

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL

May 9, 2023

Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at the Whitsett Town Hall. The following members of the Town Council were present: Mayor Richard Fennell, Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice and Council Members Lee Greeson and Cindy Wheeler. Also present were Town Administrator Elaine Garner, Town Clerk Barbara York as well as 3 citizens of Whitsett.

Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice gave the invocation.

Mayor Fennell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and noted that a quorum was present.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

The mayor asked if there were any Speakers from the Floor and there were none.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Adoption of the Minutes

- Mayor Fennell asked if he heard a motion to accept the minutes from the April 11, 2023 Town Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice made a motion to adopt the April, 2023 minutes. The motion seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson and the adoption of the April 11, 2023 minutes was carried by unanimous vote.

2. Update on Generator and Ballfield Netting

- Town Clerk Barbara York reported that the Town's old military generator had sold during a sealed bid on Facebook Marketplace for \$525.00. The person who bought this generator will pick it up next week. Ms. York called and made arrangements to purchase the new generator for the Town and it should be installed sometime around May 18.
- Ms. York gave the council the estimates that she finally received from SuperNet for the new ballfield netting and Prevatt Electric in Gibsonville for the labor of installing it. Ms. York will turn those estimates into our insurance company.

4. Any Other Old Business

- Mayor Fennell asked if there was any further Old Business and there was none.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Planning Board

- Planning Board Chair Person Karen Horne let the Council know that there had not been a meeting of the Planning Board this month. She was able to let the Council know that there was an update with Hudson Way that there will potentially be 10-20 water/sewer taps that the Town will need to purchase out of our 2023-2024 budget money.

2. Enforcement Officer/Town Administrator

- Enforcement Officer Elaine Garner brought the Council up to date on the property on Greeson Rd. with the junk cars. They have been sent 3 notices, which had all been ignored until this week. One of the owners came in to discuss the situation with Mrs. Garner and they are supposed to come back to provide the town with documentation that they own all of the cars on their property and that they are functional. He was given a copy of the ordinances for our town regarding the situation on his property. Mrs. Garner will meet with our attorney to go over the potential legal action that the Town may need to pursue.

- Town Administrator Elaine Garner let the Council know that the Town Hall's Spring Fest on Saturday was very successful and that we took in approximately \$1000.00 in vendor fees and the sale of tee shirts. We are getting ready to focus on our Fall Festival in Oct. There was some concern by the Council about scaling back the ideas we have for the October festival because of the fear that we would have too many people than we could handle. The mayor said the we will need someone on Highway 61 to help with the traffic. There will be a festival meeting coming soon to discuss these concerns and to make plans.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **The Whitsett Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2023.** The Public Hearing will take place at 6:00pm. at the Town Hall. Topics of discussion will be the:

- The 2023-2024 Budget
- Updated Town Ordinance
- New Water Package
- System Utility Development Packet/Tap Fees

The mayor asked Planning Board Chair Person Karen Horne to review with the Council what is included in the New Water Package and the System Utility Development Packet. The mayor expressed his appreciation to the Budget Committee for all of their hard work in creating a balanced budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Mrs. Horne discussed the highlights of the new proposed water and system utility packets. Once the packet is approved at the June 2023 meeting, Town Clerk Barbara York will need to send the new application forms to everyone in the town that is a water customer. There are new fees and rules in the packet that our citizens will need to know and understand.

2. **New Proposed, updated Town Ordinances will be posted on our website.** Mayor Fennell asked if the Council Members had any questions on the budget proposal. Council Member Lee Greeson asked about the line item for the new picnic shelter. The budget shows a higher amount than what the Council approved for a bid. The mayor said we are working to get the cost down on this project.

3. **Any items from Council Members.**

- Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice stated that the Council needs to set the date for the next Public Hearing. Council Member Lee Greeson made a motion to set the Public Hearing for Tuesday, June 13, 2023. The motion was seconded by Council Member Craig York and was approved unanimously by the rest of the Council.
- Council Member Lee Greeson also had an item to discuss. He stated that the contract to use our ballfield needs to be updated including the current fees. Mr. Greeson and Town Clerk Barbara York will work on this task. Anyone wanting to rent the ballfield needs to go through Mr. Greeson rather than through the Town Hall.
- Council Member Cindy Wheeler asked if the property on 7205 Whitsett Park Rd. has been reviewed to be sure they have the appropriate permitting. The house has been there for quite some time (probably 15-17 years ago) and with no one working on it. Now, the land around it is being cleared and there are people working on the house. There needs to be a current DCC and to check with Guilford County to see what permits may be necessary. There is no permit box at the location. This very large structure only perked for a two-bedroom house with one bathroom so we need to be sure that is all that is happening in this construction update.

4. **Announcements** Mayor Pro Tem Rice asked if there were any announcements and there were none.

5. **Speakers from the Floor** The Mayor Pro Tem asked if there were any Speakers from the Floor.

- Lane Williamson asked if we had heard anything from the DOT regarding Highway 70 and the increase of traffic that happen as these housing developments start opening up. Town Administrator Garner has contacted Mr. Archer with the DOT who referred her to Wanetta Mallet in Burlington to look into this situation. The mayor stated that the Town is going to have to stay on top of all of the developments that our state is trying to create on any available land and to being careful when making decisions so we can preserve our little town and nature as much as possible.

ADJOURNMENT With no further business before the Council, Mayor Fennell invited a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice and seconded by Council Member Cindy Wheeler. The motion carried; and the May 9, 2023 Town Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council as well as the Town's Public Hearing are scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at the Whitsett Town Hall.

_____/S/_____

Elaine Garner, Town Administrator

_____/S/_____

Richard Fennell, Mayor

APPROVED: 6/13/2023