
**TOWN OF WENTWORTH
TOWN COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
M I N U T E S
DECEMBER 4, 2007
7:00 P.M.**

The Wentworth Town Council held their Organizational Meeting at the Town Hall meeting room in the National Guard Armory, on **Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.**

Council members present: Mayor Dennis Paschal, Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Conner, Councilwoman Iris Powell, Councilman Robert Aswell, Councilman Nathan Hendren, and Councilman-Elect James Belcher

A quorum was present.

Staff Present: Brenda Ward - Town Administrator/Town Clerk, Yvonne Russell - Deputy Clerk & Finance Officer, and Town Attorney Fred Baggett.

Article I. **Mayor Dennis Paschal** called the meeting to order and asked everyone to stand for **Posting the Colors and Pledge of Allegiance** to the Flag (SSG. Amanda Hurley and Sgt. Esther Kea, North Carolina National Guard).

Article II. **Rev. Marty L. Brim**, Pastor of Wentworth Presbyterian Church, gave the Invocation.

Article III. Recognition of Special Guests

Mayor Paschal welcomed everyone and acknowledged the following:

Rockingham County Clerk of Superior Court, **Mark Pegram**;

Rockingham County Sheriff, **Sam Page**;

Sgt. Esther Kea and **SSG. Amanda Hurley** (**Mayor Paschal** advised that SSG. Hurley has been transfer to the Winston-Salem National Guard unit, and thanked both soldiers for their assistance to the Town during their time at the Wentworth Armory).

Mayor Paschal recognized, "...the new people in charge here at the Armory—Sgt. Billy Hill and Sgt. Don Murray—we would like to welcome you to Wentworth. Thank you for coming out tonight."

Rockingham County Commissioner, **Bobby Stanley**;

Rockingham County Commissioner, **Dr. Jerry Owens**;

Wentworth Volunteer Fire Department, **Chief Lee Bedell**;

Alley, Williams, Carmen & King, **Jeff Johnson**, Architect/Engineer

Tom Barbour, Photographer, "who did a fine job of taking pictures of all of us."

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2007**

Page 2

Mayor Paschal thanked everyone for coming and asked Sheriff Sam Page to join him at the podium.

Mayor Paschal presented the Sheriff with a check in the amount of \$8,000 as a grant toward the cost of equipment and training for the Sheriff's Department, and expressed his thanks for, "everything y'all do for the town."

Sheriff Page said he would like to welcome the incoming council and thank those who presently serve, for their support of the Sheriff's efforts to maintain safety and protection for everyone in the community.

He added, "The courthouse and jail and all the projects that are up and coming will require patience as they develop over the next two years. This grant makes a big difference in what we try to do in the way of training and equipment, so again, I say thank you to the Council and we will try to continue to make you proud."

Article IV. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes for November 8, 2007

Mayor Paschal asked for a motion concerning the November Town Council Meeting Minutes.

Councilman Robert Aswell: *"I move they be approved as written."*

Councilwoman Iris Powell seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Article V. Recognition of Citizen Volunteers

Mayor Paschal said that he would, "...first like to recognize Brenda and Yvonne (Town Administrator and Finance Officer) "for setting everything up and doing such a fine job. They are always behind the scenes working for us and do a real good job."

The **mayor** asked that the "citizen volunteers" please stand as their names were called. He recognized the following:

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2007**

Page 3

Citizens for Community Improvement—“These guys worked diligently for several months on developing the Town’s Comprehensive Land Use Plan, which has been adopted by the Town Council:”

James Belcher / Kay Hammock / Ed Meador / Kellie Meador / Gary Moore / George Murphy / Pete Paschal / Nell Washburn / Hanna Cockburn (Piedmont Triad Council of Governments);

Newly Appointed Committee Members: “One of the recommendations that came from our Land Use Plan was to establish three committees—Appearance Committee, Recreation Committee, and Historic Preservation Committee. We have been advertising for volunteers to serve on these committees and have recently made some appointments to a couple of them. Would these folks please stand as I call your name:”

Appearance Committee: **Sue Aswell / Foresa Coe / Mike Floyd;**
Historic Preservation: **Mary Ann Evans / Dr. Jerry Owens**

“Also,” the Mayor added, “We would like to recognize **Mrs. Exie Gunn**, who took over after the death of Mrs. Pat Wulfeck, as our National Day of Prayer Coordinator. Exie is not here with us tonight, but she had some big shoes to fill and did a fine job coordinating the 2007 event.”

Mayor Paschal continued, “We haven’t received many applications for the Recreation Committee or the Town Planning Board yet, so we haven’t made any appointments, but we would like to encourage any of you who may be interested to pick up an application from the Town Clerk and get it back to us as soon as you can. This will give you an opportunity to be involved in Town government.”

Town Hall Committee: “These folks were also involved in several meetings, site tours of other town halls, and extensive study of various floor plans and designs. The Committee made a recommendation to the Town Council in March of 2006, for a 6,764 square-foot building. We continued to tweak and review various plans but recently voted to proceed with the initial plan recommended by the Committee. I would like to recognize the Town Hall Committee members at this time:”

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2007**

Page 4

“Molly Vernon / Judy Wall / Beverly Wilcox / Councilwoman Iris Powell / Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Conner, and Chairman of the Committee, Larry Terrell; and Jeff Johnson is here from Alley, Williams, Carmen and King.”

Mayor Paschal stepped down to the podium saying he would like to recognize **outgoing planning board members**. “We owe a lot to these folks,” the **Mayor** continued. “Planning and zoning is an arm of government and one of the tough areas to serve because every citizen wants to do things differently and has a different way of looking at things. But we had a good group (on the Planning Board), and they always worked hard and made good recommendations to us, and we really appreciate everything they have done for us.”

Mayor Paschal recognized the following members whose terms on the Planning Board have expired:

Elvin Springs / William Totten / Vice-Chairman Gary Moore / and Chairman Steve Curry.

Mayor Paschal presented them with plaques which read: *“Presented in grateful appreciation...for your dedicated service as a member of the Town of Wentworth Planning Board...Thank you for your leadership and loyalty in planning for the future while preserving our past.”*

Mayor Paschal continued with recognition of outgoing **Councilman Nathan Hendren**, “...who chose not to run again for Town Council, but nonetheless did a fine job for us as a member of Council. The Mayor presented Mr. Hendren with a plaque which read: *“In appreciation of Nathan Charles Hendren for your service as a member of the Wentworth Town Council and for your dedication and concern on behalf of the citizens of the Town of Wentworth.”*

Mr. Hendren responded, “The only thing I need to say about this is for the upcoming Town Council members to always keep your eye on the ball. Remember that the citizens put you where you are and that I’ll be looking at you. Thank you very much and good luck to you.”

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2007**

Page 5

Article VI. New Business

A. Organizational Session

Mayor Paschal turned the meeting over to Town Attorney Fred Baggett for the Organizational Session and Oaths of Office for recently elected council members.

Attorney Baggett thanked the Mayor and noted that, “The next order of business is the swearing in of the newly elected council members whom I will call on for the Honorable Mark Pegram to begin to administer the oaths—first to **Mr. James Belcher**.”

In addition to Mr. Belcher, **Mrs. Evelyn Conner** and **Mr. Dennis Paschal** were also sworn in by Mr. Pegram.

Mr. Belcher’s son, A.J., accompanied his father for the Oath of Office.

Mr. Paschal’s wife, Debbie, and his mother, Anne Paschal, accompanied him during the Oath of Office.

Mrs. Conner’s husband, David (Sonny), her son and daughter-in-law, Jeff and Mary Conner, and her grandson, Cole, accompanied her as she took the Oath of Office.

➤ **Election of Mayor**

Attorney Baggett noted that the next order of business, “...is the election of the new mayor. Under the Town’s Charter, the Council members themselves elect the mayor. The floor is now open for nominations for the office of Mayor.”

Councilwoman Evelyn Conner stated, “*I would like to nominate Dennis Paschal.*”

Councilwoman Iris Powell stated, “*I would like to nominate James Belcher.*”

There were no further nominations.

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2007**

Page 6

Attorney Baggett advised, “**Dennis Paschal** and **James Belcher**, having been nominated, you will see at your place, I believe, some written ballots. These are not secret ballots. They will be signed by the individuals casting their votes.”

“Write the name of your choice for mayor on the top line and your signature goes on the signature line. Then pass them down to me.”

After tallying the votes, **Attorney Baggett** announced, “**Dennis Paschal** has been elected Mayor. These ballots will be available for inspection at the end of the meeting.”

The **Honorable Mark Pegram** administered the Oath of Office for Mayor, to Mr. Paschal.

Mr. Baggett noted, “Mayor, it’s your meeting.”

➤ **Election of Mayor Pro Tem**

Mayor Paschal continued, “At this time, I would like to open the floor for election of mayor pro tem.”

Councilman Belcher stated, “*I would like to nominate Mrs. Iris Powell.*”

Mayor Paschal stated, “*I would like to nominate Mrs. Evelyn Conner.*”

Mayor Paschal made a motion, “*the nominations be closed*” and asked for all in favor to say ‘aye’. All voted in favor.

Town Attorney Baggett advised that council members could use the back of the ballots they used for election of mayor (in voting for mayor pro tem) and reminded them to sign the ballot and to write clearly.

The ballots were passed to **Mayor Paschal** who tallied the votes and announced, “**Mrs. Evelyn Conner** is our Mayor Pro Tem.”

The **Honorable Mark Pegram** administered the Oath of Office for Mayor Pro Tem, to Mrs. Conner.

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2007**

Page 7

Results of Ballot Voting for Dennis Paschal for Mayor:

Evelyn L. Conner / Dennis Paschal / Robert Aswell

Results of Ballot Voting for James Belcher for Mayor:

Iris Powell / James Belcher

Results of Ballot Voting for Iris Powell for Mayor Pro Tem:

James Belcher / Iris Powell

Results of Ballot Voting for Evelyn Conner for Mayor Pro Tem:

Evelyn Conner / Robert Aswell / Evelyn Conner*

***Note:** The person who signed this ballot apparently *signed* Evelyn's name instead of his/her own signature. Based on the fact that Mayor Paschal is the only person who did not sign his name to a ballot, and because the signature appears to be his handwriting, the Town Clerk assumes that Mayor Paschal also voted for Evelyn Conner.

Witness: _____
Brenda Ward, Town Clerk

Witness: _____
Yvonne Russell, Deputy Clerk

Article VII. New Business – Continued

B. Adoption of Holiday Closing Schedule for Year 2008

Mayor Paschal made a motion, "*That we adopt the Wentworth Town Council Holiday Closing Schedule for 2008 as written.*"

Mayor Pro Tem Conner seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Article VIII. Announcements

- The next regularly scheduled **Planning Board Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, January 15, 2008**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall meeting room at the National Guard Armory.
- The next regularly scheduled **Town Council Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, February 5, 2008**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the National Guard Armory.

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2007**

Page 8

- **Year 2008 Meeting Schedules** for the Wentworth Town Council and the Wentworth Planning Board are available at the Clerk's table, along with a listing of Town Council and Planning Board members.

Mayor Paschal asked everyone to, "meet us at the reception area in the back and enjoy yourselves."

Article IX. A D J O U R N

The **Mayor** then made a motion, "*That we adjourn.*"

Councilwoman Powell seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Note: After the meeting had adjourned, **Mr. David Hoagland** of University Estates, asked Mayor Paschal if the Council would allow him to speak.

Mayor Paschal advised Mr. Hoagland that the meeting had already adjourned and that no one signed the Speaker Register prior to the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Hoagland said that he was late arriving. Mayor Paschal explained again that the meeting was adjourned and that since it was an Organizational Meeting, no business was handled. He invited Mr. Hoagland to come to the January Town Council meeting and sign the Speaker Register before the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. and said that Council would be glad for him to speak at that time.

Respectfully Submitted By: _____
Brenda Ward, Town Clerk

Approved By: _____
Dennis Paschal, Mayor