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**TOWN OF WENTWORTH  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
April 6, 2010  
7:00 P.M.**

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**The Wentworth Town Council** held their regular monthly meeting in the Town Hall Council Chambers, on **Tuesday, April 6, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.**

**Council members present:** Mayor Robert Aswell, Councilman Dennis Paschal, and Councilwoman Evelyn Conner

**Council members absent:** Councilwoman Iris Powell & Mayor Pro Tem James Belcher

**A quorum was present.**

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

**Article I.** Mayor Aswell called the April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Wentworth Town Council Meeting to order.

**Article II.** Councilman Dennis Paschal gave the **Invocation.**

**Article III.** Approval of April Agenda

**A. Requests and Petitions of Citizens**

Mayor Aswell asked if there were any changes to the April Agenda and noted that no one signed the Speaker Register.

Councilman Paschal made a motion, *“That we approve the Agenda as written.”*

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

**Article IV.** Approval of Minutes

**A. Town Council Meeting: March 9, 2010**

Councilwoman Conner made a motion that, *“The Minutes stand approved as written.”*

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

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**Article V. Old Business**

**A. Consideration of Request for Town of Wentworth to Partner  
with Rockingham County to Share in the Cost of:**

**(1) 12" Water Line from Dan River Water Tank at Wentworth  
VFD along NC 87/65 to New Court House (Town's Share:  
Approximately \$86,350.00)**

**Mayor Aswell** invited **Mr. Tom Wiggins**, Director of Operations, Rockingham County, to address Council concerning the County's request.

**Mr. Wiggins** thanked the Mayor and members of Council for the opportunity to speak, and explained that he was present to represent Rockingham County on the 12" water line project.

"I know that we have talked *informally* about this in the past," said **Mr. Wiggins**, "and I wanted to bring you all up to speed on the status."

He continued, "This project was estimated by Hobbs and Upchurch (Engineering) at a cost of \$268,000.00 to construct a 12" water line that would extend from the Dan River Water Tank over here by the volunteer fire department, down to the Judicial Center, replacing the 8" water line, ...to mainly improve water pressure and improve fire safety."

"There has been an understanding in place between the County and the Town, that we would share in the cost of that project, with the County covering two-thirds and the Town one-third, or approximately \$89,000.00."

**Mr. Wiggins** explained, "...the County and Dan River are also discussing extending that line further to the west, along NC 65, to end at approximately the second entrance to the Governmental Center, just above the former Mental Health Center, or right across from the entrance to Rockingham Community College."

"Again, this would greatly help the Governmental Building with our water pressure issues and also Rockingham Community College. Now, that doesn't involve the town, but I just wanted to bring you up to speed."

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**Article V. Old Business - Continued**

**Mr. Wiggins** said, “Our understanding in our preliminary discussions with Dan River Water is: They will handle the engineering for this project. They will hire an engineering firm, they will handle the bidding and will oversee construction of the project, which I think makes it easier with just one entity doing that, since the intention is to hand the line over for their control, anyway.”

“Why I am here tonight,” **Mr. Wiggins** explained, “is that we need a commitment from the Town to share in the cost for that one-third...the amount that you cited, Mayor, on the Agenda. To go one step further, what we *really* are going to need is an agreement between the County, the Town, and Dan River Water.”

“Again, my understanding is that Joe Maddrey, the attorney who represents Dan River Water, assuming you all agree to share in this cost, will move forward and...prepare an agreement. Once we get the draft, our attorney, Eugene Russell, will look at it, and I assume Mr. Baggett (Wentworth Town Attorney) will, as well.”

**Mr. Wiggins** said he would need to come back to Council to formalize the agreement.

He added, “If you are willing to move forward, if I could get some kind of commitment on sharing the cost, then I can go back to the County and Mr. Maddrey and say that we are ready to move forward on that agreement.”

“I think Mr. Baggett would concur that, probably, if you would just take a vote on a ‘not to exceed’ amount...I know again, there is an \$86,000 cost that you have mentioned. We are very confident that the cost will come in at less than the \$268,000.00, but I would feel better, if you are committed to this amount, to maybe just say, ‘a not to exceed figure,’ that is fine with us.”

**Mr. Wiggins** asked Mayor Aswell if he had a different understanding, or if there was any additional information he wanted to add.

**Mr. Wiggins** added, “I just recently took a new position with the County, as of February 1<sup>st</sup>, and I’m still being brought up to speed on the many projects that are going on, county-wide. So, Mayor Aswell, you may know more than I do, in some instances.”

**Councilwoman Conner** asked Mr. Wiggins, “This (money) would have to be paid by when?”

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**Article V. Old Business - Continued**

**Mr. Wiggins** replied, "That would have to be worked out in the agreement. I know we want to try to get it out for bids in the next couple of months if possible. I'm just not sure about the payment arrangement."

**Mayor Aswell** asked, "It wouldn't be before July 1<sup>st</sup>, would it?"

"Are you asking because of your budget?" said **Mr. Wiggins**. "If you're talking about budgeting it for the next fiscal year, we can certainly work around that."

The **Town Administrator** (Mrs. Ward) commented, "In past conversations with the County Manager (Tom Robinson), he has indicated that the county could set up suitable payment arrangements, if the Town needed to go that route."

**Mr. Wiggins** said, "Again, just the initial rough estimate from Hobbs and Upchurch was \$268,000.00, so your third would be roughly \$89,000.00...a little bit more than the \$86,000 but I am confident..."

"So the \$86,350 would be okay?" asked **Councilman Paschal**.

"I think we're fine with that," **Mr. Wiggins** replied.

**Councilman Paschal** then made a motion, "*I would like to make a motion that the Town of Wentworth partner with the county on the 12" water line from the Dan River Tank at Wentworth Volunteer Fire Department along 65 to the new court house, to an amount not to exceed \$86,350.00.*"

**Councilwoman Conner** seconded the motion.

**Town Attorney Fred Baggett** suggested the motion include the phrase, "subject to terms of the final Agreement."

**Mayor Paschal** agreed and asked that "*subject to the terms of the final Agreement*" be included as part of his motion.

**Councilwoman Conner** who seconded the initial motion, agreed to the amended motion.

**Mayor Aswell** asked for any further discussion. There was none.

All voted in favor and the motion carried.

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**Article V. Old Business - Continued**

**Mr. Wiggins** thanked Council and said, "I will bring the draft agreement back after touching base with Mr. Baggett."

**B. Approval of Resolution Adopting the (Amended) Comprehensive Transportation Plan for the Town of Wentworth and Rockingham County**

**- Hanna Cockburn, Piedmont Triad Council of Governments**

**Town Administrator, Brenda Ward**, advised that Hanna Cockburn is in Raleigh and could not attend the Council Meeting. She explained, "The plan you have in your packet includes the amendments you asked Ms. Cockburn to make at the March meeting. I assume you had a chance to look it over, so if you are okay with the way it reads, we just need a motion to approve."

**Mayor Aswell** made a motion, "*That we approve the Amended Resolution Adopting the Comprehensive Transportation Plan for Wentworth and Rockingham County as presented.*"

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

**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Consideration of Applicants for Appointment to Town of Wentworth Recreation Committee for Two-Year Terms:**

- 1- James H. Talley**
- 2- Dottie K. Talley**

The **Town Administrator** said that Mr. & Mrs. Talley's term on the Recreation Committee had expired, and that they were willing to continue serving if Council reappoints them for another term.

**Mayor Aswell** made a motion, "*That we approve both James and Dottie Talley for appointment to the Recreation Committee for a two-year term.*"

**Councilwoman Conner** seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**B. Consideration of Resolution in Support of the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 6, 2010, in the Town of Wentworth**

- **David Smith, Chairman**

The **Town Administrator** said Mr. Smith, "...apologizes for not being able to attend the meeting, but he wanted me to invite everyone to come to the Town Hall on Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 noon for a time of prayer. We will meet around the flag pole in the front of the building."

**Councilman Paschal** made a motion, "*That we approve the Resolution for the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010.*"

**Councilwoman Conner** seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**C. Consideration of Resolution Requesting Assistance from the State of North Carolina to Improve the Intersection of NC Highway 87 and 65 in the Town of Wentworth**

- **Town Administrator, Brenda Ward**

**Mayor Aswell** asked Mrs. Ward to advise Council concerning the Resolution.

**Mrs. Ward** explained that Representative Nelson Cole is working to secure funding assistance for the intersection improvements.

She advised, "Representative Cole has asked both the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners and the Wentworth Town Council to adopt a resolution requesting the State's assistance with the project, which involves the proposed entrance to the Rockingham County Court House at the NC 87/65 intersection."

**Mrs. Ward** said that Representative Cole needed the resolutions as soon as possible, "...that was a couple of weeks ago, and after talking to Mayor Aswell, I sent a Letter of Intent and explained that Council would officially consider the resolution at our April Council Meeting. The county has already approved and forwarded their resolution, since their meeting coincided with Representative Cole's request."

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**Councilman Paschal** made a motion to, *“Approve the Resolution Requesting Assistance from the State of North Carolina to Improve the Intersection of NC Highway 87 and 65 in the Town of Wentworth.”*

**Mayor Aswell** seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**D. Consideration of Resolution in Support of a “Park and Ride” Site in the Town of Wentworth**

**- Karen Tucker w/ “Hop-On-Transit”**

**Mayor Aswell** invited Karen Tucker to address Council.

**Ms. Tucker** advised, “I am here to thank you in advance for your support of a Resolution that will help us provide transportation to Rockingham County residents. By offering services to the hub in Greensboro at the PARTF site at the airport, from the Wentworth area, we hope to fill a void in transportation.”

**Ms. Tucker** asked council if they had any questions for her.

**Mayor Aswell** asked Ms. Tucker if she had located a “Park-and-Ride” site.

“Yes,” replied **Ms. Tucker**, “at the Agricultural Building...the old Wentworth School. There is no problem parking there. I also want to contact the Sheriff’s Department to see if they will be able to keep an eye out on that location. But I wouldn’t be gone for more than an hour or so, anyway.”

**Mayor Aswell** made a motion, *“That we approve the Resolution in Support of a ‘Park and Ride’ Site in the Town of Wentworth.”*

**Councilwoman Conner** seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**Ms. Tucker** commented, “Thank you, and God bless you.”

**Article VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Mayor Aswell** noted that no one signed up for public comment.

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**Article VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mayor Aswell** made the following announcements:

- There will be a JOINT MEETING of the Town of Wentworth Planning Board and the Wentworth Town Council on Tuesday, April 20, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers.
- The Wentworth Recreation Committee will host the first annual Wentworth Community/Farmers Day at the Town Hall and adjoining property, on Saturday, May 1, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- The next regular meeting of the Wentworth Town Council will be held in the Town Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.

**Article IX. BUDGET WORK SESSION**

**Mayor Aswell** advised that Council would be moving to the Conference Room for a Budget Work Session, and that anyone who would like to join them is welcome.

**Councilman Paschal** made a motion, *“That we take a 5-minute recess before the work session.”* **Councilwoman Conner** seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

After the recess, **Mayor Aswell** called the Budget Work Session to order.

*NOTE: A summary of the Budget Work Session, provided by Finance Officer, Yvonne Russell, is attached hereto (Attachment 1) as part of these Minutes.*

**Article X. ADJOURN**

**Mayor Aswell** made a motion, *“That we adjourn the meeting.”* **Councilman Paschal** seconded the motion. Everyone voted in favor.

**Respectfully Submitted By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Brenda Ward, Town Clerk**

**Approved By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Robert P. Aswell, Mayor**