



MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
WENTWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
October 4, 2016
7:00 pm
Wentworth Town Hall

The regular monthly meeting of the Wentworth Town Council was held on Tuesday, October 4, 2016, at the Wentworth Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Conner, Cheryl Moore, Dennis Paschal III, and Iris Powell

Council Members Absent: Mayor Dennis Paschal Jr.
A quorum was present.

Staff Present: George Murphy, Town Administrator
Yvonne Russell, Town Clerk/Finance Officer
Patrick Kane, Town Attorney

Article I. CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Conner called the meeting to order.

Article II. INVOCATION
Councilmember Dennis Paschal III gave the invocation.

Article III. APPROVAL OF TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA
A. Requests and Petitions of Citizens
B. Approve/ Amend Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Conner noted that Dave Geiber of 9764 NC 87 had signed the speaker register.

Mayor Pro Tem Conner made a **MOTION**, "To add Dave Geiber to the agenda under Public Comments".

Councilmember Paschal III seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Conner made a **MOTION**, "To approve the agenda as amended".

Councilmember Paschal III seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Article IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
A. Town Council Meeting – September 6, 2016

Councilmember Iris Powell made a **MOTION**, “*They be accepted as written*”.

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

Article V. OLD BUSINESS
There was no old business.

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS
A. Annual Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

Mr. Rex Rouse, representing Rouse Rouse Penn & Rouse LLC, approached the podium and gave a summary of the Fiscal Year 2015–2016 Annual Audit Report. The following are highlights of Mr. Rouse’s report. (*Note: The complete Audit Report is available for review in the Clerk’s office at the Wentworth Town Hall.*)

- Cash and Investments *increased* from \$697,595 to \$957,059.
- Total Fund Balances *increased* from \$811,121 to \$1,049,549.
- Local Option Sales Tax *increased* from \$517,585 to \$542,248.
- Utilities Sales Tax *increased* from \$115,509 to \$127,248.
- Rental Income *increased* from \$3,009 to \$11,810.
- Total General Government Expenditures *increased* slightly from \$218,039 to \$225,962.
- Capital Outlay Expenditures *increased* from \$5,595 to \$9,518.
- Cultural & Recreational Expenditures *increased* from \$25,200 to \$31,281 due mostly to the \$8,000 funding request granted to the Wentworth PTA Ball Program.
- Health & Public Safety Expenditures *decreased* from \$94,860 to \$82,460. This decrease is due to the fact that no law enforcement equipment was purchased in FY 2015-2016.
- Debt Service expenditures totaled \$33,736.
- Total Expenditures *increased* slightly from \$414,735 to \$436,682; however, this amount was \$153,166 under budget.
- Revenues *exceeded* Expenditures by \$238,428.
- The Capital Reserve Fund for Recreation *increased* from \$89,933 to \$110,038.
- Total Debt is \$105,000. This debt is scheduled to be paid in full in 2020.

Councilmember Paschal III asked, “Do you have any suggestions?”

Referring to the Town's debt, **Mr. Rouse** replied, "I think Yvonne and I probably would agree that you could go ahead and pay it off". He continued, "It looks like you have a solid foundation. If you went ahead and paid off the \$105,000 you will still have a couple of years of fund balance." (Note: Mr. Rouse is referring to percentage of fund balance to general fund expenditures. The Town would have enough fund balance to pay general fund expenditures for up to two years, should something happen to the Town's source of revenue.)

Mr. Rouse reviewed two letters that accompanied the audit report.

Referring to the governance letter, **Mr. Rouse** stated, "We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit".

Referring to the management letter, **Mr. Rouse** explained that because there are only two Town employees the following comments are always listed: "Because of the limited number of personnel employed by the Town, it is not practical to have an adequate separation of duties. The same employee makes the deposits, posts cash receipts and disbursements to the general ledger, and reconciles the bank accounts. Although this is a material weakness in internal control, the internal controls for the disbursements are somewhat stronger because of budgetary controls and the independent dual signature check-signing requirement. Also, a council member reviews the bank statements and bank reconciliations. The weakness in internal control relative to receipts is greatly mitigated by the fact that nearly all of the receipts of the Town are directly deposited by the NC Department of Revenue."

Mr. Rouse added, "In almost all of the audits we do, revenue recognition is an area where there is significant risk. I just don't think that's so true here because of the inherent safeguard by the NC Department of Revenue depositing your money directly into your bank account."

Mr. Rouse complimented both Town employees on their help with the annual audit.

Mayor Pro Tem Conner thanked Mr. Rouse for his work on the audit and the audit report.

Article VI.

NEW BUSINESS

B. Consideration of Proclamation for Dysautonomia Awareness Month

Mayor Pro Tem Conner asked **Councilmember Paschal III** to read the Proclamation for Dysautonomia Awareness Month.

(Note: The proclamation is herein incorporated and made a part of these minutes.)

A PROCLAMATION FOR DYSAUTONOMIA AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, dysautonomia is a group of medical conditions that result in a malfunction of the autonomic nervous system, which is responsible for “automatic” bodily functions such as respiration, heart rate, blood pressure, digestion, temperature control and more;

WHEREAS, some forms of dysautonomia are considered rare diseases, such as Multiple System Atrophy and Pure Autonomic Failure, while other forms of dysautonomia are common, impacting millions of people in the US and around the world, such as Diabetic Autonomic Neuropathy, Neurocardiogenic Syncope and Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome;

WHEREAS, dysautonomia impacts people of any age, gender, race or background, including many individuals living in Rockingham County, N. C.;

WHEREAS, some forms of dysautonomia can be very disabling and this disability can result in social isolation, stress on the families of those impacted, and financial hardship;

WHEREAS, some forms of dysautonomia can result in death, causing tremendous pain and suffering for those impacted and their loved ones;

WHEREAS, increased awareness about dysautonomia will help patients get diagnosed and treated earlier, save lives, and foster support for individuals and families coping with dysautonomia in our community;

WHEREAS, Dysautonomia International, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of patients living with dysautonomia, encourages communities to celebrate Dysautonomia Awareness Month each October around the world;

WHEREAS, we seek to recognize the contributions of the professional medical community, patients and family members who are working to educate our citizenry about dysautonomia in Wentworth, N C.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Evelyn L. Conner, Mayor Pro Tem of the Town of Wentworth, do hereby proclaim the month of October as,

DYSAUTONOMIA AWARENESS MONTH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 4th day of October 2016.

Evelyn L. Conner, Mayor Pro Tem
Town of Wentworth, North Carolina

Councilmember Paschal III made a **MOTION**, “*We adopt the proclamation declaring October Dysautonomia month in the Town of Wentworth*”.

Councilmember Powell seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS

C. Consideration of Appointment to the Rockingham County Solid Waste Committee – George T. Murphy, Sr.

Councilmember Paschal III made a **MOTION**, *“To appoint George T. Murphy Sr. to the Rockingham County Solid Waste Committee to represent the Town of Wentworth”*.

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

ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS

D. Consideration of Ordinance Declaring a Road Closure for a Christmas Parade

Mayor Pro Tem Conner made a **MOTION**, *“That we approve the ordinance”*.

Councilmember Powell seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

(Note: A copy of the Ordinance Declaring a Road Closure for a Christmas Parade is herein incorporated and made a part of these minutes.)

**Town of Wentworth
North Carolina**

ORDINANCE 2016-01

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING A ROAD CLOSURE FOR A CHRISTMAS PARADE

WHEREAS, the Town of Wentworth acknowledges a tradition of providing an annual Christmas Parade for the pleasure of its citizens and guests; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Wentworth acknowledges its citizens and guests realize an enhanced sense of community by holding an annual Christmas Parade; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Wentworth acknowledges that a parade requires approximately one (1) hour to install signing and traffic control, and also requires approximately one (1) hour for removing signs, traffic control, and litter; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Wentworth informs the North Carolina Highway Patrol and Rockingham County Emergency Management of the date, time, and route of the Wentworth Christmas Parade; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Wentworth contracts with the Rockingham County Sheriff’s Office for additional deputies to provide safety and traffic control before, during, and after the Wentworth Christmas Parade;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Wentworth pursuant to the authority granted by G.S. 20-169 that they do hereby declare road closure during the day and times set forth below on the following described portions of State Highway System routes:

Date: Saturday, December 10, 2016 / Rain Date, Saturday, December 17, 2016
Times: 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Parade Start Time: 11:00 a.m.)

Route Description: Wilson Way (SR 2969); right turn onto
Sandy Cross Road (SR 1001); left turn onto
NC 65 west to
Wentworth Consolidated School, 525 NC 65

This ordinance to become effective when signs are erected giving notice of the limits and times of the parade, and implementation of adequate traffic control to guide through vehicles around the parade route.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2016

R. Dennis Paschal, Jr., Mayor

ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS

E. Consideration of Sound System Equipment Estimate

Mr. Murphy explained that the proposed sound system equipment will assist the hearing impaired during meetings that take place in the Wentworth Town Hall Council Chambers. The device includes a receiver and an earbud that boosts the sound from the speaker system in the Council Chambers. The proposed sound system equipment package will include four receivers.

Mr. Murphy noted that because this expense was not part of the budget adopted in June, a budget amendment would be necessary.

Councilmember Paschal III asked, “Do we need to go ahead and approve it and then do a budget amendment?”

Yvonne Russell, Clerk/Finance Officer explained that Council could ask staff to make a budget amendment and staff will present the amendment at the November 1st meeting.

Councilmember Paschal made a **MOTION**, “*We approve the expenditure estimate of the Personal PA Value Pack System from Scales Street Music and we also have the budget amendment presented at the November Council meeting*”.

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

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS

F. Update: Pickin’ at the MARC Fiddlers’ Convention

Ms. Jordan Rossi, Executive Director of the Museum & Archives of Rockingham County, gave an overview of the 2nd Annual Pickin’ at the MARC Fiddlers’ Convention. At their June 7, 2016 meeting, the Town Council granted a funding request to the MARC which included \$5,030 for the Fiddlers’ Convention.

(Note: A flyer describing the 2nd Annual Pickin’ at the MARC Fiddlers’ Convention is herein incorporated and made a part of these minutes.)

PICKIN' AT THE MARC

Second Annual Old-Time and Bluegrass

FIDDLERS' CONVENTION

At the Museum & Archives of Rockingham County

In the Historic Courthouse in Wentworth

GPS Address: 1086 NC Highway 65, Reidsville, NC

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2016

Registration at 12:00 Noon

Competition begins at 1:00 PM

Admission—Adults \$10.00

Children under 12—\$5.00; under 5—free

Feature bands performing:

Strictly Strings at 6:00 PM

The Trailblazers around 8:00 PM

Areas of competition: Bluegrass Banjo, Bluegrass Fiddle, Old-time Banjo, Old-Time Fiddle, Mandolin, Guitar, Vocal, Open, Youth Instrumental and Youth Vocal

Band competitions: Bluegrass Band and Old-Time Bands

Over \$2500 in prizes and ribbons

For more information: pickinatthemarc@gmail.com

Sponsored by: Museum and Archives of Rockingham County
and the Town of Wentworth



Rockingham
County NC

YOU'RE IN A GOOD PLACE

ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS

G. Consideration of Participation in FEED.ROCKINGHAM

Ms. Russell noted that, at Councilmember Paschal III's request, she checked into the FEED.ROCKINGHAM project. She explained that FEED.ROCKINGHAM is a partnership between the local chambers of commerce, rotary clubs, and food pantries. Their goal is to provide Thanksgiving meals for 2,500 food insecure families in Rockingham County, which will be distributed on November 22nd. Monetary and food donations will be accepted at the Reidsville, Eden, and Western Rockingham Chambers of Commerce.

Ms. Russell said that after talking with Sara Cummings at the Western Rockingham Chamber of Commerce about ways the Town could assist with this project, they came up with the following:

- The Town could advertise with flyers placed throughout the community, on the Town's website, and on a Town Facebook page if Council so desired
- The Wentworth Town Hall could be a donation site
- The Town could ask the MARC to collect food donations at their upcoming Fiddlers' Convention

Councilmember Paschal III explained he was more interested in the Town making a monetary contribution.

Patrick Kane, Town Attorney, will research how the Town may be able to make a monetary donation and report his findings at the November 1st Council meeting. In the meantime Council would like staff to proceed with the aforementioned advertising and food collection.

Mayor Pro Tem Conner made a MOTION, "*That we participate in FEED.ROCKINGHAM*".

Councilmember Paschal III seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Article VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dave Geiber, a Wentworth citizen residing at 9764 NC 87 expressed his concern for traffic safety at a "flea market" business beside his residence.

Sheriff's Deputy Brad Wilson said the owner of that property has been sent a letter informing them that customers/visitors cannot park on the side of road.

Councilmember Cheryl Moore, who lives near the “flea market”, explained that the traffic entering and exiting the business’ parking area is more of a traffic hazard than the actual parking area itself.

Mr. Kane will contact the Rockingham Planning Department to discuss what steps have already been taken and what other steps may be taken to correct the traffic issue.

Article VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Conner made the following announcements:

- The next regular meeting of the **Wentworth Planning Board** is **October 18, 2016, at 7:00 pm** in the Town Hall Council Chambers.
- The next regular meeting of the **Wentworth Town Council** will be held on **Tuesday, November 1, 2016, at 7:00 pm** in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Article IX. ADJOURN

Mayor Pro Tem Conner made a **MOTION**, “*We adjourn*”.

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Yvonne Russell, NCCMC
Clerk

Approved by:

R. Dennis Paschal Jr.
Mayor