

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL
October 12, 2021
Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at the Whitsett Town Hall. The following members of the Town Council were present: Mayor Richard Fennell, Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice, Council Members Cindy Wheeler, Lee Greeson and Craig York.

Also present were Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia, Planning Board Vice Chairman Tyler Harris, Garry Deal, and *The Alamance News* reporter Tomas Murawski.

Mayor Richard Fennell made reference to Town Administrator Ken Jacobs' passing. Discussion was had regarding how much Ken had done for the Town, and how much he had still wanted to do.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Adoption of the Minutes

Mayor Fennell asked for any changes to the minutes from the July 13, 2021, August 10, 2021 and September 14, 2021 regular monthly meetings. Cindy Wheeler pointed out a typo, and with that correction pending, made a Motion to adopt all three sets of minutes. Jerry Rice seconded the motion, and it was carried by unanimous vote of those present.

2. Any Other Old Business

Mayor Fennell asked if there were any other old business; and there was none.

2. Enforcement Officer

There was no enforcement activity to report this month.

3. Planning Board

Chairman Bob Maccia reported that the Planning Board is researching both tap fees and developmental fees. He indicated the Board is concerned with bringing the Town up to speed with appropriate fees to be collected.

Bob further indicated that Jerry Rice would be seeking as liaison to remove RS12 and RM12 from the Town's zoning.

Bob also indicated that he is tendering his resignation as Chairman of the Planning Board, and that the Board has determined that Vice Chairman Tyler Harris will be the new Chairman. Mayor Fennell instructed that the Planning Board will now need to elect a new Vice Chairman to replace Tyler.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Any Items from Council Members

Jerry Rice made a Motion to accept Bob Maccia's resignation as Chairman of the Planning Board, and Tyler Harris as the new Chairman. Craig York seconded this Motion, and it was carried by unanimous vote of those present.

Jerry Rice made a Motion to add Craig York as an authorized signer for checks, in addition to Jerry Rice and Cindy Wheeler. Larry Greeson seconded this Motion, and it was carried by unanimous vote of those present.

Jerry Rice indicated that in order to set up and get e-banking started, the minutes need to reflect who has access to the account, and what kind of access. Jerry Rice made Motion that he be Administrator of the account, with Cindy Wheeler and Craig York having viewing access only. Cindy Wheeler stated that Suzi Stevens, who presently transcribes the meeting minutes of the Town Board and the Planning Board, will be picking up the mail, writing checks and preparing documentation of the checks for signers, and she will be second in the event Suzi cannot take care of these items. Craig York seconded the Motion, and it was carried by unanimous vote of those present.

Coding of the checks received and written must be taken care of, and the Board members stated they don't know anything about that. Wanda at the accountant's office can be consulted; Cindy Wheeler will be meeting with Jo Hesson tomorrow and will follow up with her to see if there is a Chart of Accounts available for members to consult to get this task done accurately.

At this time, the Park is named in honor of Andy Brown. Jerry Rice made a Motion that the Ballpark be named in honor of Andy Brown, and the Park be re-dedicated in the name of Ken Jacobs, as he feels the park would not have been possible without the efforts made by Ken. Craig York seconded this Motion, and it was carried by unanimous vote of those present.

Per Mayor Fennell, Gary Deal, who was Town Administrator before Ken Jacobs for about 20 years, will serve as Town Administrator on a limited basis while the Town finds a permanent replacement for Ken Jacobs. Mayor Fennell made

Motion for this to begin immediately. Lee Greeson seconded this Motion, and it was carried by unanimous vote of those present.

Jerry Rice indicated that there had been trouble with the locks on the bathrooms at the ball field this evening, and asked if the Town needs to set opening and closing times for the bathrooms as it is also used by those in the park. He also brought to the Board's attention that the bathrooms are not being cleaned as often as needed with current usage. They will be winterized in the near future. Mayor Fennell asked Lee Greeson if he would help with these ball park issues, and Lee agreed that he would. He indicated he will speak with Mike Dupree, Director of Gibsonville Parks & Recreation, for input. Per Mayor Fennell, there is some light flickering happening there as well; and Cindy Wheeler stated the Town needs to get in touch with the contractor. Mayor Fennell will be taking care of that. Lee Greeson voiced concerns that the locks need to be changed, also.

Jerry Rice asked if the Town would be having anyone answering the phone at Town Hall once Jo Hesson is no longer coming in to the offices as of the end of this month. Craig York asked if an answering service was a possibility, but other members of the Board indicated they felt a person in the office was necessary. The desired time is 9-2 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Mayor Fennell asked Gary Deal how involved DCCs are, and Gary indicated he was not up to date on the details at this time. He will follow up on this.

Jerry Rice indicated that the CPAs have stated the Town needs to be utilizing QuickBooks. Pricing for this needs to be verified, but it is believed to be \$60-70 per month. What Jo Hesson has been using can be transferred into QuickBooks.

Cindy Wheeler wanted to know if anyone knew whether or not the CPAs would be handling payroll once Jo is gone? Cindy is meeting with Jo tomorrow and will check with her regarding this.

Mayor Fennell indicated that where the ARP Funds are set out needs to be checked on with Jo. Rep. Jon Hardister has provided information to Mayor Fennell that the budget is completed by the Legislature, and the Town will be receiving \$50,000 from the State. Rep. Hardister also informed Mayor Fennell that there is a matching grant available, and he will be looking into that.

Jerry Rice asked if it was known how much money is still available for the Park; he stated that Ken Jacobs had wanted to have a picnic shelter and grills added.

2. Speakers from the Floor

Mayor Fennell asked for any speakers from the floor; and no one asked to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, Mayor Fennell invited a Motion to Adjourn. Jerry Rice made the Motion to adjourn; Motion seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson. The motion passed by unanimous vote of those present; and the October 12, 2021 Town Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at the Whitsett Town Hall.

/s/

/s/

Gary Deal, Acting Town Administrator

Richard Fennell, Mayor

APPROVED: , 2021