

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL
June 9, 2020
Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 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 Cindy Wheeler, Lee Greeson, and Jamie King.

Also present were Town Administrator Ken Jacobs, *The Alamance News* reporter Tomas Murawski, and two Town residents. Absent was Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia.

Mayor Fennell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., noted that a quorum was present; and asked Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice to offer the invocation.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Mayor Fennell asked for any speakers from the floor, and no one asked to be acknowledged.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Adoption of the Minutes

Mayor Fennell asked for any changes to the minutes from the March 10, 2020 public hearing; and with none, asked for a motion to adopt the minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice made a motion to accept the minutes as written; Council Member Lee Greeson seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the March public hearing minutes carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor Fennell asked for any changes to the minutes from the March 10 regular meeting; and hearing none, asked for a motion to adopt the minutes. A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Council Member Lee Greeson; motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice. The motion to adopt the March regular meeting minutes passed by unanimous vote.

2. Adoption of Budget Ordinance Amendment to Close Out FY 2019-2020

Prior to this meeting, Council Members received a copy of the proposed budget ordinance amendment in their delivered packages for preview. This document is the standard end-of-current-fiscal-year amendment that serves to shift funds from one or more account to another in order to cover expenses that exceeded operating allocations adopted in June 2019.

Mayor Fennell asked for any discussion from Council Members; and with none, asked for a motion to adopt the amendment closing out the budget year that would end June 30, 2020. Motion made by Council Member Jamie King to adopt the budget ordinance amendment as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice. The motion to adopt the document carried by unanimous vote.

3. Adoption of Interim Operating Budget for July and August 2020

Council Members were provided a copy of the 60-day proposed interim operating budget for the upcoming budget year, which had been developed in accordance with state treasurer direction and counsel from the Town's accountant.

NCGS-159-16 enacts the authority for interim budget use, and many local governments chose this method in order to get a better grip on the impact of the COVID pandemic on revenue levels. The temporary budget, therefore, would include no revenues and would appropriate only usual ordinary expenses--wages, utilities, services--to keep the government functioning for a short term, typically 60 days or less.

Mayor Fennell asked for any questions or comments; and with none made, asked for a motion to adopt the interim budget. Council Member Cindy Wheeler made a motion to adopt the interim operating budget covering July and August 2020; motion seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson. The motion to adopt the interim budget carried by unanimous vote.

4. Any Other Old Business

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

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Planning Board

In the absence of the Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia, Town Administrator Jacobs explained that, until further notice, Planning Board meetings have been suspended due to COVID.

2. Enforcement Officer

Enforcement Officer Jacobs reported that three development clearance certificates had been issued since the March Council meeting to: (1) Griggs Associates for demolition of principal dwelling at 620 NC Hwy 61, (2) Scott Kirkman for new residential construction at 572 NC Hwy 100, and (3) Gary and Deanna Shoe for construction of garage and workshop at 7054 Kivette House Road.

3. Town Administrator

Town Administrator Jacobs reported the following informational items:

- **Town Grounds:** (1) Noticed use of the ball field with droves of participants well beyond group limitations, not practicing distancing, and wearing no facial masks. Before further investigation, with the intent to halt play and eject teams, Jacobs asked for law enforcement presence in case met with any resistance. The coordinator of the event was asked to gather the crowd and not return to the field. Two Council Members who live adjacent to the ball field voiced awareness of and concerns about the field activity, and were relieved with removal. The Town looks forward to when the ball field can be occupied and supervised by Gibsonville Parks and Rec who is under contract with Whitsett for 2020-2021. The current contract, even though in effect, cannot be carried out until the recreational lockdown is lifted. (2) the walking track is complete and being used. Once we have an adopted annual operating budget, funds will be allocated for some improvements to the track, i.e., washing out problems and some patching. (3) the Town's concession stand is going to be converted to a public restroom. Working with Willie Saul & Son on a layout that will include a handicap-accessible unisex stall and a regular unisex stall with, of course, the other usual amenities.
- **Town Hall Activities:** (1) Contacted Representative Jon Hardister for assistance and likelihood of receiving any COVID stimulus funds. The Town amount in discussion was \$10,000. Hardister stated a good probability. (2) Received from NCLM Town's property and liability premium estimate for 2020-2021, which is slightly less than last year's \$4,315. Workmen's compensation amount is the standard minimum of \$600. (3) All meetings were virtual via webinars, which included: 2 transportation meetings, 4 BGMPO meetings, 4 EOC briefings, and 3 Governor Cooper updates on COVID policies, practices, and numbers.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Any Items from Council Members

Mayor Fennell asked for any items from Council Members; and no one offered comment.

2. Announcements

Mayor Fennell asked for any announcements; and there were none.

3. Speakers from the Floor

Mayor Fennell asked for any speakers from the floor, and no one asked to be recognized.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, Mayor Fennell invited a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice made the motion to adjourn; motion seconded by Council Member Lee Greenson. The motion passed by unanimous vote; and the June 9, 2020 Town Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at the Whitsett Town Hall.

/s/

/s/

Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

Richard Fennell, Mayor

APPROVED: July 14, 2020