
**TOWN OF WENTWORTH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
January 2, 2008
7:00 P.M.**

The Wentworth Town Council held their regular monthly meeting in the Town Hall meeting room at the National Guard Armory, on **Tuesday, January 2, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.**

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

A quorum was present.

Staff Present: Brenda Ward, Town Clerk / Deputy Clarence Cheshire, and Town Attorney, Fred Baggett.

Article I. Mayor Paschal called the meeting to order.

Article II. Mayor Paschal gave the **Invocation.**

Article III. **Discussion / Revision and Adoption of Agenda**

A. Requests and Petitions of Citizens

Mayor Paschal advised that **Deputy Clarence Cheshire** signed the Speaker Register, and made a motion, “...*that we approve the January 2, 2008 Agenda, with the addition of Deputy Cheshire for Public Comments.*”

Councilman James Belcher seconded the motion. There was no discussion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Mayor Paschal asked Deputy Cheshire if he would like to address Council first, rather than waiting until the end of the meeting.

Deputy Cheshire agreed, and said he only wanted to make a suggestion: “...in keeping with the Town’s ten-year anniversary you’re planning to begin working on for July, I spoke to Brenda (Ward) earlier about the possibility of having a Christmas parade. I would be willing to volunteer my own time, making contacts with people who may be interested in participating in the parade.”

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2008**

Page 2

“On my end,” **Deputy Cheshire** continued, “I would try to be sure there is very little cost to the Town, if any. Most people who want to enter the parade would do so as a means of advertising. Others would just do it for the fun of it. I think the Town could have a really nice parade.”

“I wanted to bring it to your attention, see what y’all think about it, if you have any ideas for a theme. You have enough resources around here to have a nice parade.”

After a brief discussion about possible dates for a parade that would not conflict with others in the county, **Mayor Paschal** said, “We’ll think about it and maybe get something going.”

Article IV. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes

A. Town Council Organizational Meeting – December 4, 2007

Mayor Paschal asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the Organizational Meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Conner made a motion, “*The Minutes stand as written.*”

Councilman Robert Aswell seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

B. Joint Meeting of Town Council and Planning Board – December 18, 2007

Mayor Paschal asked for corrections or a motion to approve the Joint Meeting Minutes.

Councilman Aswell made a motion, “*The Minutes stand approved as written.*”

Councilman Belcher seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Councilman Aswell told Mayor Paschal he, “...would like to commend Brenda and Yvonne (Russell) for the supper they arranged for the joint meeting.” Others on Council also voiced their appreciation.

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2008**

Page 3

Article V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Consideration of Appointments to Town Planning Board & Committees

Mayor Paschal commented, “We have put this off for some time and I appreciate Council working with me. We didn’t have anyone representing the Black community and I wanted some extra time to find some applicants to consider, and we do have one.”

Town Attorney Fred Baggett advised that Council could nominate one or more applicants, and then, using the prepared ballots, they would vote for four.

Mayor Paschal opened the floor for nominations.

Councilwoman Powell nominated the following: “Lee Templeton, Harold Vaden, and Robert Witherspoon.”

Councilman Aswell nominated: “Nathaniel Willis, Tangi (Tangela) Holcomb and Lloyd (Kevin) Gann.”

Mayor Paschal commented, “So that’s all of them. We have nominated all six (applicants) at this point in time.”

Councilman Belcher made a motion, “*The nominations be closed.*”
Mayor Paschal seconded the motion.

In discussion between the Town Attorney and Council, Council was advised to write down their **four choices**. **Mr. Baggett** explained, “If there are one or two that have three votes or a majority in the first round, you could declare them elected and then have a separate vote on the others.”

Mayor Paschal and **Mayor Pro Tem Conner** stated their understanding that the top four vote-getters would automatically be appointed.

Councilman Belcher added, “We can only pick four of the six.”

Mayor Paschal said, “We just write down the four we want, right?”

Attorney Baggett advised council to be sure to sign their ballots, explaining, “It is not a secret ballot, just written votes rather than verbal.”

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2008**

Page 4

Attorney Baggett collected the ballots and after tallying the votes reported: “Well, we have one too many (for the vacant number of seats), because there was one clear winner—one person got more votes than anyone else, but then there were four people who had the same number of votes. So, you have five people in the running and you need to weed it down. Do you want to have a runoff among those four?”

Councilman Belcher said, “Vote for three of the four and the top vote-getter is in.” Everyone agreed and prepared additional ballots for the second round.

Attorney Baggett advised, “First, let me tell you who won...each of you voted for **Lee Templeton**, so Lee Templeton got five (5) votes. The remaining names I am going to give you, each had three (3) votes and they are: **Gann, Holcomb, Willis, and Vaden**. The other one (Robert Witherspoon) received less than three votes.”

FIRST ROUND, UNANIMOUS: LEE TEMPLETON

Council members voted as follows:

Lee Templeton: Mayor Dennis Paschal / Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Conner / Councilwoman Iris Powell, Councilman Robert Aswell, and Councilman James Belcher.

Tangela Holcomb: Councilwoman Powell / Mayor Paschal / Mayor Pro Tem Conner / Councilman Aswell

Harold Vaden: Councilman Belcher / Councilwoman Powell / Mayor Pro Tem Conner

Nathaniel Willis: Mayor Paschal / Mayor Pro Tem Conner / Councilman Aswell

Robert Witherspoon: Councilman Belcher / Councilwoman Powell

Kevin Gann: Councilman Belcher / Mayor Paschal / Councilman Aswell

Note: Tangela Holcomb actually received four (4) votes, but the Attorney may not have realized this in his count, since one of the council members wrote in her maiden name, Jackson.

However, the final outcome would have been the same

The **Town Clerk** asked, “So Council now has to select three of those four you just named.”

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2008**

Page 5

Attorney Baggett agreed and reminded Council again to sign the ballots.

After the votes were tallied, **Attorney Baggett** reported: “Okay, we have another tie. **Templeton** was elected in the first round. In this round, two of the four received more votes than the other two. So I assume you want to declare those elected. They were **Gann** and **Holcomb**.”

SECOND ROUND: TANGELA HOLCOMB and KEVIN GANN

Council members voted as follows:

Tangela Holcomb: Mayor Paschal / Mayor Pro Tem Conner / Councilman Aswell and Councilman Belcher

Harold Vaden: Councilman Belcher / Councilwoman Powell / Mayor Pro Tem Conner

Nathaniel Willis: Mayor Paschal / Mayor Pro Tem Conner / Councilman Aswell

Kevin Gann: Councilman Belcher / Mayor Paschal / Councilman Aswell and Councilwoman Powell

The **Town Clerk** asked, “And now they have to vote again between two.”

“Between **Willis** and **Vaden**,” **Mr. Baggett** answered.

Council began the third round to select the final appointee to the Planning Board.

Mr. Baggett tallied the remaining ballots and announced, “**Nathaniel Willis** received three (3) votes, and two for **Mr. Vaden**.”

THIRD ROUND: NATHANIEL WILLIS

Council members voted as follows:

Harold Vaden: Councilman Belcher / Councilwoman Powell

Nathaniel Willis: Mayor Paschal / Mayor Pro Tem Conner / Councilman Aswell

Mayor Paschal asked, “So we ended up with who...?”

Councilman Belcher replied, “**Lee Templeton, Kevin Gann, Tangi Holcomb, and Nathaniel Willis**.”

The **Town Clerk** and **Town Attorney** confirmed the winners as stated by **Councilman Belcher**.

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2008**

Page 6

Mayor Paschal then made a motion, *“That we appoint Lee Templeton, Kevin Gann, Tangi Holcomb and Nathaniel Willis to the Town of Wentworth Planning Board.”*

Councilman Aswell seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Mayor Paschal advised that **Councilman Aswell** pointed out, **“Robert Witherspoon** also indicated his interest in serving on the Recreation Committee, and we do have these other committees mentioned on the Agenda.”

Councilman Aswell said he would like to, “Nominate **Robert Witherspoon** to serve on the Recreation Committee, along with **Richard Capps.**”

Councilman Belcher made a motion, “The nominations be closed.” All voted in favor of the two nominees.

Mayor Paschal announced that **Robert Witherspoon** and **Richard Capps**, “are appointed by Council to serve on the Town of Wentworth Recreation Committee.”

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration of Approval of Certificate of Municipal Ordinance Declaring Speed Limit Modifications and Request for Concurring Ordinance by the N.C. Department of Transportation

(Declaring a 20mph Speed Limit on SR 2704, SR 2700, and SR 2099 for Subdivision University Estates)

Mayor Paschal advised that the Certificate of Municipal Ordinance is the result of Council’s request to NCDOT for the speed limit change.

Councilman Belcher made a motion, *“That we set the speed limit on SR 2704, SR 2700, and SR 2099, according to the descriptions, at 20 mph.”*

Mayor Paschal seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

The **Town Clerk** advised Council that the request was also made to NCDOT for the speed limit change on Cherokee Camp Road, but that she had not yet received the Certificate of Municipal Ordinance from the Department of Transportation.

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2008**

Page 7

B. Consideration of Amended Contract for the Conduct of Municipal Elections for the Town of Wentworth (In Reference to N.C.G.S. 163-285)

Mayor Paschal asked if anyone had questions or comments about the Board of Elections Contract. There were none.

Councilman Aswell made a motion, "...that we accept it." **Mayor Paschal** seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

C. Consideration of Request from Rockingham County Sheriff, Samuel S. Page, to reapply Training Monies \$5,025.13 Recently Appropriated by the Town to the Sheriff's Department, to an Alternate Facility, Rather than the Blackwater, Inc. Facility, as Previously Approved by Council

Mayor Paschal asked Deputy Cheshire if he knew what facility the Sheriff was considering. **Deputy Cheshire** replied that he did not know where the training is to be held, but said the funds would be used for the same type training that Blackwater offers.

Councilman Aswell made a motion, "*That we leave it (appropriation) as it is, but for an alternate site, to be determined by the Sheriff.*"

Mayor Paschal seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Article VII. Public Comments

Mayor Paschal noted that Council already heard public comments.

Article VIII. Announcements

- The next regular meeting of the **Town of Wentworth Planning Board** will be held on **Tuesday, January 15, 2008**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall Meeting Room as the National Guard Armory.
- The next regular meeting of the **Wentworth Town Council** will be held on **Tuesday, February 4, 2008**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall Meeting Room at the National Guard Armory.

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2008**

Page 8

Article VIII. Announcements – C O N T I N U E D

- The Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk will be out of the office **January 24 – 25th** to attend the **North Carolina Association of Municipal Clerks' Annual School** in Chapel Hill.

Councilman Aswell asked the Mayor if Council needed to take any action on the rerouting of NC 87.

Mayor Paschal replied, "We voted and voted again, and sent letters to everybody, copied everybody, and let them know. If we hear anything else, I will get in touch with everybody and let you know what's going on."

The **Town Clerk** advised that the letter (opposing the rerouting of NC 87) went to all the County Commissioners and to Representative Nelson Cole and Senator Phil Berger.

Mayor Paschal asked Council to, "give some of these folks a call or if you run into them, let them know how you feel about it."

The **Mayor** added, "Eden has already directed traffic around from the old downtown area to NC 14. It looks like to me they want to get things set up to do some annexation and take a road away from us that we have shared with them for ever so long. I don't mind sharing, but I don't like to give them the road, either."

Article IX. A D J O U R N

Mayor Paschal made a motion, "*That we adjourn.*"

Councilman Belcher seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted By: _____
Brenda Ward, Town Clerk

Approved By: _____
Dennis Paschal, Mayor