
**TOWN OF WENTWORTH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
JULY 5, 2011
7:00 P.M.**

The Wentworth Town Council held their regular monthly meeting in the Town Hall Council Chambers, on **Tuesday, July 5, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.**

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

Council member(s) absent: Councilwoman Evelyn Conner

A quorum was present.

Staff Present: Yvonne Russell, Finance Officer; Fred Baggett, Town Attorney; Captain Perry Brookshire, Rockingham County Sheriff's Department

Article I. Mayor Aswell called the July 5, 2011, Wentworth Town Council Meeting to order.

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

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

A. Requests and Petitions of Citizens

Councilman Paschal made a motion *to add T. Butler, Tiffany Haworth, and Barbara Cooke to the agenda under Article VI, Item D, Resolution in Opposition to Proposed Landfill to be located off NC 87 & Harrington Highway on Whitt Family Farm.*

Mayor Pro Tem James Belcher seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Mayor Robert Aswell made a motion *to add Kim Proctor under Article VII, Public Comments.*

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

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

A. Town Council Meeting – June 7, 2011

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher made a motion, *“That the minutes be approved as presented.”*

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

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Article V. OLD BUSINESS

There being no old business to discuss, **Mayor Aswell** moved on to the next item on the agenda.

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration of Budget Amendment No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2011-2012

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher made a motion, *“To approve Budget Amendment No 1.”*

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

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – continued

B. Annual Review of Authorized Check Signers, Per Formalized Financial and Cash Management Policy – Section 1

The current check signers are Brenda Ward, Yvonne Russell, Dennis Paschal and Evelyn Conner.

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher made a motion, *“To accept the current slate of check signers.”*

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

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – continued

C. Consideration of Funding Request in Support of the The NewBridge Bank Invitational Football and Cheerleading Jamboree

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher informed Council that each year NewBridge Bank sponsors a football jamboree at Rockingham County High School and distributes the money that is raised to all four high schools in Rockingham county. He noted that the minimum sponsorship donation is \$75, which is the amount of the funding request from NewBridge Bank. He said a donation of \$75 insures that the Town of Wentworth will be listed on the jamboree program as a sponsor, and that a list of all of the sponsors will be published in the newspaper.

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For future reference, **Mayor Pro Tem Belcher** mentioned that with a donation of \$500, you have the option of choosing a particular school to sponsor. He noted that over the past 14 years NewBridge Bank has donated \$450,000 to the school system for athletic programs.

Councilman Paschal suggested the Town should donate more than \$75 due to the fact the money is divided between four schools.

Councilman Paschal made a motion, *“To fund the request in an amount of \$200.”*

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher pointed out that the next level of sponsorship is \$150.

Councilman Paschal amended his motion *to fund the request in an amount of \$150.*

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

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS - continued

D. Consideration of Resolution in Opposition to Proposed Landfill to be Located off NC 87 & Harrington Highway on Whitt Family Farm

Councilman Paschal advised Council that the City of Eden, the Rockingham County Solid Waste Committee, and the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) have all passed resolutions in opposition to the proposed landfill. He asked Ms. T. Butler to read the resolution passed by DRBA.

Ms. Butler distributed copies of the resolution to Council. She thanked Councilman Paschal and read the resolution.

(Note: A copy of the resolution is attached hereto as a part of these minutes as Attachment No. 1.)

Ms. Butler expressed her concern for the quality of the community’s drinking water by pointing out that the water provided to Wentworth citizens by Dan River Water originally comes from the City of Eden and that the proposed landfill site is upstream from the City of Eden’s water intake.

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Ms. Butler explained that she and her family were spending time on the Smith and Dan rivers this past Sunday and counted approximately 100 people swimming, tubing, and boating on the rivers. She noted that these people were from all over, vacationing on the Smith and Dan rivers. She said that she thought to herself, "If those people were in the middle of runoff from a landfill, their health would be jeopardized. They would not be able to safely use the river."

Ms. Butler expressed her delight in the Town's consideration of a resolution to oppose the landfill and introduced Tiffany Haworth, Executive Director of the Dan River Basin Association.

Ms. Haworth addressed Council and began talking about the value of community in Rockingham County, which she described as clean air, clean drinking water, good people, a sense of community, and the hope and faith that economic development will return to the region. She declared that would not happen with the proposed landfill here. She said businesses would move out of Rockingham county. She noted that several large businesses in the county, such as MillerCoors, use clean water for their operations. She asked, "What are we going to do? Sit back and look at potentially ruining our natural resources?"

Ms. Haworth maintained that it is not a matter of 'if' a landfill liner will break but 'when' it will break. She said there has never been an instance of a landfill liner that has lasted forever. She suggested that one threatening incident to our river would harm our community, our economic development, and our chance for promoting our natural and cultural resources.

Ms. Haworth informed the Council that DRBA was awarded over \$60,000 to provide a master plan for Rockingham County. She said the master plan will include greenways, trails, and river access and will help promote this region as a place to come for clean air, clean water, good recreation, and tourism. She explained that every 10 miles of trail installed by DRBA, brings in half a million dollars worth of economic development to a community. She said this is a national statistic that has been proven repeatedly. In conclusion, she urged Council to consider the quality of life for generations to come.

At this time, **Councilman Paschal** asked Barbara Cooke to speak.

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Ms. Cooke, a citizen of Wentworth, expressed her agreement with the views of Ms. Butler and Ms. Haworth. She also mentioned the volume of traffic in Wentworth already, and asked Council if they could imagine the congestion 500 trucks per day would create here. She echoed Ms. Butler's concern for the quality of Wentworth's water supply.

Ms. Cooke said the landfill would have many implications on our future and she urged Council to voice their opposition to the construction of the landfill.

Mayor Aswell thanked Ms. Cooke for her comments.

Councilman Paschal referred to the traffic impact analysis provided by PBK Holdings, the applicant for the proposed landfill special use permit. Regarding the intersection of Harrington Highway and NC 87, he said the analysis gives a truck traffic percentage of 10% that will be traveling towards Wentworth, and states that will be 5 trucks per hour. He noted that the engineering report in appendix B shows 235 trucks per day going to the landfill, 15 trucks as "miscellaneous", and 260 trucks per day going to the recycling center. He explained, "When you look at that and multiply them (trucks) times two, because they're going in and out, that is 1,020 trips a day. If you figure 10% coming this way that is 102 of those trucks coming up and down the road out here...you're talking about a huge increase in our traffic. The big trucks are putting out carbon monoxide, and you are always going to have stuff flying out of vehicles... so we have that to clean up too."

Councilman Paschal said, "Everything you look at and read about these liners says they eventually leak. The EPA even says they leak, but they say 1,000 years. Why do we want to put that on somebody down the road?" He said he asked Kevan Combs, of PBK Holdings, what happens when a liner leaks and was told that a monitoring well would catch it. **Councilman Paschal** argued that a monitoring well would only signal that the waste is about to leak into the river.

Mayor Aswell said it was his understanding that monitoring wells are tested only once every six months.

Councilman Paschal read the Town of Wentworth's Resolution in Opposition to a Proposed Landfill to be Located off NC 87 & Harrington Highway on the Whitt Family Farm. (Note: The resolution is attached hereto as a part of these minutes as Attachment No. 2.)

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Councilman Paschal made a motion, *“That the Town Council approve this resolution opposing the proposed landfill.”*

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – continued

E. Approval for Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk to attend the NC Association of Municipal Clerks Annual Summer Academy in New Bern NC, August 11-13, 2011 (Registration: \$285 each + Mileage & Hotel accommodations – Included in FY 2011-2012 Budget)

Mayor Aswell made a motion, *“That we approve them to attend the school.”*

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – continued

F. Presentation of Mel Steele Painting for Town Hall, entitled, “Wentworth Winter”

George and Lee Templeton presented the painting and said that they wish to donate it to the Town of Wentworth to be placed in the Town Hall.

Mayor Aswell thanked Mr. & Mrs. Templeton.

Article VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time, **Mayor Aswell** invited Kim Proctor to address the Council.

Ms. Proctor introduced herself as executive director of the Rockingham County Historical Society Museum & Archives (RCHSMA) and said she is here tonight to inform Council that the museum and courthouse lease will be on the July 12th County Commissioners’ agenda. She said it feels right that Council should know this first because the community and the Town have been very supportive of the efforts made by RCHSMA up to this point. She said RCHSMA has met in the Town Hall eight times a month for the last several months and has accomplished quite a lot.

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Ms. Proctor mentioned several projects they are currently working on, one of these being the process of converting the Wright Tavern into a living history museum. She said they have acquired funding through a grant to support their staff and have been awarded a separate grant in the amount of \$15,000 to restore part of the Wright Tavern. She proudly spoke of what she considers their greatest accomplishment so far, the successful submission of an application to be one of the six host sites for the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit. The exhibit is scheduled to be in Wentworth during the months of August and September of 2012.

Regarding the July 12th County Commissioners meeting, **Ms. Proctor** urged anyone who is free that night to please attend. She then asked for permission to work with the Town Administrator in constructing a letter of support for the museum endeavor.

Councilwoman Powell suggested that a strong showing of citizens at the County Commissioners' meeting would achieve more than anything else.

Mayor Aswell said, "Thank you Kim, and your staff, and your committees for all the work you've done."

Mayor Aswell made a motion, "*That we extend her request and ask her and Brenda (Town Administrator), to form a letter to send to the County Commissioners in support of the museum.*"

Mayor Pro Tem Belcher seconded the motion and added that he would like to make sure the letter is worded to show that Council strongly supports and desires to have the museum located in the old courthouse. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Article VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Aswell read the following announcements:

- The next regular meeting of the **Wentworth Town Council** will be held on **Tuesday, August 2, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Town Hall Council Chambers.**
- The next regular meeting of the **Wentworth Planning and Zoning Board** will be held on **Tuesday, August 16, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Town Hall Council Chambers.**
- **Candidate Filing Period for Wentworth Town Council Seats (3) will be July 1, 2011 (Noon) – July 15, 2011 (Noon)**

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Article IX. A D J O U R N

Mayor Aswell made a motion, "*the meeting be adjourned.*"

Councilwoman Iris Powell seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted By: _____
Yvonne Russell, Deputy Clerk

Approved By: _____
Robert P. Aswell, Mayor