II. INVOCATION: Councilman Paschal**

**ARTICLE III. APPROVAL OF MAY 7, 2013, TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA**

**A. Requests & Petitions of Citizens**

Regarding approval of the meeting agenda, **Mayor Paschal** made the following motion, “*That we add two items—one under Article VI. New Business, Item B, to read, ‘Consideration’ of Resolution Urging the N.C. General Assembly...instead of ‘Ratification’ of; also, under Article VI. New Business—add, ‘Consideration of Resolution to Accept Donation of Building/Property from the Wentworth Community Improvement Group.’ ”*

**Councilman Aswell** seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor of adding these items to the May 7, 2013 Agenda. The motion carried.

**ARTICLE IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Note: After review by the Town Attorney and Town Clerk, it has been determined that the Closed Session Minutes of April 2, 2013, and April 4, 2013, may be “unsealed” and approved by Council.*

**A. Town Council Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2013**

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

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

**ARTICLE IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Continued**

**B. Closed Session Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2013**

**Councilman Aswell** made a motion, *“That they be approved as written.”*

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

**C. Special Called Meeting Minutes for April 4, 2013**

**Councilman Aswell** made a motion, *“That they be approved as written.”*

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

**D. Closed Session Minutes for April 4, 2013**

**Councilman Aswell** made a motion, *“That they be approved as written.”*

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

**ARTICLE V. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Update on the Town Council’s Request/Offer to Build a Post Office for the Town of Wentworth**

**Marla J. Larsen-Williams, Real Estate Specialist /  
Facilities Implementation Team A - United States Postal  
Service, Bloomingdale, Illinois**

**Mayor Paschal** advised, “We met today with Ms. Marla Larsen-Williams, who is a Real Estate Specialist for the post office, and with one of their engineers. Ms. Williams was supposed to find her way back out here tonight but she hasn’t made it yet, so we’re going to hold off on this for now. I make a motion, *‘That we table Item A. until the end of the meeting or until Ms. Williams shows up.’*”

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

**ARTICLE V. OLD BUSINESS – Continued**

**B. Consideration of Quotes for Work to be done at Rental Property (8286 NC 87) to Correct Water Drainage Problems**

- 1. Keith Bolden Construction**
- 2. R.W. Billingsley & Sons, Inc.**

**Mayor Paschal** referred Council to the quotes in their packets and said he would like to add some additional information.

“**Mr. Bolden** called me today. He came out over the weekend...we had some questions about which way to run the water off if we needed to. I think you brought it up, Robert, about going to the drainage ditch at the road. We were about two feet too high...we were 46" there in the ditch and we need to be six foot, but we can go straight back and down the hill there.”

**Mayor Paschal** added, “In the process of talking with Keith, he mentioned that he has spoken with Mr. Proctor who lives there, and he made the comment that they don’t have any problem when the leaves are kept out of the gutters and the downspouts are on good. We planned to walk over there today and take a look, and when Brenda (Town Administrator) called them to see if they had any water come in during these few days of rain, they said they hadn’t.”

He continued “Mr. Proctor talked to Keith (Bolden) about it when he was over there and felt like Keith’s first proposal—Proposal A—for revamping the gutters, using different size drains...and doing some drainage work around the house...the quote of \$4,698.85, is the way to go instead of costing us ten or fifteen thousand dollars right now.”

“I think with the lack of water in the basement at this point in time, with all the rain we have had, maybe we ought to take this small step and let him do that work to see if it solves the problem and go from there.”

The **Town Clerk** asked, “For the record, you are talking about the proposal submitted by Mr. Bolden back in February?”

“Yes,” replied **Mayor Paschal**, “Proposal A—\$4,698.85.”

**Councilman Paschal** remarked, “I think, in light of the fact that we don’t know long-term, what we may or may not do with the house or how long Kim (Proctor) will stay there, that if they think this is a better solution at this point in time, it definitely makes more sense.”

**ARTICLE V. OLD BUSINESS – Continued**

**B. Consideration of Quotes for Work to be done at Rental Property (8286 NC 87) to Correct Water Drainage Problems**

**Mayor Paschal** agreed, commenting further, “I think with there not being any water after all this rain, we probably should go this route, because we will be waterproofing it inside and out, and it may take care of the problem there in the long-run, with the new downspouts and gutters.”

**Councilman Aswell** said, “We may want to see if we can’t pipe those gutters away from the house, too.”

**Mayor Paschal** replied, “Yes, we’ll do that as the new gutters go in.”

There were no questions and no additional discussion.

**Mayor Paschal** made a motion, “*That we go with Keith Bolden’s proposal of \$4,698.85.*”

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

**ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Submission of Budget Message / Budget Summary / Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2013-2014**

**(1) Set Public Hearing for June 4, 2013**

**Mayor Paschal** asked the Town Administrator to address Council on the proposed Budget.

**Mrs. Ward** said to Council, “Since this is my last Budget Message, I told Yvonne (Russell) (Finance Officer), that I would like to go over the message with you , briefly. The Message is a narrative summary of the figures we have arrived at during our Budget Work Sessions. If anyone did not get a copy and would like to have one, please let us know after the meeting.”

“The Town does have a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014, totaling \$590,960.00, about \$127,000.00 less than last year, and no Fund Balance Appropriation was necessary to balance the budget.”

**ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS - Continued**

**A. Submission of Budget Message / Budget Summary / Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2013-2014**

**Mrs. Ward** continued, “How did we get to this point—all the figures that Yvonne has put together for us? We did it after a couple of Budget Work Sessions that we had at the end of our regular meetings, and those sessions are part of the meeting and open to the public.”

“One of the big questions we had to ask this year was, ‘What revenues will we *not* receive this year?’ As you know, the State Legislature is trying to reform the North Carolina tax code. If they do this, most North Carolina municipalities stand to *lose* revenue. I don’t think it will be a problem for us this next fiscal year, but in the 2014-2015 budget year, we could see some consequences of that.”

Continuing, **Mrs. Ward** added, “The Budget is a reflection of Council’s concern and intent to give back to the staff and citizens of Wentworth, as funds allow. I think you will see that in our Budget each year.”

“The budget reflects the continuation of our contracts with Rockingham County for law enforcement protection...we have Deputy Terry here tonight, so don’t y’all get too rowdy!”

“Planning and Zoning—we contract with the County for those services as well as for Elections. There will be an election this year, so you will see that figure in the budget, on the line item for Board of Elections.”

“Let’s skip on through...the main figures for Revenues and Expenditures are shown in these highlighted boxes as part of the Budget Message, and you can see for yourself what our major revenues and our major expenditures are estimated to be.”

“Concerning the ‘Cultural and Recreational’ line item, some of you may not know, but Council has set aside a Capital Reserve Fund for future recreational opportunities.”

**Mrs. Ward** asked the Finance Officer if she knew the total amount in the fund at this time. **Mrs. Russell** said “...approximately \$57,000.00.”

**ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS - Continued**

**A. Submission of Budget Message / Budget Summary / Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2013-2014**

**Mrs. Ward** concluded, “I would like to read you my final comments at the end. In last year’s Budget Message, I mentioned the changes that were taking place in Wentworth—a new judicial center and the addition of a retail store—Family Dollar, I see people there all the time; also, a state-of the art animal shelter, and a county museum which last year we said was ‘nearing completion.’ As you know, the Museum and Archives of Rockingham County, which we like to refer to as ‘The MARC’, is up and going. We had the open house last year with the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit as a drawing card. They continue to increase their space and the number of exhibits... and they are drawing a lot of visitors.”

She added, “There are many opportunities for volunteering at the museum, and I know they would love to have any of you help them out. If you have never been to the museum, you are in for a treat...there are just a lot of exhibits there that I know you will enjoy.”

“As I am about to retire, I can only guess what the future will look like for the Town of Wentworth, but I anticipate growth, recreational opportunities, perhaps another restaurant, and all kinds of wonderful things to benefit our residents and those who travel to Wentworth each day to work or to visit.”

“I believe that you, as elected officials—the Town Council—will continue to work together to improve the quality of life for all residents, business owners, and visitors. I believe that you will continue to maintain fiscal responsibility, and will continue your efforts to fund the budget *without* a property tax...”

“I know that you will protect and preserve our environment by continuing to implement appropriate ordinances and regulations to manage growth, and that you will continue your efforts to preserve our farmland and open space to maintain the rural character of our community.”

“The Town has always strived to maintain a strong financial position, Because of these continued efforts, the fund balance has always been good and the debt load of the Town has remained low.”

**ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS - Continued**

**A. Submission of Budget Message / Budget Summary / Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2013-2014**

“We continue to pay down the Fidelity Bank loan for construction of the Town Hall. If we make the planned additional payments, our estimated loan balance will be around \$113,451.00 at the end of *this* fiscal year. As stated earlier in the Budget Message, we are addressing this more aggressively with additional payments and hope for a payoff of the loan by the end of June, 2014.”

“As always, I would like to thank our Budget-Finance Officer, **Yvonne Russell**, for leading the Budget Work Sessions, and for her research and valuable assistance in entering, revising, and finalizing the preparation of the budget. However, overall, the fiduciary responsibility of a local government ultimately rests with the Governing Board.”

“**Mr. Mayor and Council**, we appreciate your participation in the budget process through our work sessions and we want to thank you for your leadership and support.”

“I appreciate the privilege of serving you and the citizens of Wentworth who have placed their confidence in your ability to preserve the past, and plan for the future...once again without a property tax, which is commendable.”

“Your consideration of the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year Budget for formal adoption is requested. I recommend scheduling the Public Hearing for Submission of the Budget Ordinance on June 4, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. Thank you.”

**Council** thanked Mrs. Ward for presenting the budget information.

Everyone laughed when Mrs. Ward noted that if anyone had specific questions about the *figures* in the budget, they should ask Mrs. Russell.

**Mayor Paschal** asked if anyone had questions about the budget, but no one did.

**ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS - Continued**

**A. Submission of Budget Message / Budget Summary / Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2013-2014**

**Councilman Paschal** made a motion, *“That we set the Public Hearing date for the 2013-2014 proposed budget, for June 4, 2013.”*

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

**B. Consideration of Resolution Urging the North Carolina General Assembly to Amend Senate Bills 363 and 394 to Preserve Balanced Municipal Revenues**

**Mayor Paschal** commented, “Everyone has a copy of this. We have been talking about the fact that they are moving some money around in Raleigh, and some of the funds we receive are beer and wine excise taxes and utility franchise taxes. They are talking about changing the way they distribute these and in some cases, it could affect our revenue. We are asking them to hold small municipalities harmless on this...you have a copy of the Resolution in front of you.”

**Mayor Paschal** asked for a motion. **Councilman Aswell** said, *“I make a motion that we adopt the Resolution.”*

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

**C. Update / Information from the Wentworth Historic Preservation Committee**

- **Barbara Cooke / Chairperson**
- **Kim Proctor, Director of the Museum and Archives of Rockingham Co. (The MARC)**

**Mayor Paschal** asked Mrs. Cooke to address Council and thanked her for coming.

**Mrs. Cooke** introduced herself to Council as the chairperson of the Wentworth Historic Preservation Committee.

She updated Council on the committee’s work, as follows: “The Preservation Committee has been meeting and working for a little over a year, to identify, locate, and digitally photograph 23 cemeteries in the town limits of Wentworth.”

**ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

**Mrs. Cooke** continued, “Our data spreadsheet has the full title, pin numbers and addresses, and when this is completed, it will go on the map. We still need part of the GIS information...that is not quite completed yet, but we should soon have that.”

“There are six known extinct cemeteries. The existing cemeteries are in poor to excellent condition. It was quite a challenge to reach some of these. We had to plan our field trips around the weather, snakes, chiggers, ticks and ...”

“We want to thank Kim Proctor, the Director of MARC (Museum and Archives of Rockingham County) for her guidance and expertise, Bob Carter, the retired County Historian—a walking encyclopedia on the history of Rockingham County, for his valuable information, the members of the Preservation Committee for their dedication, time, and efforts, and, Gary Melvin with the Rockingham County GIS Department, for assisting us with the GIS location information and putting the location on the map.”

“We are now beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel, and we hope to soon complete this cemetery project so we can start on our next one, which will be to document houses and buildings prior to 1950, within the town limits of Wentworth...and these will also be included on the same map.”

**Mrs. Cooke** concluded, “Kim Proctor, unfortunately, had a conflict tonight and she will not be here. She was going to give you the information on our plans for completing the project, and she will email this to Brenda within the next few days, so you all will have this information.”

**Mrs. Cooke** said she would be glad to answer any questions.

**Mayor Paschal** said, “I know some of these cemeteries are out of the way...there is one over there on Rock House Creek that I have walked through when I was hunting.”

“Fortunately for us,” **Mrs. Cooke** replied, “that one is not inside the city, but Harold Vaden’s is. We crossed two creeks, a canal, up and down hills...but anyway, the project is looking good and we want to soon have it completed.”

**ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS - Continued**

**Mayor Paschal** asked, “What do you do when there is an old graveyard where there is nothing but old rocks for headstones?”

**Mrs. Cooke** replied, “If it is a named cemetery—a family cemetery and we know who the family was, then it is documented, but if it’s just there and someone says there used to be a cemetery there but they do not know what family was there, those are the ones we consider extinct, and some of them have been destroyed.”

**Mayor Paschal** thanked Mrs. Cooke and the committee for their hard work.

**ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS - Continued**

**D. Presentation of Community Pride Awards**

- 1. Business: NC Department of Transportation / 191 NC 65**
  - **Jeremy DeLapp (Rockingham County Maintenance Eng.)**
  - **Ken Taffer (Division 7 Roadside Environmental Engineer)**
- 2. Residence: Doug and Sandra Roach**
  - 611 County Home Road**
  - Wentworth NC**

**Mayor Paschal** asked Beth Robertson, Chair of the Wentworth Appearance Committee and Kellie Meador, also on the committee, to present the Community Pride Awards.

**Mrs. Robertson** recognized Kellie Meador, who said, “On behalf of the Appearance Committee, we would like to recognize our Community Pride Award winners, if y’all would come forward.”

“We have representatives from the North Carolina Department of Transportation and also, Doug and Sandra Roach.”

**Mrs. Meador** added, “Thank you for helping to make Wentworth a beautiful place.”

**Mrs. Robertson** commented to the Department of Transportation representatives, “I know *you* cannot accept a gift,” as she presented them with a framed certificate, and gave a nice potted plant to Mr. and Mrs. Roach, along with their certificate.

**ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS - Continued**

**D. Presentation of Community Pride Awards**

**Mrs. Robertson** said she would like to thank T & G Greenhouse for donating the plants. She said she went there to, "...beg them to donate something for prizes, but when I asked him, he told me to go pick out whatever I wanted."

"While I was there," **Mrs. Robertson** said, "I picked this up for Brenda...(Town Clerk). We would like to thank Brenda for all her help getting us started off on the right foot. She has been great in giving us guidance, and we wish you the best with your retirement."

**Mrs. Ward** thanked the committee, saying she appreciated them and the plant.

**Mayor Paschal** commented, "Even though, by law, DOT cannot accept a gift, we do appreciate the work y'all have done there."

He added, "Doug and Sandra, thank you for adding to our community. It makes everything look nicer around here."

Commenting on the Old Business item concerning the Post Office, **Mayor Paschal** said, "It doesn't look like the lady from the Postal Service is going to make it, does it?"

"I don't know," replied **Mrs. Ward**. "Maybe we could just have Mrs. Powell's birthday celebration and ask everyone to stay around while we try again to find out something..."

**Mayor Paschal** said there was still one more item that was added to the agenda, and proceeded with the following.

**E. Resolution to Accept Donation of Building/Property from the Wentworth Community Improvement Group, Inc.**

**Mayor Paschal** read the Resolution (Note: Copy attached hereto and made a part of these Minutes by reference—Attachment A)

After reading the Resolution, **Mayor Paschal** said, "We would like to thank everybody who had a part in this."

Addressing Mr. Vaden, the **mayor** said, "Harold Wayne, I know you worked hard on this, and we really do appreciate the conveyance of this property."

**ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

**E. Resolution to Accept Donation of Building/Property from the  
Wentworth Community Improvement Group, Inc.**

**Mayor Paschal** made a motion, *“That we adopt the Resolution to accept this property.”*

**Mayor Paschal** said he would like to give everyone some information concerning the post office, and commented, “Hopefully, Ms. Larsen-Williams is not lost up in Virginia somewhere.”

He added, “We did meet with them today (Postal Service) and it has been approved for us to get a post office here in Wentworth. We are actually looking at possibly housing the post office in this building we have just accepted as a donation. An engineer from the Postal Service was down there with us today and he said it looks doable for that building, so we may not have to build a new building in order to move the post office from where it is now. Our architect has the information now that the Postal Service has signed off on it and turned it over to us to come back to them with the architect’s plans. As quickly as we can do that, we should be on the road to getting the post office in. We are excited about it after all these years and, hopefully everything will go through as planned.”

The **Town Clerk** suggested, “Maybe we could let those who signed up to speak about the Post Office do so now, and we will have their remarks on record...”

**ARTICLE VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS / SPEAKER REGISTER**

**Mayor Paschal** asked **Deputy Bob Terry**, who had signed the Speaker Register if he would like to speak.

**Deputy Terry** said, “The Sheriff couldn’t be here tonight due to another commitment, but wrote a letter that I would like to read to the Board.”

**Deputy Terry** read the letter from **Rockingham County Sheriff, Sam S. Page**.

**(Note: Copy attached hereto and made a part of these Minutes by reference—Attachment B)**

Concluding the letter from Sheriff Page, **Deputy Terry** read, “I would also like to wish board member, **Mrs. Iris Powell**, a very special happy birthday and personally thank her for her support of our agency for numerous years. Don’t forget, you’re getting better, not older.”

**Mayor Paschal** thanked Deputy Terry and invited **Debra Fowlkes** with the Clerk of Court's office to address Council.

**Ms. Fowlkes** introduced herself as Assistant Clerk for the Clerk of Court's office and advised that the Clerk of Court, Mark Pegram, "wanted to be at the meeting but had another engagement, and sent me to take his place."

**Ms. Fowlkes** said, "Mark wants to have it on record that the hours the post office is open at this point, creates a hardship for the Clerk's Office because of time-sensitive documents that we have to get in, file, and send back out the same day. Right now, we can get them in, but it is the next day before we can mail them out. That could be a liability on our part...he wanted this to be on record, so that whatever happens, we have made it known."

**Ms. Fowlkes** paused and commented to **Councilwoman Powell**, "Ms. Powell, the years have been good to you. You do not look 90 years old."

**Councilwoman Powell** replied, "Thank you, and we didn't have that problem (with the mail) when I was Postmaster!"

After the laughter subsided, **Mayor Paschal** commented, "We did talk to them (postal officials) today about the hours and hopefully somewhere down the road we can work something out. We know it does affect the Clerk's office and others, and maybe they will come to realize that and get something done about it."

There were no additional speakers signed up for Public Comment, and **Mayor Paschal** moved on to the announcements

#### **ARTICLE VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The next scheduled meeting of the **Wentworth Planning Board** is **Tuesday, May 21, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Town Hall Council Chambers**.
- The next *regular meeting* of the **Wentworth Town Council** will be held in the **Town Hall Council Chambers** on **Tuesday, June 4, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.**  
(*Note: There will be a Public Hearing on the 2013-2014 Fiscal year Budget.*)

- We would like to introduce **Mr. George Murphy**, a former member and mayor pro tem of the Wentworth Town Council, who has accepted the position of **Town Administrator**, effective May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Mr. Murphy will be in training with Mrs. (Brenda) Ward until her retirement at the end of June.

**Mayor Paschal** added, "I am sure she will instill in him some of the things she does to keep us straight up here. We're glad to have George..."

**Mr. Murphy** replied, "It's very good to be a part of the Town again."

**Mayor Paschal** was about to make the final announcement when the Town Clerk advised, "We have just heard from the post office lady. She was involved in an accident on 29, and they say she will be here any minute now, so don't anyone move...stay where you are."

**Mayor Paschal** said he would like to make the final announcement, adding:

- **Everyone is invited to stay for refreshments in celebration of Councilwoman Iris Powell's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday (April 22).**

**County Commissioner Mark Richardson** said he would specifically like to speak about Iris Powell. **Mayor Paschal** invited him to the podium.

**Commissioner Richardson** commented, "From your County Commissioners, we have done extensive research and we are sure that **Iris Powell** is the senior council member, commissioner, board member, in the entire county and I think that deserves special recognition."

Everyone applauded as **Commissioner Richardson** shook hands with Ms. Powell.

Another applause could be heard as **Ms. Marla Larsen-Williams** with the U. S. Postal Service made her way into the Council chambers.

As she approached the podium, **Mayor Paschal** welcomed her and asked if she was okay.

**Ms. Larsen-Williams** replied, "I am so sorry. I'm a little shaken, but I'll be okay. I was sandwiched on the way up here, but we're okay...thank you for waiting."

**ARTICLE V. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Update on the Town Council's Request/Offer to Build a Post Office for the Town of Wentworth**

“Good evening to everyone,” **Ms. Larsen-Williams** began. “I represent the Postal Service in the real estate side of the house. The good news is, and I’m sure you’ve heard this before, but the good news is, we have the project approved for the postal service to work with your community to relocate closer to this area here. I know this has been a long time coming and I appreciate your patience. We are not always the most easy government entity to work with, but you made an offer we couldn’t refuse. It just took us a while to realize it.”

“I met with individuals here earlier this afternoon and what we are looking for is 700 square feet. What we have right now at the Historical Society is around 300 square feet. We will be working with the city to go ahead and have a new location chosen—either an existing building or, to be built, depending on the economics for you. As long as the interior is finished the way we need it and it meets our needs, we will work with you.”

**Ms. Larsen-Williams** continued, “As far as timing on something like this, it really depends on how long it takes to find a location that everyone is happy with, from your perspective. Once that happens, have your architects put together a package, let us review it, and then we will enter into a lease. That lease would be a five-year lease with a couple of five-year renewal options.”

“What is unique about this project, I’ll have to be really honest with you, is that normally when the Postal Service begins a new location, we go through a whole solicitation package and so on. What’s unique about here, is that there are actually two entities working together—the local government and the Federal government, and again, as I mentioned before, you made an offer we couldn’t refuse. We need to accept that offer so we can provide the services to this community and actually have the post office of Wentworth, a safe post office in a safe area, because I know you are challenged where you are now. I was challenged this afternoon when I first went in. I know you’re trying to get your point across...I got it.”

**Ms. Larsen-Williams** concluded, “I am looking forward to working with you on this project through completion, so please stay in touch with me. I’ll be happy to answer any questions, and again, thank you everyone, for waiting.”

**Councilwoman Powell** asked, “Are we going to be open all day or just half a day?”

“It will still be half a day,” **Ms. Larsen-Williams** replied.

“In the morning or afternoon?” **Councilwoman Powell** asked.

“Right now, it’s in the afternoon, as far as the operations,” **Ms. Larsen-Williams** replied, “but what we are going to work on is having it so the lobby is open and customers can get their box mail 24/7. We will be working towards that, and that will be the standard.”

**Mayor Paschal** asked if anyone else had questions. There were none. He thanked **Ms. Larsen-Williams** again for coming, adding, “We’re glad you finally made it and that you are okay.”

She replied, “I’m going to come out again, but this time on a safe route.”

**Mayor Paschal**, noted, “We have already been through our announcements, and once again, everybody is invited to stay for refreshments in celebration of Iris’ 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.”

**Mayor Paschal** asked if there were any other announcements.

**Councilman Paschal** said, “I just wanted to say I won’t be here for the June meeting and I’m sure everyone else will have opportunities then, but I want to take this opportunity to extend my personal thanks to Brenda for all her years of service to the town, and for everything she’s done. We will certainly miss you, and we appreciate everything.”

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

**Mayor Paschal** made a motion, “*that we adjourn*”. **Mayor Pro Tem Conner** seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the meeting adjourned.

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

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