

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL

December 12, 2023

Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, December 12, 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 Craig York, Lee Greeson and Cindy Wheeler. Town Administrator Elaine Garner, Randy McNeil and Garrett Neal, our engineers from Davis, Martin and Powell as well as 8 citizens of Whitsett were also in attendance.

Mayor Fennell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted that a quorum was present. He asked Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice to give the invocation.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Mayor Fennell asked if there were any Speakers from the Floor there were none.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Adoption of the Minutes

- Mayor Fennell asked if he heard a motion to accept the minutes from the November 14, 2023, Town Council Meeting. Council Member Craig York made a motion to adopt the November 2023 minutes. The motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice and the adoption of the November 14, 2023; minutes was carried by unanimous vote.

2. Any Other Old Business

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

MAYOR RECESSED THE MEETING

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

- Mayor Fennell asked Chip Bell, Craig York and Jerry Rice to come forward for the swearing in ceremony. Mayor Fennell read the Oath of Office to Chip Bell, incoming Council Member and to Craig York and Jerry Rice re-elected Council Members and they all received the oath.
- Mayor Fennell then opened the nominations for the position of Mayor of Whitsett. Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice nominated Chip Bell for Mayor. Mayor Fennell asked if there were any other nominations and there were none. Mayor Fennell then closed the nominations and asked for a vote. The vote was unanimous to appoint Chip Bell as the new Mayor of Whitsett. Mayor Bell was then invited to take the seat of the Mayor at the Council table.
- Mayor Bell asked for a nomination for Mayor Pro Tem. Council Member Cindy Wheeler nominated Council Member Jerry Rice; Council Member Lee Greeson seconded. Mayor Bell closed the nominations for Mayor Pro Tem. He then asked for a vote which was unanimous for Mr. Rice to continue his position.
- Next, Mayor Bell stated we were going to appoint the Financial Officer. He asked Jerry Rice if he was willing to continue this position for another term and Mr. Rice agreed. Mayor Bell then stated that the Council needed to appoint an Assistant Financial Officer. When asked who the Assistant Financial Officer was, three of the Council members stated it was Barbara York and they agreed to appoint her again.
- The next appointment was for a 2024 Planning Board Member. Dr. Matt Martin submitted an application to serve as Planning Board alternate. Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to accept Dr. Matt Martin as an alternate on the Planning Board and Council Member Cindy Wheeler seconded. The council approved this appointment unanimously.
- Mayor Bell next stated the Council needed to adopt the Council and Planning Board Meeting Dates for 2024. Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice made a motion to accept the meeting dates for 2024 as submitted to them. Council Member Cindy Wheeler seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.
- Mayor Bell next stated that the Budget Officer needed to be appointed. The Council decided to reappoint Barbara York as the Budget Officer.

- The last appointment was for Davis Martin & Powell to continue the proposed contract with the Town. Randy McNeil and Garrett Neal, our engineers from Davis, Martin and Powell took the podium to answer questions about Hudson Way. Mr. Neal explained to the Council that they will represent the Town of Whitsett in inspecting the water and sewer and the insulation of those utilities for eight hours per week to make sure they are installed to the proper standards to be sure the Town is in a good position to maintain those utilities. This will be for a period of 120 days. This can be renegotiated if needed. The Council will get a report and pictures monthly to present at their meeting. Mr. Neal stated that Gibsonville requires a master meter on the sewer line. The meter will belong to Whitsett, but we will have to pay Gibsonville for the maintenance on it. Mayor Bell asked for a motion to accept the proposal from Davis, Martin and Powell which Mayor Pro Tem made; it was seconded by Council Member Craig York. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Mayor Bell asked if there were any other items from Council members.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice said that we need to start moving forward on the picnic shelter that has money appropriated for it in our 50K grant. The money for this needs to be spent by July 1, 2024, or we will lose that money.
 - Council Member Craig York shared that the outside bathrooms still may need some work. The inspectors said the wall to the bathroom was one inch too far out and Mr. York is going to write a letter to the Permit Department to see if they will waive that issue. Also, he is going to try and get the permit to move the sewer line that goes into the septic tank.
- Mayor Bell asked if there were any announcements. Council Member Cindy Wheeler wanted to thank former Mayor Richard Fennell for all of the years of service that he has given to the Town of Whitsett.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Planning Board

- Planning Board Chairperson Karen Horne stated that there was no report.

2. Town Enforcement

- Town Enforcer Elaine Garner let the Council that the issue at 7211 Greeson Road where it appears to have a business is being run there but the property is zoned residential needs to be followed up on in the coming year. Mrs. Garner also let the Council know that we had Guilford County put a Stop Order on the property at 7209 Whitsett Park Road. The Town still has not received the information requested several times from the owners regarding the floor plans showing the layout of the home.

3. Town Administrator

- Town Administrator Elaine Garner reported that Mr. Predo at 556 NC Highway 61 who had come in requesting that the town give him information on extending the town's water line to allow him access to the Town's water so he would not have to use water from the well on his property that is contaminated. Mrs. Garner has researched and has that information but has not been able to get a response back from Mr. Predo after several attempts.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, Mayor Chip Bell invited a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice and seconded by Council Member Craig York. The motion carried; and the December 12, 2023, Town Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at the Whitsett Town Hall. Council Member Craig York invited the former mayor and everyone else to come together in the parlor to celebrate Mayor Fennell's retirement.

Chip Bell, Mayor

Elaine Garner, Town Administrator

APPROVED: