
**TOWN OF WENTWORTH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
February 3, 2009
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, February 3, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.**

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

A quorum was present.

Council members absent: **Mayor Dennis Paschal** had an emergency and had to leave prior to the meeting being called to order.

Staff Present: Brenda Ward, Town Clerk, and Deputy Sheriff Clarence Cheshire

Article I. Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Conner called the meeting to order.

Article II. Councilwoman Iris Powell gave the **Invocation.**

Article III. **Discussion / Revisions / Adoption of Agenda**

A. Requests and Petitions of Citizens

Mayor Pro Tem Conner made a motion, *“That we amend the February 3rd Agenda to add Item E, New Business, Discussion of Additional NCDOT Charges for Road Paving, and to add **Deputy Clarence Cheshire** for Public Comments, and **Jeff Strader** to speak regarding the RCHS SADD Club funding request.”*

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

Article IV. **Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes**

A. Town Council Meeting – January 6, 2009

Mayor Pro Tem Conner asked if there were any corrections to the Minutes.

The **Town Clerk** advised, “The Minutes show Councilwoman Powell as being present at the January meeting, when in fact, she was absent. Iris called and reminded me of that, so I have corrected the Minutes accordingly.”

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Councilwoman Powell made a motion, *“The Minutes stand approved with the correction as noted.”*

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

Article V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Consideration of Interlocal Agreement Draft Between Rockingham County and the Town of Wentworth for use of the Old Wentworth School Ball Field and Gymnasium

1. Council Discussion of Recreation Committee’s Proposed Lease Options.

Mayor Pro Tem Conner advised, “Dennis (**Mayor Paschal**) told me on the way in that they (Recreation Committee) met last night, and I would like to make a motion, *“To table this until next month.”*

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

Mayor Pro Tem Conner asked the Town Clerk about Item 1 under Old Business, as far as whether or not it was okay to cover it all in one motion.

Councilman Aswell replied, “That’s all the same thing.”

The **Town Clerk** confirmed, “Yes, it’s all pertaining to the proposed lease agreement, and the Recreation Committee decided that they would like to gather some additional information prior to further discussion.”

Article VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration of Resolution of Support for Veterans’ Stamp, Bond, and Coin Program

Mayor Pro Tem Conner asked the Town Clerk if she or the mayor had additional information on this item.

The **Town Clerk** said she included everything in Council’s packets. She said the gentleman called her and asked if Council would consider supporting the Resolution. She also advised that other municipalities have been asked to do so, “...and according to what I’ve seen on the ListServ, several others are placing this on their Agendas as well.”

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Mayor Pro Tem Conner made a motion, *“That we accept the Resolution of Support for the Veterans’ Stamp, Bond, and Coin Program.”*

Councilman Aswell seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Powell asked if everyone understood what the money would be used for...“Can we be sure it is really used to help the veterans?”

The **Town Clerk** said the gentleman told her the proceeds from the sale of these items would go to help veterans.

Councilwoman Powell asked, “Who is going to keep up with the money...how do we know they are going to do what they say?”

Mayor Pro Tem Conner replied, “We’re just voting to support it...we’re not pledging any funds...”

Councilman Belcher explained, “I think they are trying to set up a non-profit entity to handle the proceeds and disbursements to our veterans. They are probably trying to get some grassroots support before taking it to the next level, and that’s what we are doing—giving our support to help them get it going.”

Mayor Pro Tem Conner asked for any additional discussion.

Councilwoman Powell said she understood it now and would support it. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

B. Funding Request from Rockingham County High School SADD Club (Students Against Destructive Decisions) (\$2500 in FY 2009-2010)

- Jeff Strader, School Resource Officer

Deputy Strader thanked Council for their, “...financial support to the High School and the SADD Club in the past few years, and hope you will consider us again for next year.”

He added, “Last year’s Prom Breakfast was probably the most successful one I have been involved with...more kids...about 400 people in all, and **Suzanne Russell**, who took Janet Rakestraw’s place at the school, is just a God-send. She can get the kids involved, and she had a group of kids coming tonight but I told her not to worry about it since the weather forecast was bad for tonight.”

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Deputy Strader continued, “I think we have had some success in keeping the kids from getting messed up on the night of the prom. I’m sure some of them still may go out after leaving us, but at least we can keep an eye on them up until 1:00 a.m. or so, and know they were safe the last time we saw them. We have had good luck and no one has been hurt on prom night. We appreciate all your help and if you will consider us for next year, we appreciate that, too.”

Mayor Pro Tem Conner thanked Deputy Strader for coming and noted that Council would consider the funding request when they start the budget process for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

**C. Consideration of Budget Amendment No. 2 for FY 2008-2009
(General Fund & Capital Project Ordinance)**

The **Town Administrator** asked if anyone had questions about the Finance Officer’s memo. She noted that General Fund Revenues were *increased by \$13,025* as a result of additional monies received from interest on investments.

“At the same time,” said **Ms. Ward**, “we have also increased the General Fund Expenditures under Capital Outlay, to *transfer \$18,725* to the Capital Project Fund.”

She explained that \$5,700 of the \$18,725 transferred to the Capital Project Fund, “...was the result of a *decrease* in the line item for Other Operating Costs: Miscellaneous.”

Ms. Ward said, “The transfer of funds will be clearer to you when you look at the next item—Approval of an amendment to the Capital Project Ordinance. It reflects an increase in the line item expenditure for Architectural/Engineering services.”

She explained further, “The architectural firm’s fees have exceeded the amount originally budgeted by us, but this amendment covers that. The costs are related to the Town Hall project.”

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Ms. Ward advised, “Unfortunately, there will probably be another budget amendment to come. At our next meeting when we have the budget work session, I hope to have a list of the change-orders related to the town hall, and we’ll just have to go from there. As you know, anytime you are involved in a construction project, there are going to be changes, and as Jeff (Johnson) (Alley, Williams, Carmen and King) said in our last meeting, some of them have been offset, and balanced out.”

“So far, change orders have amounted to about \$19,000. There were additional charges for some work at the entrance to the parking lot—for drains, and to run a line for additional lighting on the side of the parking lot near the woods. We should have a better handle on other changes by the time we have our work session in March.”

Councilman Belcher commented, “That’s really not bad at all considering the overall cost of the project.”

“The second item, D, under New Business,” said **Ms. Ward**, “is for the amendment to the Capital Project Ordinance, but since we have it on the agenda as a separate item, I think we need a motion regarding Item C.”

Councilman Belcher made a motion, “*That we approve Budget Amendment No. 2 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.*”

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

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

D. Consideration of Amendment No. 2 to Capital Project Ordinance

Mayor Pro Tem Conner introduced the next item of New Business, and asked the Town Administrator to explain.

Ms. Ward said, “As you know, with construction of a new town hall, we are required to adopt a Capital Project Ordinance, which has been amended once already. The second amendment before us updates the total amount appropriated for the new Town Hall, and reflects the increase in architectural/engineering fees we have already discussed.”

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Councilman Aswell made a motion to, “*Approve Amendment No. 2 to the Capital Project Ordinance.*”

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

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

E. Discussion of Additional NCDOT Charges for Road Paving

Mayor Pro Tem Conner asked the Town Administrator to comment on the additional charges for road paving.

Ms. Ward explained that she emailed a memo of explanation to the council members who use email, and gave out copies to the others just before the meeting. **Ms. Ward** said she would like to elaborate a little more for everyone’s benefit.

Mayor Pro Tem Conner commented, “Dennis (Mayor Paschal) mentioned that we really don’t have a choice on this, but from here on, we may want to have some stipulations about overages.”

Ms. Ward added, “After talking with our Town Attorney, I told Dennis that Mr. Baggett suggested we have a “Municipal Agreement” for any projects such as this from NCDOT and include a clause about overages, ten percent or whatever, so that we would have to be notified in advance.”

“I think we have learned our lesson,” said **Ms. Ward**, “after ten years of doing it *this way*—a gentleman’s agreement.”

“I called the district office and spoke with **John Hunsinger** about the additional charges. Actually, we never talked that much about the charges for Dove Road, I guess because the overage for Foch Farm Road was so significant, we mainly talked about that one.”

“**Mr. Hunsinger** said they spent additional time on Dove Road, obtaining right-of-way, having to come out several times.”

“On Foch Farm Road, which is seven-tenths of a mile long, **Mr. Hunsinger** said they estimated \$300,000 per mile. Our half was \$150,000 but they said there was (pasture) fencing all the way down that had to be removed and replaced. Also, a corral that had to be redone...amounting to about five weeks of additional labor.”

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“He also said there was 700 feet of steep ditches where they couldn’t plant grass, but had to use riprap instead, which I assume is more expensive.”

“Also,” said **Ms. Ward**, “there were two water lines running under the road that NCDOT did not know about. **Mr. Hunsinger** said they had to encase them and rework them, which required paper work to allow for encroachment by the property owner(s).”

“**Mr. Hunsinger** noted that the property owner does pay for all the materials (fences), but that NCDOT provides the labor.”

He also said that if y’all had any questions, to ask Robert (Councilman Aswell, former NCDOT employee).

Councilwoman Powell commented, “There was bound to have been a lot of labor involved because the fence went all the way down to the Scales place, and they had to take down a lot of trees, too.”

“Technically, you would think that once they got there and realized what all had to be done, they would have revised their estimate and given us a call,” said **Ms. Ward**.

“When I suggested to him that from now on, we may ask them to sign a Municipal Agreement, **Mr. Hunsinger** said that was fine...that a lot of towns do that.”

Councilman Aswell asked, “Do we need to make a motion on this?”

“Yes, a motion to approve the payment and present it at the next meeting in the form of a budget amendment,” replied **Ms. Ward**.

Councilman Aswell made a motion, “*To cover the additional costs for Dove Road and Foch Farm Road and include it in a budget amendment next month.*”

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

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Article VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Conner asked Deputy Clarence Cheshire to address Council.

Deputy Cheshire said the first thing he wanted to say was, "...in my opinion, the Town's first Christmas Parade was a big success, and I wanted to be sure Council intends to have one this year (2009)."

He explained, "I have talked with some folks at Anheuser Busch about getting the Clydesdales for the parade. They need plenty of notice, which leads to my next question—when would you want to have the parade...the date?"

Council discussed the date for a parade, and determined that the 2nd weekend in December, 2009, would be (Saturday) December 12th.

Deputy Cheshire pointed out that the Town of Madison also has their parade the same weekend, and as happened in 2008, it made it difficult for people who were participating in both parades, to get to Madison on time (by 1:00 p.m.).

Deputy Cheshire said both Eden and Reidsville have night parades. The Draper Parade is on the first Saturday of December (5th) at 11:00 a.m. The dates for other parades in the county were discussed, with November 28th open, and Saturday, December 19th.

Council thought December 19th would be too close to Christmas.

Deputy Cheshire said, "If we do the parade on the 12th, the same day as Madison, we should do it earlier so that nobody has to rush to get over to Madison...maybe start earlier at 9:00 or 10:00 a.m."

"If we do it on one of the other Saturdays, it will have to be November 28th, or December 12th."

Council agreed that November 28th, the Thanksgiving Day weekend would not be a good time, because a lot of people go out of town.

Mayor Pro Tem Conner said she would not want to start any earlier than 10:00 a.m.

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Councilman Belcher asked if the committee should consider shortening the parade route.

Deputy Cheshire said, “There will be some changes made and one will definitely be in the length of the parade, and perhaps other changes after we send out our survey.”

Councilman Belcher said he wouldn’t want to start any earlier than 10:00 a.m.

Deputy Cheshire said that if “...the parade route...is shortened, maybe we can add more entries to it.”

After further discussion, Council agreed on Saturday, December 12th at 10:00 a.m. and a shorter route.

Deputy Cheshire thanked Council and said he would now be able to contact possible entries, “...including Anheuser Busch, and give them a firm date and time.”

“Just so you know,” said **Deputy Cheshire**, “Anheuser Busch pays for everything. They don’t charge the Town anything for coming and having the Clydesdales appear.”

Mayor Pro Tem Conner said, “We’ll have it whenever they can come, if they will come.” She thanked Deputy Cheshire for the “wonderful job” he did on the first parade. **Councilman Belcher** and others agreed, “It was a great first effort.”

Prior to making the announcements, **Mayor Pro Tem Conner** said she had one thing she wanted to comment on—“Robert (Councilman Aswell) and I have discussed the water tank. We are not happy at all with it. I was getting ready to call Mike Lemons...when Yvonne caught me...the measurements were on the drawing that we approved. We can’t actually measure it, I guess, and don’t know how we would measure it.”

The **Town Clerk** commented, “Yes, several folks are disappointed with the location of the lettering. We were hoping it would wrap around more, so that it could be seen coming from both directions on NC 87, but as it is, you can see it best coming off Peach Tree Road.”

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“I called Mike Lemons at Dan River Water and told him several people, including council, were not happy with the sign. He said that it is the *one we approved.*”

Ms. Ward added, “We did go back and look at the drawing, and it has the dimensions on there.”

Mayor Pro Tem Conner said she thought the cougar and high school letters would have been on the back side “...where it could be seen from the school...as you leave the parking lot.”

Councilman Belcher said, “The field pipe appears to have affected the position of the cougar from what I’ve seen. But, I will say that I have had a handful of people mention it to me and say they thought it was neat. I haven’t heard any derogatory comments.”

Councilman Aswell said, “I would like to have it where you can see it coming from both directions. Most other towns you go through, if they have a water tank you can see the name of the Town facing you as you come in. I really think the letters need to be a whole lot bolder.”

The **Town Administrator** advised, “I thought, personally, that larger block letters in black would have shown up better, but they did it according to the design you picked out. Either way, the lettering needs to be positioned differently, but I don’t know what we can do about it now. I’m sure they are not going to redo it for free. Do you want to spend the money to do it again?”

Councilman Belcher said, “The next time it’s painted, we might consider changing it but I wouldn’t be in favor of doing it now. I haven’t had any trouble seeing it as it is now.”

There was no further discussion on the water tank lettering.

Mayor Pro Tem Conner made the following announcements:

Article IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next regular meeting of the Town of Wentworth Planning Board will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room at the National Guard Armory.

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Article IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS - Continued

- The next regular meeting of the Wentworth Town Council will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room at the National Guard Armory. **Note:** There will be a Budget Work Session at the end of the March meeting.

Article X. A D J O U R N

Mayor Pro Tem Conner made a motion, "*that the meeting be adjourned.*" **Councilman Aswell** seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted By: _____
Brenda Ward, Town Clerk

Approved By: _____
Dennis Paschal, Mayor