



**MINUTES
TOWN OF WELDON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
APRIL 9, 2018
6:00 PM**



PRESENT: Mayor Julia M. Meacham
Mayor Pro-Tem Charlotte Moss

Commissioner Larry Brunson
Commissioner Walter Clark, Jr.
Commissioner John Smith
Commissioner Reilyn Stanbeck

PUBLIC PRESENT: Lee Harrell, Heather Scriven, Nolan Davis, Susie Adams, Wilbert Adams, Chris Martin, Demond Faulcon, Desmond Faulcon, Helen Taylor, Mary Mitchum, Pat Ponton-Farm, Don Stottlemeyer, Micheal Scott, Bernice Harding, Jeremiah Webb, Lynn Armstrong, Martha Deloatch, Shaniqua Harvey, Yvonne Banks, and three illegible signatures

MEDIA PRESENT: NONE

STAFF PRESENT: Mitchell Robinson, Town Administrator; Faith McDuffie, Town Clerk; Richard Brown, Code Enforcement Officer; Chief Martin Bolt, Fire Chief; Chief James Avens, Police Chief; Antonio Williams, Street Department Supervisor

VOTING KEY: Aye – Nay – Abstain – Absent

ITEM ONE: Call to Order

Mayor Meacham called the Regular Session of the Town of Weldon Board of Commissioners to order at 6:00 pm.

ITEM TWO: Invocation

Commissioner Reilyn T. Stanback gave the invocation.

ITEM THREE: Pledge of Allegiance

The assembly was led in the pledge of allegiance by Desmond Williams. Mr. Williams is in the fourth grade at Weldon Elementary School.

ITEM FOUR A AND B: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner John Smith motioned that the minutes for the Regular Session of March 12, 2018 be approved as written and the minutes for the April 3, 2018 Work Session be approved as written. Mayor Pro-Tempore Moss seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0-0-0.

ITEM FIVE: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Julia Meacham advised that agenda item number 12, Closed Session, needs to be moved to agenda item 14-A.

Mitchell Robinson, Town Administrator, requested that agenda item 12-A, Closed Session for Economic Development (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4)), be replaced with discussion of Personnel under NCGS 143.318.11(a)(6) and given the designation of item 14-B.

Commissioner Stanback motioned that the agenda be adopted with the above changes. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS

ITEM SIX-A: Zoning Administrator Appointment

Town Administrator, Mitchell Robinson, advised that the Town currently has a request to rezone a property and needs to appoint an Interim Zoning Administrator.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Charlotte Moss made a motion to appoint Faith McDuffie as Interim Zoning Administrator for the Town of Weldon. Commissioner Stanback seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0-0-0.

ITEM SIX-B: Public Comment Policy

Town Administrator, Mitchell Robinson, advised he provided that Commissioners with copies of the Code of Conduct for Town Meetings from the town of Littleton, NC and the Public Comments Policy for the City of Whiteville, NC for their review. Mr. Robinson advised that Mr. Wellman, Town Attorney, is not present for this meeting but Mr. Robinson is hopeful to have a draft policy by next month's meeting.

ITEM SIX-C: Application for Temporary Special Event Permit by Marth West

Town Administrator, Mitchell Robinson, advised that special event permits are required when an event has over fifty people or requires a large tent. Mr. Robinson advised that he spoke with Ms. West who has conducted this event for a number of years with no complaints. Mr. Robinson advised that Ms. West is planning to have a family reunion with approximately seventy-five people. Mr. Robinson advised that the plan is to put up a tent and have a cook-out. Mr. Robinson advised that the event is planned for Saturday, July 28, 2018.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Charlotte Moss motioned that the Special Event Permit for Martha West be approved. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0-0-0.

ITEM SIX-D: Canal Path and Decking

Town Administrator, Mitchell Robinson, advised Chief Bolt is planning to have a team fix the decking this week. Mr. Robinson advised that he visited the canal path on Friday to see about the fallen tree that needed to be removed.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Moss advised that the Canal Commission has agreed to pay to have that tree removed.

Town Administrator, Mitchell Robinson, advised that he would have updated pictures of the decking at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM FIVE – A: Mr. Desmond Faulcon

Mayor Meacham recognized Mr. Desmond Faulcon.

Mr. Desmond Faulcon came to the podium with his brother, Demond Faulcon. Mr. Faulcon advised that he and his brother are partnering with Project Lift and Chris Martin to bring 4th Annual High Jumping Twins Appreciation Weekend on May 4th-May 6th, 2018 to Weldon High School. Mr. Faulcon advised that he is requesting a \$500.00 donation to help with the cost of the event.

After some discussion, Commissioner Brunson motioned that the Town of Weldon donate \$500.00 for this project on the condition that Mr. Faulcon provides documentation that a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) has been formed by Mr. Faulcon. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0-0-0.

ITEM SEVEN-B: Economic Development Commission – Cathy Scott

Mayor Meacham recognized Ms. Cathy Scott of the Halifax County Economic Development Commission.

Ms. Scott made a presentation regarding the economic development around the Town of Weldon and Halifax County.

Ms. Scott advised that Halifax Community College will host a job fair in regards to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline on April 19, 2018.

ITEM SEVEN-C: Mr. Michael Moore

Mayor Meacham recognized Mr. Michael Moore.

Mr. Moore advised that he would like to introduce Liftzing Hands a non-profit mentoring organization aimed sixteen-seventeen year olds.

After some discussion, Mitchell Robinson, Town Administrator, requested that Mr. Moore submit his organization's financial information for the Board to review in order to understand Mr. Moore's organization.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

ITEM EIGHT-A: 118 Washington Ave.

Richard Brown, Code Enforcement Officer, advised that this in reference to broken windows in the building.

Mitchell Robinson, Town Administrator, advised that he contacted the Town Attorney, Tom Wellman, in regard to the lease agreement for this property. Mr. Robinson advised that Mr. Wellman response was in the agenda packet for the Board's review. Mr. Robinson advised that the tenant is responsible for the broken windows.

After some discussion, Mr. Brown will send a letter informing the tenant of their responsibility.

ITEM EIGHT-B: 7 West 7th Street

Richard Brown, Code Enforcement Officer, advised that he has the money in his budget to clean up the property. However, Mr. Brown would like the Board to approve prior to hiring an outside contractor.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Charlotte Moss motioned that the Code Enforcement Department spend \$500.00 to clean up the property at 7 West 7th St. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0-0-0.

ITEM EIGHT-C: 311 Sycamore Street

Mitchell Robinson, Town Administrator, advised that Mr. Lee Harrell had requested to be placed on the agenda in reference to the property at 311 Sycamore Street. Mr. Harrell provided the Board with copies of a petition signed by nineteen persons requested immediate action by the Town of Weldon in regard to the property at 311 Sycamore Street.

Mr. Robinson advised that he has spoken with the property owner, Mr. Andy Whitby. However, Mr. Whitby was unable to be present at this meeting. Mr. Robinson showed pictures of the house that were provided by Mr. Harrell.

Mayor Meacham recognized Mr. Harrell.

Mr. Harrell advised that the scaffolding next to the building has been up for an extended period of time. Mr. Harrell advised that the only thing holding the columns up is sand in the boxes at the bottom. Mr. Harrell advised that the columns are not attached to the ground in anyway and the sand is now coming out of the boxes especially when it rains. Mr. Harrell advised that the citizens would like something to be done about it. Mr. Harrell advised that he believes there are six people living in the house and they come and go all the time. Mr. Harrell advised the first of each month cars will drive up to the property from midnight/1:00 am – stay approximately 30 seconds and leave. Mr. Harrell advised that a person will come from inside the house and then ran back into the house. Mr. Harrell advised that something needs to be done about the house.

Mr. Richard Brown, Code Enforcement Officer, advised that the current owner purchased the home in 2009 and he has been working with him since 2011 to get something done with the house. Mr. Brown advised that the property owner wrote a letter in 2014 advising that he was going to get something done about the property but nothing has been done.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Charlotte Moss inquired what the next step in the process would be.

Mr. Brown advised that the next step would be to begin condemnation processes on the house. Mr. Brown advised that the maximum amount of time he could give the property owner would be 90 (ninety) days to bring the building up to code.

Commissioner Brunson inquired about previously notices to the property owner about the homes condition.

Mr. Brown advised that he has provided notices previously to the property owner about the condition of the home.

Commissioner Brunson inquired if the property owner has made any improvements since 2011 and if the property, in Mr. Brown's opinion, is condemnable.

Mr. Brown advised that the property owner has not made significant improvements to the property and is condemnable in its current state.

After some discussion, Commissioner Clark motioned that the Code Enforcement Officer, Richard Brown, begin the 30 day condemnation process at the property located at 311 Scyamore Street. Mayor Pro-Tempore Charlotte Moss seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0-0-0.

WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT

ITEM NINE-A: BUDGET AMENDMENT IN AMOUNT OF \$226,567

Mitchell Robinson, Town Administrator, gave an explanation of the budget amendment which is listed as follows:

Telephone Water	\$14,800.00
Building Grounds Water	\$5,000.00
Legal Water	\$13,500.00
Legal Sewer	\$0.00
Maint. Equipment	\$60,000.00
Sludge Management	\$25,500.00
Capital Outlay Equipment	\$27,624.00
Sludge Tank Rehab	\$80,143.00
Total	\$226,567.00

Mr. Robinson advised that the question had been asked about reserves in the water and sewer funds. Mr. Robinson advised that the Town still has a comfortable amount of reserve in those funds.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Charlotte Moss motioned that the budget amendment in the amount of \$226,567 be approved. Commissioner Brunson seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0-0-0.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

ITEM TEN-A: STREET DEPARTMENT

Mr. Antoino Williams, Street Department Supervisor, advised that the street department hauled 22 loads of brush, 4 loads of woodchips, 1 load of leave, and 4 loads of debris in the month of March.

Report on file in clerk's office.

ITEM TEN-B: POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief James Avens, Chief of Police, advised that he has changed the format of the police report. Chief Avens advised that the police department served 34 papers, conducted 86 traffic stops, and worked 8 motor vehicle collisions with a total of \$8,800 in damages.

The Weldon Citizen Police Academy (CPA) application deadline is April 20th, 2018 with the academy beginning on May 1st, 2018. The CPA will run for approximately eight weeks. CPA Graduation is expected to occur in June. Chief Avens advised that once CPA is completed he hopes to start additional community watch programs to get citizens involved.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Charlotte Moss inquired if Weldon police officers are working Mr. Faulcon's event will that come out of the overtime budget.

Chief Avens advised that there are not additional monies in the budget to pay the officers to work that event. Chief Avens advised that if Mr. Faulcon wishes to hire those officers he will need to pay them.

Report on file in clerk's office.

ITEM TEN-C: FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Martin Bolt, Fire Chief, advised the Fire Department responded to 43 call in town and 35 calls out of town. Chief Bolt advised that the department participated in 285 hour of training during the month of March. Chief Avens advised that they will be burning a home on 2nd street tomorrow for training purpose beginning around 7:00 pm. Chief Bolt advised that the department is two classes away from gaining Technical Rescue. Chief Bolt advised that in the month of May the department will begin hydrant testing.

Report on file in clerk's office.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

ITEM EVELEN-A: SCHEDULING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RETREAT

Mitchell Robinson, Town Administrator, advised that the Board was interested in scheduling a retreat. Mr. Robinson advised that the facility is open during the day. Mr. Robinson advised that the Town Clerk, Faith McDuffie, had sent out a list to the Board of suggested dates.

After some discussion, the Board agreed on Friday, April 27, 2018 at the Halifax Visitors Center and Saturday, April 28, 2018 at Town Hall.

ITEM ELEVEN-B: Financial Reports

Mitchell Robinson, Town Administrator, advised that he placed some financial reports in the agenda packets for the Board's review. Mr. Robinson advised that if the Board had additional questions in regards to those statements, to please email him.

CLOSED SESSION

ITEM TWELVE-A: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Consultation in accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4)).

This agenda item was moved to ITEM 14-B.

ITEM TWELVE-B: REVIEW OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR SESSION OF FEBRUARY 12, 2018

This agenda item was heard during closed session in conjunction with ITEM 14-B.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ITEM THIRTEEN-A: WELDON'S 8TH ANNUAL FISHING TOURNAMENT SERIES

Mayor Julia Meacham advised that the Annual Shad Shootout was held in March this year. Mayor Meacham advised that the winner was from Franklin, NC.

ITEM THIRTEEN-B: 301 ENDLESS YARD SALE

Mayor Julia Meacham advised that the 301 Endless Yard Sale would take place this summer. Mayor Meacham asked Faith McDuffie, Town Clerk, to give the details on the yard sale. Mrs. McDuffie advised that the 301 Endless Yard Sale would be June 15th and 16th this year from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm daily. Mrs. McDuffie advised that Weldon would have vendors set up in the River Falls Park area for the event. Mrs. McDuffie advised that interested parties could visit 301endlessyardsale.com for more information.

ITEM THIRTEEN-C: SHAD RELEASE BY CHALONER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mayor Meacham advised that Tina Hanz, Teacher at Chaloner Middle School, contacted the Mayor about a grant that Ms. Hanz received from the Museum of Natural History for a science project. Mayor Meacham advised that Ms. Hanz will have a Shad Release in the Roanoke River at Weldon. Mayor Meacham advised that Ms. Hanz will receive the eggs April 16th, 2018 which they will keep for one week. Mayor Meacham advised that on April 20th, 2018 the will have 120 students down at the river, in Weldon, releasing those eggs.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Meacham opened the floor for public comment at 8:32 pm.

Mitchell Robinson, Town Administrator, advised that he would like to make an announcement. Mr. Robinson addressed the citizens and advised that as the town moves into budget season the Town and the Board would like to hear from citizens about their priorities where the budget is concerned.

Ms. Doris Gardner came to the podium to address the Board. Ms. Gardner advised that she realizes that the Board has already voted conditionally on the donation to the Faulcon twins. Ms. Gardner advised that she does applaud the twins for their efforts. Ms. Gardner advised that she wishes the Board to follow up with them to ensure that the children of the Town of Weldon benefit from the Town's \$500.00 donation. Ms. Gardner suggested that the Town be provided vouchers so the parents of the Town may pick them up and ensure that the children of the Town are able to attend.

Ms. Gardner advised that a couple of years ago Pat's Rubber donated material for the Town of Weldon to redo the crosswalks in the Town. Ms. Gardner requested that the installation of that material be included in the budget.

Mayor Meacham asked if any additional persons would like to come forward and speak. No other persons came forward to speak. Mayor Meacham closed the floor for public comment at 8:34 pm.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Pro-Tempore Charlotte Moss motioned that the Board of Commissioners moved into closed session for consultation in accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) regarding Personnel. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0-0-0.

The Board of Commissioners entered closed session at 8:40 pm. Commissioner Smith motioned that the Board of Commissioners return to open session. Commissioner Smith

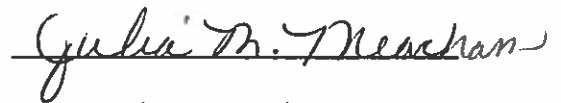
seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0-0-0. The Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 9:25 pm.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Charlotte Moss motioned that the closed session minutes of February 12, 2018 be approved as written. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro-Tempore Charlotte Moss motioned that the regular session of the Town of Weldon Board of Commissioners for April 9, 2018 stand adjourned. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0-0-0.

Mayor Meacham adjourned the regular session of the Town of Weldon Board of Commissioners for April 9, 2018 at 9:27 pm.



Julia M Meacham – Mayor



Faith E McDuffie – Interim Town Clerk