
**TOWN OF WENTWORTH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
July 7, 2009
7:00 P.M.**

The Wentworth Town Council held their regular monthly meeting in the new Town Hall Council Chambers, on **Tuesday, July 7, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.**

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

A quorum was present.

Staff Present: Brenda Ward, Town Clerk / Yvonne Russell, Finance Officer, and Deputy Clarence Cheshire

Article I. **Mayor Paschal** called the “inaugural” town council meeting to order—welcoming everyone to the first meeting in the new Town Hall on Peach Tree Road.

Article II. **Councilman James Belcher** gave the **Invocation.**

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

A. Requests and Petitions of Citizens

Mayor Paschal noted that Charlie Boswell of 386 Butter Road in Wentworth signed the Speaker Register, “To speak about the Wentworth Ruritan Club. I make a motion that we *add Mr. Boswell to the Agenda at the point where we have public comments at the end of the meeting.*”

Councilman 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 – June 2, 2009

Mayor Paschal moved on to approval of the Minutes, noting, “Everybody has a copy...”

Councilwoman Powell made a motion, “*That we accept them as written.*”

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

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2009**

Page 2

Article V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Consideration of Request for Proposal(s)

- 1. Housekeeping Services**
- 2. Lawn Care Services**

Mayor Paschal asked the **Town Clerk** if she had received any proposals. **Mrs. Ward** explained, “We haven’t advertised yet...Council tabled this at the June meeting so you all and the Attorney could study it a little more. Mr. Baggett (Attorney) had some suggestions for minor changes.”

Councilman Belcher asked if Mr. Baggett had made the revisions.

“Yes, replied **Mrs. Ward**, “and I made the changes and sent those to him right after the last meeting. I sent him clean copies of everything, and he told me then that everything looked good. I left him a voice mail, asking him to read over them again before the meeting and to let me know if he thinks everything is okay. I haven’t heard from him, but since we don’t have internet service yet, he could have replied by email, and I wouldn’t know. They were only minor changes.”

“These look okay to me,” **Councilwoman Powell** commented.

Mrs. Ward explained to Council, “If you are okay with the way this reads, or if you want to change something, you can do it now.”

“I think we discussed it before, and addressed everything we had questions about,” said **Mayor Paschal**.

“He just basically wanted to review them and get with Brenda on some small changes, is what he said,” **Councilman Belcher** added.

Mrs. Ward said, “If you are okay with everything, we can go ahead and run the ad in the paper soliciting proposals.”

Councilwoman Powell said, “*I make a motion that we accept these and put the ad in the paper.*”

Mayor Pro Tem Conner seconded the motion.

Mayor Paschal said, “We were talking just about the housekeeping services, are you making a motion to include both Lawn Care and Housekeeping?”

“Yes,” replied **Councilwoman Powell**.

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2009**

Page 3

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

Councilman Aswell asked, “Are we going to require them to have worker’s comp insurance?”

“It’s supposed to be in there,” replied **Mayor Paschal**.

“It says, ‘*may*’ require,” **Councilman Aswell** noted.

Mrs. Ward advised, “The attorney said to leave it as *may* be required, because that doesn’t mean that we can’t require them to have it, but he said it leaves it open as to whether they have a fidelity bond or one of the other scenarios, depending on how they are set up.”

“It leaves the options open,” said **Councilman Belcher**, “but we can still require whatever we choose.”

Article V. OLD BUSINESS - Continued

B. Consideration of Policy for Use of Town Hall Facilities

Mayor Paschal reminded Council that this policy was also tabled at the June meeting. He asked if anyone wanted to make any changes. There were no changes or comments from Council.

The **Mayor** asked the Town Administrator if the Town Attorney had any comments or changes.

Ms. Ward said the changes were minor, “...mostly what he mentioned at the June meeting. I used sample policies from other towns, and for instance, I needed to change the name of the town from Marshville to Wentworth...things like that.”

Mrs. Ward commented further, “The main thing I want you to look at is the fee schedule. I tried to look at what other towns of similar size and space as Wentworth, are charging, but you may or may not agree with what is in front of you. So, feel free to lower, raise, or eliminate the fees if you want to.”

Councilman Belcher said, “I think they all look pretty reasonable. I would like to make a motion *that we accept the Policy for Use of Town Hall Facilities with the included fee schedule.*”

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

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2009**

Page 4

Article V. OLD BUSINESS - Continued

C. Consideration of Removing Cedar Trees from Town Property at the New Sign

Mayor Paschal advised, “We are referred to the June 2, 2009, Town Council Meeting Minutes for previous discussion on this. We talked about getting prices on the removal of other trees. I decided to ask for pricing to remove everything. Robert (Councilman Aswell) had asked if we were going to poll everyone, but at that time I didn’t have pricing from anyone yet. He suggested I get prices on all of it, so I just got prices on everything out there that is east of the sign.”

“I do want to interject, regarding the woodpecker holes in the cedar trees, that I talked with John Tate with the North Carolina Forestry Service. He was up here and looked at the cedars and said that in his opinion the trees aren’t diseased, that the woodpecker holes have no effect on them, and that the vines can be pulled out.”

Mayor Paschal continued, “He said the problem the trees have, and this was also mentioned by Ms. Holmes in her letter to Brenda, is that the trees may be experiencing some stress from construction. He said that the magnolia in front has been affected (by the construction), the oak on the far side, and this side of the cedar trees. I told him it has been quite some time since the house was removed (near the cedars), and he said he couldn’t tell me if or when the trees might die, and said they could outlive all of us...they look okay.”

“So,” **Mayor Paschal** added, “There is a discrepancy between what he said and what Ms. Holmes said. I also asked the tree people about it and they said both of them (cedars) look sound. I wanted to interject that in defense of the cedar trees.”

(Note: Ms. Holmes, referenced above by Mayor Paschal, and in the June 2, 2009, Town Council Meeting Minutes, is the Horticulturist for the Cooperative Extension Service of Rockingham County.)

Councilwoman Powell said, “The magnolia trees are old trees, too. Their roots probably go way down. We can wait to see if it (construction) has had any effect on them.”

Mayor Paschal replied, “Well, that’s the thing...like he said (Mr. Tate), you don’t know if the construction is going to affect any of the trees.”

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2009**

Page 5

Councilwoman Powell said, "It takes so long to grow a magnolia tree as big as those, it would be a shame to take them down."

Mayor Pro Tem Conner commented that she thought Council was only talking about taking down the trees that are east of the sign. She pointed out to Councilwoman Powell that the big Magnolia tree, west of the sign would not be cut down."

Mayor Paschal said, "If it were two magnolia trees behind the sign, I wouldn't want to cut them either...to me, it's a matter of clearing out so you can see the sign."

Councilwoman Powell said, "You can cut limbs off the magnolia trees. They will grow on and be real tall. My magnolia tree is above the top of my (second-story) house."

Mayor Paschal said, "When you come from this direction, you have the Holly tree and those four oaks that are in the way."

The **Mayor** suggested Council take a recess to go outside and, "look at everything together."

He mentioned that the big magnolia near the town hall has bare spots that can be seen from the parking lot. He said this is due to the big oaks that were around it (prior to construction). "It really isn't a pretty magnolia tree from the parking lot side," **Mayor Paschal** said. "It has holes all in it."

Councilwoman Powell said she thought Council should keep the Magnolia tree near the parking lot, cut the limbs up, and put a picnic table underneath.

Mayor Paschal said that Robert Witherspoon (who did some mowing on the property) pointed out the bushes and undergrowth on the bank beside the Magnolia tree. "I don't know if we should look at taking out the Crepe Myrtles or not," he added, "but maybe we should get whoever is going to cut the trees to give us a price on clearing that out, too."

Council discussed the two quotes presented by the Mayor from Junior Woods (\$2225) and Junior Loye (\$1385).

At this point, **Mayor Paschal** made a motion, "*That Council take a ten-minute recess and move outside to look at the trees.*"

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2009**

Page 6

Mayor Pro Tem Conner seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All voted in favor of the ten-minute recess.

After Council walked around the corner lot where the trees and Town Hall sign are located, **Mayor Paschal reconvened the meeting** inside the Council chambers.

Mayor Paschal advised, "We have all had an opportunity to look at the trees and it looks like we have three choices." He outlined the choices as follows:

- A.** Leave the big cedars by the sign and the magnolia on the road.
- B.** Save the cedars.
- C.** Cut everything.

The **Town Clerk** asked, "When you say, 'save the cedars,' does that mean you are voting to cut everything else on the road?"

"Yes," replied **Mayor Paschal**, "everything on the road."

Councilwoman Powell said, "I vote for A."

"We'll have to vote on each one and everybody can just raise their hands," **Mayor Paschal** explained.

He continued, "Everybody raise your hand that wants (Option A) to save the cedars and the magnolia (on the road)."

Mayor Paschal, Mayor Pro Tem Conner, and Councilwoman Powell voted in favor of Option A.

Mayor Paschal asked for those in favor of saving the cedars (Option B) to raise their hand. Councilman Belcher voted in favor of Option B.

Councilman Aswell voted to cut everything (Option C).

Mayor Paschal noted that Option A received the most votes, and asked for a motion concerning which of the two "tree cutting" quotes Council would accept.

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2009**

Page 7

Councilman Belcher made a motion, "That we accept Junior Loye's quote in the amount of \$1,385.00."

Mayor Paschal reminded Council that he would also ask Mr. Loye what he would charge to take down the undergrowth and possibly the Crepe Myrtle (on the bank near the big magnolia tree...beside parking lot). He said if Mr. Witherspoon or anyone else could do it cheaper, Council would take it into consideration.

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

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS

**A. Consideration of Funding Request (WORLD CHANGERS)
(\$6,000)**

Mayor Paschal advised that funding for World Changers was approved in the new budget and would not have to be voted on.

He explained, "The World Changers did not submit their funding request in writing until recently. We've already approved the money, so this is just to let us know that it has been officially requested."

B. Deputy Cheshire (Christmas Parade)

Mayor Paschal recognized **Deputy Clarence Cheshire**, "...who led the Town's Christmas Parade last year."

Deputy Cheshire commented, "It's July...we only have five months to get this thing together, so we need to start preparations now so we will have good entries again this year."

He referred Council to the list that was included in their Agenda packets, advising that several people have suggested shortening the parade route.

"They said it was too long," he said, suggesting the parade begin at Calvary Baptist Church, "...and come by the new Town Hall. This is a good place for people to park and view the parade."

The **Town Clerk** asked Deputy Cheshire if he intended to begin the parade at the church or at the Highway Patrol station. He explained that the larger floats and entries would gather at the patrol station, and the smaller vehicles/entries would leave from the church parking lot and merge as they did last year.

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes**

July 7, 2009

Page 8

Councilman Belcher said that he also heard complaints that it was a long parade, "...especially for those who were marching."

Deputy Cheshire continued with his remarks, noting that the parade lasted about two hours, "...slowing down once you got to performance stops." He said he thought two stops would be sufficient—one at the new Town Hall and one at the National Guard Armory. Council agreed.

Mayor Paschal asked if judging would be done at the Town Hall performance stop. **Deputy Cheshire** said that would be his recommendation.

Deputy Cheshire asked Council for their thoughts on what time the parade should start. He noted that he would like to start an hour earlier than the 11:00 a.m. time of last year's parade, "...because we didn't actually get started until 11:30, and if some of our entries are also in the Madison Christmas Parade, they will have to leave early to make it on time."

Mayor Paschal asked, "Can we have ours on a different day?"

Councilman Belcher said, "That was the problem last year, wasn't it? We had trouble scheduling around the other parades."

Deputy Cheshire said he though the Madison Parade was going to be held Saturday, December 19th. Most of Council agreed that the 19th is too close to Christmas. "People will be doing other things with their families, or shopping or out of town," said **Mayor Pro Tem Conner**.

Mayor Paschal asked, "If we start an hour earlier and reduce the number of performances, we should be able to finish earlier, shouldn't we?"

Deputy Cheshire said it would depend on the number of entries—"we had 50 some entries last year...I'm trying to allow time just in case we have more entries this year."

Yvonne Russell, Finance Officer, suggested Deputy Cheshire find out for sure about the date of the Madison Parade, and also check on the Saturday before the 19th to see if anyone else was having a parade that day (Saturday, December 12).

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2009**

Page 9

Mayor Pro Tem Conner said, "If our parade is on a different day than the Madison parade, we won't have to start earlier."

Councilman Belcher said, "We don't have to make a decision right now...just let him check on the dates."

Mayor Paschal asked, "Do we want to wait and let him bring that information back to us?"

"Do you mean table this until the next meeting?" asked the **Clerk**.

"Yes," replied **Mayor Paschal**.

"But shouldn't we wait until he (Deputy Cheshire) completes the list?" asked the **Clerk**.

Council agreed, and Deputy Cheshire continued.

Regarding the Parade Entry Form, **Deputy Cheshire** asked Council if they wanted to make any changes to the form, other than changing the date and possibly the time. He said the time could be given out later when his committee meets with those who submit entries.

Council asked about the statement on the form regarding "no loud mufflers," etc.

Mayor Paschal asked, "What about classic cars...some of them can be loud."

Deputy Cheshire said he did not think a Christmas Parade is the place for cars with faulty mufflers and exhaust systems, nor for loud, "boom-boom" noise. He said he wasn't talking about genuine classic cars with stock engines.

Mayor Pro Tem Conner asked if the form could be worded so that classic cars with stock engines would be an exception to the "no loud mufflers" wording.

Councilman Belcher suggested Council, "...leave it up to the Deputy to word it, taking our comments into consideration."

Deputy Cheshire said he would like to begin putting some entry forms out as soon as possible.

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2009**

Page 10

Councilwoman Powell brought up the matter again, concerning the date for the parade, saying, “It takes a long time to get your committee up and going and making all these decisions.”

The **Town Clerk** suggested, “We really can’t get the forms out until we have the date for the parade. Why can’t you go ahead and make a motion to have it on the 12th if no one else is having one then? And even if they are having theirs on the 12th, we could just start an hour earlier. That way Clarence (Deputy Cheshire) could check and if that date is open, you will have already voted on it and we can get the forms out.”

Mayor Paschal asked if anyone has a problem with the date of December 12th.

Councilman Aswell said he would like to make a motion, “*That we schedule the Christmas Parade for December 12th and if we find out that Madison is also having theirs, we will start an hour earlier, and if they’re not, we’ll start later.*”

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

The next item for discussion was the “Town Entry.”

Mayor Paschal asked, “Weren’t we (Council) the Town Entry last time?”

Deputy Cheshire replied, “The Town Entry was the antique sled we rented...”

“And, we used the sleigh from John Burton for Santa Claus,” said **Ms. Ward**.

Mayor Pro Tem Conner said, “And, we need to change our position in it, so we are up front. Several people mentioned that.”

It was mentioned that the reason Council rode in a horse-drawn carriage at the back of the parade was so others would not have to walk/drive behind the horses.

Deputy Cheshire said, “We can put you wherever you want to be, that’s not a problem.”

Mayor Paschal said, “We were toward the end last year because of the horses.”

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2009**

Page 11

Deputy Cheshire said he would like to know what Council wants to do about prizes... "Last year I think \$1,000 was first prize, \$650.00 for second place and \$350.00 for third place." He asked if Council wanted to change the prizes.

The **Town Administrator** and **Finance Officer** confirmed that the new budget included the same amount of prize money as last year's parade.

Mayor Paschal said he would like to keep it the same, "...because you should have seen their faces when last year's entry won \$1,000. They were really excited about that."

The **Town Clerk** asked Council if they made a decision on whether or not the Town would have an entry. "Did I miss that?" she asked.

"Do we not want to do the Santa Claus sleigh again for the Town Entry, or do we want to do something different?" asked **Mayor Paschal**.

Ms. Russell suggested the Town rent a professional float for Santa Claus, "like they do in the Draper Parade."

Ms. Ward agreed, saying, "We really had a time last year, decorating that little sleigh for Santa. We had to go over and load it and get it over here and then back again. It was kind of crowded for Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus."

"If you do a professional float, the majority of those are Santa Claus floats," said **Deputy Cheshire**. They usually run around \$500.00 I was wondering what you, Council, want to do...ride in automobiles or what."

Council talked about renting a float, depending on the price.

Ms. Kay Hammock, in the audience, was recognized by Council. She suggested that Santa Claus could ride on the back of a fire truck. She said she has seen this done many times."

The **Town Clerk** asked Chief Bedell what he thought of that idea. **Chief Bedell** replied, "Yes, I'll rent you a fire truck for that amount!"

Ms. Hammock asked Council if the Town charges an entry fee for the parade.

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2009**

Page 12

Mayor Paschal said, “No, and I think we don’t want to do that. Last year we were trying to get as many entries as we could.”

Chief Bedell said that charging people to be in Christmas parades has hurt Reidsville and some other towns.

Ms. Ward said it would be bad to charge people, “...especially this year with the economy like it is.”

Mayor Paschal and **Council** discussed a motion that Councilman Aswell Started, prior to Ms. Hammock’s remarks about Santa on the fire truck.

The **Town Clerk** said she did not get the motion down and would like for Councilman Aswell to repeat it.

Councilman Aswell said he would like to reword the motion anyway. *“I make a motion that we let Clarence (Deputy Cheshire) look into getting a professional float for Santa Claus, if we can do it for around \$500.00.”*

Councilman Belcher seconded the motion.

There was further discussion about using a fire truck for Santa, but the **mayor** asked Council to vote on the motion on the floor.

Council voted in favor of checking into renting a professional float. The motion carried.

Mayor Paschal asked Deputy Cheshire about the remaining list.

Deputy Cheshire asked if the two performance stops he mentioned earlier—the new Town Hall and the National Guard Armory—was okay with Council, “...and then we will end up at the old Wentworth School.”

Council agreed with Deputy Cheshire, but wanted to discuss the length of time at each performance stop. They agreed on 3 – 5 minutes depending on the nature of the performance...knowing some will take longer than others.

Mayor Paschal made a motion to, *“Give the entrants three to five minutes at each stop.”*

Councilman Aswell seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2009**

Page 13

Deputy Cheshire asked about judges for the Christmas Parade entries. He asked if Council wanted to ask the same people who judged last year or did they want to have someone different.

The **Town Administrator** said she thought it would be better to ask different people. She suggested Council be thinking of possible candidates, and consider it at another meeting. **Council** agreed.

Deputy Cheshire asked that Council also be thinking about who will be the Grand Marshall for the 2009 parade.

Regarding public assistance for the parade, **Deputy Cheshire** said the Fire Department, National Guard Armory, and citizens were a big help to him and others in the Sheriff's Department.

Deputy Cheshire said he thought it would be a good idea to select people to assist with the parade in advance, and meet with them to determine what each one's job is. He explained, "We ended up at least a couple of people short and had to recruit some folks to help us out on the morning of the parade."

Deputy Cheshire suggested recruiting Planning Board members and other Town committee members to help.

Councilman Belcher said it would be good to have a committee of people by October... "...or by November 1st," said **Deputy Cheshire**.

"Having one parade behind you, you probably have a better idea of what needs to be done this year," said **Mayor Pro Tem Conner**.

Mayor Paschal asked, "How many people do you think you need?"

Deputy Cheshire said, "Anywhere between 8 and 10 people to volunteer."

The **Town Administrator** asked if Deputy Cheshire thought he would be able to take care of the intersections and road blocks, as he did last year.

"Yes," he replied. "I will go to the Sheriff's office about traffic control. Jason Julian with NCDOT helped us out last year, but I would like to let him know a little sooner this year."

Councilman Aswell remarked, "The (Wentworth) fire department helped out a lot last year, too."

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2009**

Page 14

Deputy Cheshire replied, “Yes, they were a big help, as I said before. Chief Bedell’s guys really did a good job and were in constant contact with me to let me know how things were going. We will be asking them to help us out this year, too.”

Deputy Cheshire said he thought it would be good to stop the parade at the old Wentworth School, “...since several people complained last year about not being able to get to the courthouse...to the magistrate’s office.”

Deputy Cheshire asked Council if they were interested in inviting the bag pipers to come back for this year’s parade. He said they were, “a big hit last year. I heard remarks about them everywhere I went.”

Everyone agreed they would like to have the bag pipers again if the budget permitted.

The **Finance Officer** advised that Council approved the same amount as last year for the Christmas Parade.

Deputy Cheshire said, “If we want to try to get them again, we really need to get in touch with them as soon as possible.”

Mayor Pro Tem Conner made a motion, “*To get the bag pipers to come this year.*”

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

Deputy Cheshire concluded, saying, “I just wanted us to get the ball rolling. We are going to need to start getting the entry forms out, especially to the ones who participated last year.”

Mayor Paschal thanked Deputy Cheshire for all his hard work.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

B. Consideration of Plans for Town Hall “Open House”

Mayor Paschal recognized the **Town Administrator** who distributed “Suggestions for Open House,” explaining, “I thought this would help us in making plans for the Open House.”

Mayor Paschal said, “I guess we will have it on the day of the meeting.”

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2009**

Page 15

“That’s what you need to decide,” said **Mrs. Ward**.

After discussing whether to have the Open House on the weekend (Saturday), during the week, or on the night of a regular council meeting, **Mayor Pro Tem Conner** suggested having it on the night of the regular meeting, but having it earlier than 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Ward asked Council if they wanted to include any of the items on the suggestion list—“recognition of those who have been involved in the construction process, for instance.”

Mayor Paschal said he would like to have time to recognize everyone and suggested having as little on the Agenda as possible.

After discussing various starting times, **Mayor Pro Tem Conner** made a motion “...to have the Open House on August 4th, with the meeting starting at 5:30 p.m.”

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

Mayor Pro Tem Conner said, “Now we need to decide on the rest of this.”

Council discussed having homemade ice cream but **Councilwoman Powell** said she would not be able to prepare ice cream and get to the meeting on time. She added, “If we can afford to get a ride for Santa in the Christmas Parade, we can afford to have a caterer for the Open House.”

Mrs. Ward asked if Council would be okay with the staff getting a caterer and planning the menu. Council agreed.

Article VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Paschal recognized **Mr. Charles Boswell** of 386 Butter Road in Wentworth, who signed the Speaker Register to address Council concerning the Wentworth Ruritan Club.

Mr. Boswell advised, “I am Charles Boswell and I am here to talk to you about a newly formed club here in Wentworth—the Wentworth Ruritan Club. Everybody asks me, ‘What is it?’ I tell them it’s kind of a country civic club. We do local, civic-minded projects. We don’t have a national agenda like the Lions Club does for the blind, and so on. We don’t have that type of agenda.”

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2009**

Page 16

Mr. Boswell explained, “A young lady in our community was taken to the National Ruritan Convention by her grandmother. She noted later on, ‘There is no Ruritan Club for me to join.’ So we have formed one because of her. She is a seventh grader. She wants a place to go to be involved in her community. I think that says a lot for her.”

As a matter of fact,” said **Mr. Boswell**, “I am the president of the club and she is the secretary.”

Mr. Boswell said the club is open to anyone. “We are not limiting ourselves to just the citizens of Wentworth.” He advised Council and the audience, “If you would like to be a member of our Wentworth Ruritan Club, we would love to have you join. If you have a friend who lives in Reidsville or some other area of the county, we would like to have them join also.”

“If we happen to get ten people from Williamsburg to join our club and they decide later that they want to have a club in their community, then we would have a core of people to start a club down there.”

Mr. Boswell advised, “Our next meeting will be next Tuesday night. We meet the second Tuesday of the month, and this will be our formal organizational meeting. We will have the national president and the past national president, and I have no idea how many other dignitaries.”

Mr. Boswell said this month’s meeting would be held at the Hospice building on NC 65, but that the club usually meets at the Wentworth Methodist Church.

He added, “If you would like to support us and don’t feel like you can be an active member, you can become an associate member. We would be glad to talk with you about that. If you know someone who wants to get involved in the community and isn’t sure how to do it, please have them come and talk to us.”

Mr. Boswell concluded, “I’ll be glad to try to answer any questions about the Ruritan that I can...I’m so new I may not know all the answers, but I’ll try to find out for you.”

Mayor Pro Tem Conner asked what time the club meets.

Mr. Boswell said, “We meet at 7:00 p.m. and we always have a meal, but some of us are already talking about changing this to an earlier time.”

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2009**

Page 17

“We have an hour and a half meeting—30 minutes to eat and socialize, 30 minutes for a program and 30 minutes for business, and we try to stick to the clock,” said **Mr. Boswell**. He said the order of occurrence can be changed, if necessary, to accommodate a speaker’s schedule or some other reason.

Mayor Paschal asked if there is any overlap in the Wentworth club and other Ruritan clubs in the area.

Mr. Boswell said the only other Ruritan club in Rockingham County is in Stoneville. He explained, “Our sponsor is the Ayersville Ruritan Club and they will have someone with us at every meeting during the first year, to make sure we do it right, I guess.”

Mayor Pro Tem Conner asked, “And what is the purpose of it?”

Mr. Boswell replied, “We are involved in local, civic, community activities. Some of the other clubs have done things like working with scout troops on projects, and over in Germanton they helped the community get flags like the ones you have put up here in Wentworth. We have a young lady who has offered landscaping shrubbery. For instance, if you had a ‘Welcome to Wentworth’ sign at the town limits, we could be involved in a project to do the landscaping, free of charge.”

“If you think of anything in the community that needs to be done, said **Mr. Boswell**, “we are looking for projects. We will be talking about fundraisers for our organization so that we are equipped to do these projects. This will be our third meeting...and we hope to have a good, pleasant year.”

The **Town Administrator** advised that Ruritan brochures are available in the lobby.

Mr. Boswell commented about the Agenda Packet and the paper that would not be wasted if copies were two-sided. The **Town Clerk** advised that the Town’s copier, “...has seen its best days. It scrunches up the paper when you do two-sided copies. We’re trying to make do with what we have and not buy a new copier any time soon, but we have always tried to do two-sided copying when possible.”

Mr. Boswell suggested calling a repairman. **Mrs. Ward** advised that a repairman had been out on a fairly consistent basis and could not fix the problem.

Mayor Paschal thanked Mr. Boswell for coming.

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2009**

Page 18

Mayor Pro Tem Conner asked if she could bring up something for Council to think about, and suggested that a television for the lobby of the new town hall would be a good thing to have, in case of “breaking news or some catastrophe that maybe they would need to know about.”

She added, “You (Mayor Paschal) were talking about the generator and the possibility of using the town hall as a shelter if need be, and so I think it would be good to have a TV in the lobby. It wouldn’t be there for entertainment. It could be on CNN everyday, for emergency situations.”

Mayor Paschal said, “That’s something we can think about. We can’t vote on it right now, but it can be put on the Agenda at another time.”

Councilwoman Powell asked, “Before you adjourn, I have a question—what happened to the man on the Recreation Committee who was trying to get the ball field and gym at Wentworth School?”

The **Town Administrator** replied, “Mr. Capps is the chairman of the committee, and when he was here last, you all decided that we should write another letter to Eugene Russell, stating the Recreation Committee’s recommendations. When I talked with Mr. Russell and the County Manager, they suggested I wait until they were through the budget process, which they just recently completed.”

“The County Manager told me that he could put it on the agenda, but my idea was to send a letter to the County Commissioners in addition to Eugene Russell, so that everybody would have the same information in writing. I attached a copy of the Recreation Committee’s recommendation.”

Mrs. Ward said the letter was ready to go out and that she hoped to hear back from the County before the next Town Council Meeting. “I still don’t know when they will put it on their Agenda,” she added.

Article VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The **Town of Wentworth Planning Board** will *not* meet in July. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be **Tuesday, August 18, at 7:00 p.m.** in Council Chambers at the Town Hall.
- The next regular meeting of the **Wentworth Town Council** will be held at the Town Hall on **Tuesday, August 4, 2009, at 5:30 p.m.**
- **Filing for seat(s) on the Wentworth Town Council opens at noon on Monday, July 6th and closes at noon on Friday, July 17th.**

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2009**

Page 19

After the announcements, **Deputy Cheshire** asked about having a key to the Town Hall and adding him to the list of people to be contacted when the alarm goes off. He added, "There are times, too, when they are away for schools or training, and I could be available if needed."

Mrs. Ward commented, "On that same subject, I would like to ask to be removed from the call list, for a while anyway, due to the situation with my dad right now. I wanted to know if any of you would like to be on the list. If I could be dropped down on the list to number 3 instead of being the first person to be called, that would help."

Mayor Pro Tem Conner said she did not mind being moved to the first person on the list to be contacted, and Councilman Aswell said that he did not mind either.

Councilwoman Powell asked, "Well what about what Deputy Cheshire? Are we going to let him do it?"

"We're going to take that into account," said **Mayor Paschal**.

"If the alarm goes off during the night," said **Mrs. Ward**, "he (Deputy Cheshire) is in Eden. He's not that close by, and I think the first person to be called should be someone close by."

Council agreed that Mayor Pro Tem Conner would be number one on the list, Councilman Aswell, number two, and Mayor Paschal, number three.

Deputy Cheshire said if something happened during the day, the alarm company could call him.

Mrs. Ward said she would make the changes with the alarm company.

**Town of Wentworth
Town Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2009**

Page 20

Article IX. A D J O U R N

Mayor Paschal made a motion, "*the meeting be adjourned.*" **Councilman Belcher** seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted By: _____
Brenda Ward, Town Clerk

Approved By: _____
Dennis Paschal, Mayor