
**TOWN OF WENTWORTH
MINUTES FOR**

**THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 1, 2011
7:00 P.M.**

The Wentworth Town Council held its regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, November 1, 2011**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Council members present:

Mayor Robert Aswell, Councilwoman Iris Powell, Councilwoman Evelyn Conner, and Councilman Dennis Paschal.

Council members absent: Mayor Pro Tem James Belcher (work)

A quorum was present.

Staff Present: Brenda Ward, Town Administrator & Town Clerk / Yvonne Russell, Finance Officer & Deputy Clerk / Fred Baggett, Town Attorney, and Deputy Travis Loftis.

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Robert Aswell

ARTICLE II. INVOCATION: Councilwoman Iris Powell

ARTICLE III. Approval of November 1, 2011, Town Council Agenda

A. Requests & Petitions of Citizens

Mayor Aswell advised, *“I would like to add under Item F. (New Business) Consideration of Proposal from Robert Witherspoon in Reference to Snow Removal at Town Hall, and also under Public Comments, add Allen Hart, USDA Rural Development.”*

Councilman Dennis Paschal seconded the motion. There was no discussion and all voted in favor.

ARTICLE IV. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes for October 4, 2011

“I make a motion we accept them as written,” said **Councilwoman Powell**. **Councilman Paschal** seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

ARTICLE V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

**A. Consideration of Revisions to the Town of Wentworth
Planning & Zoning Ordinances, as Recommended by the
Wentworth Planning Board**

- 1. Chapter 1 – Definitions: To add definitions for “Video Lottery Games”, and “Video Lottery Terminal”**
- 2. Chapter 2 - Zoning / Article V. Establishment of Districts
Section 1. District Names**

Chapter 2 - Article VII. District Regulations

Section 1. General Zoning Districts

Section 2. Conditional Districts

Section 3. Overlay Districts

Section 4. Table of Permitted Uses

To *delete* the Central Business District-Core and Central Business District-Secondary Zoning Districts & Associated Development Standards; and, to *create* a Central Business Overlay District with specific uses and development standards; to delete from the Table of Permitted Uses the two columns for CBD and CBD-S, as well as additions and deletions to the Notes in the Table of Permitted Uses, specifically Notes 9 and 10.

Chapter 2 - Article VIII. Dimensional Requirements

Section 1. Table of Area and Yard Requirements (Setbacks) To Replace CBD with *TND* (Traditional Neighborhood District) Overlay and to change CBD-S (secondary) to CBD Overlay.

Chapter 2 - Article IX. Off-Street Parking and Loading To add information pertaining to Traditional Neighborhood Development area, all uses, and to add Central Business Overlay District other than the TND area, all uses.

Chapter 2 - Article XV. Landscape, Design & Site Standards

Section 2. Design Standards: Current wording deleted and replaced.

Regarding the first Public Hearing, continued at the October 4, 2011, Town Council Meeting, **Mayor Aswell** made a motion, “*To continue the Public Hearing until the January 3, 2011, meeting.*”

Mayor Aswell explained the reason for the continuance, advising that the Planning Board is in the process of reviewing the ordinance text amendments at Town Council's request.

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

ARTICLE V. PUBLIC HEARINGS - Continued

B. Consideration of Revisions to the Town of Wentworth Planning & Zoning Ordinances, as Recommended by the Wentworth Planning Board

- 1. Chapter 1 – Definitions: To amend the definitions for “landfill” and “sanitary landfill” and to add definitions for “municipal solid waste” and “municipal solid waste management facility”**
- 2. Chapter 2 - Zoning / Article VII. District Regulations**
 - Section 2. “Conditional Districts**
 - Section 4. “Table of Permitted Uses”**
 - Section 4.6 “Regulations for Special use Permits”**

Mayor Aswell opened the Public Hearing and invited **Ms. Frankie Legaux**, Rockingham County Planning Director, to address Council.

Ms. Legaux advised, “What we are considering tonight is changes to how a municipal solid waste landfill would be approved within the Town of Wentworth.”

She proceeded to go through the changes, in order, as recommended by the Planning staff.

“We are recommending that landfill and sanitary landfill definitions be amended to read as they do in the North Carolina General Statutes, 130A. We will also add a definition from the North Carolina General Statutes that will define municipal solid waste and a municipal solid waste management facility.”

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Ms. Legaux continued, “At the present time, landfills are approved through a Special use Permit, which is a Quasi-Judicial hearing. Quasi-Judicial hearings require that you present evidence in the approval process. There is a four-part process—four items you have to look at and you have to have those findings made and stated as part of the Minutes.”

“What we are proposing to do is to change it to a Conditional Zoning District. In other words, if someone were to come in and request a municipal solid waste landfill, they would have to rezone the property to a Conditional Zoning District.”

“The Conditional Zoning District is a legislative process; therefore, it would allow residents of the community to come in and comment on it without the requirement of evidence—the four findings of fact—and (your decision) could be based on whether it fits in or not.”

“The only district it would be allowed in would be an Industrial District, as a Conditional District. So, we have added that in your ordinance as to how to do a Conditional Zoning District for that.”

“We have also added some factors in, as to what you might want to look at—for example, environmental noise, odor, and traffic impact on the surrounding area that you could consider, and also the types of waste to be disposed of, and the methods of transport to the site, whether by truck or rail, or whatever you might have at the time.”

Ms. Legaux explained that the Conditional Zoning District is similar in one sense to a Special Use Permit, “...in that you can have specific information in your Conditional District that you would look at when you are approving it, just as you do in a Special Use Permit.”

“But again,” **Ms. Legaux** said, “it would not require the Quasi-Judicial hearing. It would still be a legislative hearing.”

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“Of course, where you have application requirements for a sight plan, and we have setbacks located...it cannot be located within a critical area of a watershed or within the hundred-year flood plain, or within five statute miles of the Rockingham County Shiloh Airport, because part of that five miles does fall within your jurisdiction. Also, the truck entrance has to be located within 2,000 feet of a major arterial highway.”

Regarding other specifics of the ordinance text, **Ms. Legaux** advised, “Setbacks are regulated in consideration of residential structures, churches and schools. Landscaping buffers are designated, as well as the types of roads within the sight.”

Other requirements listed: A six-foot security fence, illumination, sound levels at the sight boundaries, and one identification sign. Everything must also comply with all Federal, State and local regulations.

Ms. Legaux added, “As with the Special Use Permit, if you were to see anything in the application that warranted the addition of a separate condition(s), you may add conditions to a Conditional District, just as you can in a Special Use Permit District.”

“We have also added that the height limitations listed in the ordinance would not apply to municipal solid waste landfills, but you could impose height limits on a landfill as a condition, so you are not giving them a free-for-all...you *can* add conditions.”

“We have stated how the application will be reviewed and what you must have as a minimum for sight plan requirements. There is also a section on waivers and evaluations concerning what the Planning Director or someone serving on the Planning staff can waive if they so choose. If they do not feel comfortable in doing that, they may bring it back to the Board. We have also listed things that might be considered as a waiver.”

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Ms. Legaux continued, “We have talked about review of the approval conditions. One of these is very important. It says, ‘It is intended that the property rezoned to a Conditional (District) be limited to cases where there are firm plans to develop the property. Therefore, no sooner than three years after the date of approving a Conditional District, the Planning Board may examine the progress made towards developing the property, in accordance with the approved petition and any conditions that were attached to that approval. If the Planning Board determines that progress has not been made in accordance with the approved petition and conditions, the Planning Board shall forward to the Town Council, a report which may recommend that the property be rezoned to another district.’”

Ms. Legaux added, “That does give you some flexibility if they choose not to develop the property.”

“We also need to take out the Sanitary Landfill as far as a Special Use Permit, so we will be deleting that from the Table of Permitted Uses. We will be adding Landfill, Municipal Solid Waste, as a Conditional District under Heavy Industrial (zone).”

Ms. Legaux asked Council if they had any questions for her concerning the ordinance text amendments

There were no questions from Council, and **Mayor Aswell** asked if anyone else would like to speak regarding the Public Hearing.

No one signed the Speaker Register and no one came forward to speak.

Mayor Aswell closed the public hearing.

Councilman Paschal made a motion, *“To approve the revisions to the Wentworth Planning and Zoning Ordinance and adopt the Statements of Consistency as required by North Carolina General Statutes 160A-382(b), and 160A-383, and as outlined in the Town Council’s Analysis and Statement.”*

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

ARTICLE VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Request for Council's Input Regarding CBD Design Changes

Mayor Aswell asked Ms. Legaux to address Council.

Ms. Legaux explained, "As you remember, last month we had a joint meeting with the Town Council and the Planning Board and came up with some ideas as to how you might like to treat the overlay district. We have had some suggestions since then, so we wanted to pass out a list of the design standards already in the ordinance and we would ask you to strike out the ones you do not want to see in the new regulations we may come up with for the CBD (Central Business District)."

Ms. Legaux referenced some questions attached to the front of the CBD design guidelines—"All you have to do is check the answer, you do not have to put your names on it and we will not do this tonight. Just take it home and think about it and return it to Brenda (Town Clerk) or to me at the county office, or you can mail it in if you like."

"There are four questions on the front page...right now we have two CBD overlay districts, a core and a secondary. The first question is, 'Do you prefer one district or do you prefer two?'"

"The second one is, *Should the CBD boundary extend along NC 87 to the Wentworth Town Limits near Sandy Cross Road...in an easterly direction. If we are going to talk about a business area, do we want to extend it that far?* So, you check, extend the boundary, or, keep it where it is."

Ms. Legaux continued, "If you feel the boundary should be extended to the town limits near Sandy Cross Road, how deep would you like it—100 feet on each side of the road, 150 feet, or 200 feet. Just check one of those."

"Do you want to exclude any re-zonings to an industrial zoning district if they are located in the Central Business District area. That is one thing that did come up after we talked...that maybe we just want this for commercial and residential uses, rather than industrial. We would have industrial placed a little ways off our main artery through the town. So that's a yes or no."

ARTICLE VI. OLD BUSINESS - Continued

A. Request for Council's Input Regarding CBD Design Changes

Ms. Legaux concluded, "If you have any other comments about things you would like to see, there is a section on Page 1, where you can write in your comments, if you like. We would appreciate it..."

Councilman Paschal asked, "If somebody comes out here...several folks do have property that is zoned Highway Commercial. Right now, without this overlay being extended, what do they have to do...when they want to develop their property and put a building on it..."

Ms. Legaux replied, "If it is a use that is permitted in Highway Commercial...they would come in and basically tell us what they want to do, provide us with a site plan...because we need to check parking (requirements). And, if it is on the south side of NC 87 and in your watershed core area, we would have to check the impervious surface coverage to be sure they do not exceed the impervious surface coverage, which is 36% without curb and gutter and 24% with curb and gutter. So, a site plan would have to be done. If they are going to exceed those percentages, they would have to come before the Planning Board for a watershed variance."

Ms. Legaux noted that how it is handled would depend on whether it is a major or minor watershed variance. She explained that if it is a minor watershed variance, it is approved at the local level and then reported to the State. She said a major variance would have to go to the State, with certain stipulations as stated in the Ordinance."

She said that a major variance would come before the Board, and the Board would make a recommendation as to whether it should be approved or not, and then it would go to the State for final approval.

Ms. Legaux explained further, "If you're on this side of the road, you would have the watershed rules you would have to deal with. Also, you have general landscaping standards if you are going to develop it next to properties that are zoned residential, you would have to show what you plan to put in. Generally, a complete visual barrier is usually what you get between a commercial and a residential area, so you would have to show what sort of landscaping you plan to use."

ARTICLE VI. OLD BUSINESS - Continued

A. Request for Council's Input Regarding CBD Design Changes

Councilman Paschal asked, "As far as restrictions on the types of materials used for the building..."

Ms. Legaux replied, "There would not be any restrictions other than what the North Carolina Building Code dictates. As far as whether the building is brick or something else, there is nothing right now if the property is already zoned Highway Commercial, or no restrictions on how much percentage can be windows and how much can be wall area."

"As a generalization," **Councilman Paschal** said, "the overlay that we are moving over to that area, the way it is written now, is much more restrictive on building..."

Ms. Legaux replied, "Yes, if you go along with what is in the overlay right now, and that is the purpose of the homework we have given you...you can cross out what you don't want to see in an overlay district. The other thing you could do in the overlay district, as we mentioned before, is to say there would not be any rezoning to industrial uses, if you want strictly for it to be commercial type...Community Shopping, is what you call it, I believe."

Ms. Legaux continued, "That is what towns do a lot of times, so they have their business in a defined area, and the industrial in an outlying area."

Councilwoman Powell asked Ms. Legaux about the difference in one side of the road versus the other, as far as the watershed is concerned.

"It just depends on the lay of the land," **Ms. Legaux** said, "and the way it drains...generally, here in this county, we follow lot lines, but there is a provision in your ordinance that allows someone to have a surveyor come out, and if they can show that a portion of that property drains the other way and not into the Dan River-Eden Watershed, they can have it removed from that portion of their property."

ARTICLE VI. OLD BUSINESS - Continued

A. Request for Council's Input Regarding CBD Design Changes

Councilman Paschal talked about the need, "...for a meeting after a meeting in December, to sit down...of course we have met with the Planning Board one time already and talked about these things. If we answer these questions and come up with different things, we many end up in another meeting and see things we want to change again. We have already had some complaints about some of these restrictions with the way it is zoned right now."

"I don't think it would hurt for us to take some time at the end of our meeting, for us to talk about this and be sure we are unified in what we send to the Planning Board."

The **Town Administrator** commented, "What Frankie and I were hoping, is that you all would answer the questions and we could take that back to the Planning Board in their November meeting. They probably would not meet in December, and you will have your organizational meeting in December, so that would not be a good time to look at it."

Councilman Paschal said, "I just want to be careful since there have been some complaints."

Mayor Aswell asked, "So, do we want to just wait until January... after the meeting?"

Mrs. Ward asked, "When you said *after* the meeting, you know you can't do that, right?"

"I mean at the *end* of the meeting, after we take care of all the other business," **Councilman Paschal** replied. "I know we have to do it in public session with the people here."

"I just didn't want anyone here to misunderstand," said **Mrs. Ward**.

"So we'll just put it on the Agenda," said **Councilman Paschal**. "We really don't have to make a motion for that."

Mr. Baggett, Town Attorney, asked, “I came in a few minutes late. Y’all already continued the Public Hearing until January, right?”

Council confirmed that a motion was made to continue the Public Hearing regarding amendments to Design Standards for the Central Business District, until January 3rd (2012).

ARTICLE VI. OLD BUSINESS – Continued

B. Update on Lobby Floor

1. Discussion on Securing a Second Opinion Regarding Floor Problem

- **Town Administrator / Councilman Paschal**

Mrs. Ward related the following to Council: “Mr. Johnson, with Alley, Williams, Carmen, & King, along with David Southard and Tim Wray of the Wright Company, and Daniel Caviness with Sherwin-Williams, came by on the 28th of October, last Friday. They apparently, had decided among themselves, to meet here at the Town Hall, so they could talk face to face. They spent quite a bit of time talking back and forth, and as I discussed with Fred (Attorney Baggett), they seem to think they have a fix, which we already discussed before—putting that expansion joint in, between two sections of tile that will be broken down through that row.”

Mrs. Ward continued, “I did hear the Sherwin Williams rep say that they wanted a guarantee from Mr. Johnson that this *fix* would solve the problem and that they would be relieved from coming back and forth if his solution didn’t work.”

“**Mr. Johnson** didn’t seem willing to make any promises unless he was here to, ‘watch the workmen’ as he put it.”

Mrs. Ward added, “Although it still sounded like a ‘he said-she said’ argument, what I understand at this point, is that they all agreed that Alley, Williams, Carmen and King, will supply the tile contractor (Sherwin Williams) with the instructions for installation of the expansion joint. Sherwin Williams will do the work, following the diagram, etc. and they have all agreed to split the cost.”

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Mrs. Ward asked Mr. Baggett if he would like to comment on his conversation with her about the proposed remedy for the lobby floor. She commented, "In your email you said something about this being our opportunity to get it fixed without any cost to the town...."

Mr. Baggett replied, "I didn't expect to be quoted, but I don't know your reasons, and there may be good ones, for getting a second opinion. My concern is, that if we let this opportunity go by, somebody is going to have to pay for whatever is done and we may lose it and have to chase it which may be more difficult than just..."

Councilman Paschal replied, "I'm all for letting them fix it, but what I would like, before they cover it, is to have an engineer examine where they made the cold pour of one slab up against the other, to see if there is something there they think may continuously cause us a problem year after year. Then, we can go back to our engineers...we have had so much back and forth between them at this point."

"I say hold them off for just a little while until we can get a second opinion. We can find out how much this will cost, but that slab is moving, and they can cover it up and an expansion joint might help, but if it moves a lot, you are going to have the tiles cracking again. It's just like Sherwin Williams...they want this to be the last fix on it, so they're already trying to close it out..."

Mrs. Ward said, "But that is because they really don't think they are responsible for the problem..."

"Right, and if it is a structural problem, it probably isn't their responsibility," said **Councilman Paschal**, "but I say get a second opinion...and be sure."

Mrs. Ward asked Councilman Paschal, "You had asked me to go ahead and get some quotes (from Engineering firms), but did I just understand you to say that you want the engineer to come in and look at it *after* the other guys take the tiles up, and *before* they make any repairs?"

“They are going to have to take some of those tiles out, anyway,” said Councilman Paschal, “so I say let them go ahead and pop some of them up so he can look at it. The Engineer can pull some up...that’s fine...It runs all the way from one side of the building to the other.”

Mayor Aswell remarked, “It seems to me that Sherwin Williams does not think this is their fault, and they want to be sure that the expansion joint will fix it. They don’t want to take any more blame for it, or go to more expense, either. I really don’t think it is their fault...”

Councilman Paschal said, “Let’s let Brenda get some quotes to see what an engineer would charge. If it’s under a certain amount, the Town Administrator can approve it, anyway. We can do a straw poll amongst us to see about getting them in here.”

Mayor Aswell asked Councilman Paschal, if he was making that a motion.

Councilman Paschal asked the Town Attorney, “I don’t have to make a motion for her to do something she can do, anyway, do I?”

“Not if that is the consensus of Council and you give her direction,” replied **Mr. Baggett**.

“So we all agree to proceed like that?” asked **Mayor Aswell**.

Councilman Paschal replied, “As long as the quote is under \$5,000.00...I think that is the amount she can approve...but if it the quote is more than that, we probably don’t want to do it.”

ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration of Funding Request from North Carolina Dental Society Mission of Mercy – (\$2,000 - \$3,000) / Janet Rakestraw

The **Town Administrator** advised that Mrs. Rakestraw was not present for the meeting, but said Council is familiar with the work of the North Carolina Dental Society. She noted that Council approved funding for the event that took place in July.

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Mrs. Ward said that Mrs. Rakestraw and others had been successful in getting them to return to Rockingham County again in March of 2012, and are requesting assistance with that event as well.

Mrs. Ward commented that Yvonne Russell, Finance Officer, volunteered for the July event and may be willing to share her experience there.

Mrs. Russell said, “There were close to 500 people...it was amazing and I was very impressed. Some of the people had been there for two days, waiting, and they saw almost every one of them. They did cleanings, oral surgery, extractions, made partials for people. Everyone there was so thankful, it was a really good experience and I plan to volunteer again.”

Councilman Paschal said, “My wife, Debbie, was there, too, and she said it was amazing what all they did in that amount of time, and how many people they helped.”

Mayor Aswell made a motion, “That we give the \$3,000.00.”

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

ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

B. Consideration of Longevity Pay for Town Employees – Year Ending 2011

Councilwoman Powell made a motion, “That we give the longevity pay.”

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

ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

C. Consideration of Appointment of a Representative from the Town of Wentworth (In Lieu of a Police Chief), to the Rockingham County Emergency Communications Governance Board / RE: Grant Awarded for the Rockingham County 9-1-1 PSAP Consolidation Project

Councilwoman Conner advised that she had *spoken with Barbara Cooke in Wentworth, “who worked several years as secretary to the North Carolina Highway Patrol, and she is interested in serving as one of the representatives for the Town.”*

“How long do we have to appoint someone?” asked **Councilman Paschal**.

The **Town Administrator** replied, “Although I know it was short notice, they prefer that we do it tonight.”

Councilman Paschal said he talked to a couple of people but could not get anyone to commit.

Councilwoman Powell asked Councilwoman Conner if Mrs. Cooke agreed to serve.

Councilwoman Conner said, “Yes, she called me back this afternoon and said she is interested.”

Councilwoman Powell said, “Then, I second the motion.”

The **Town Administrator** advised, “Since we do not have a Chief of Police, we also get to nominate someone to represent us in that position, in addition to the citizen representative. The people we put forth will make up the board that has to come up with the bylaws, etc. and then the *final* governing board that will oversee the 911 operations may not necessarily have these two people serving, because the County Commissioners will make appointments to that board. For instance, only two Chiefs of Police will be appointed to serve on the governing board.”

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Mayor Aswell noted a motion on the floor, and a second, to appoint Barbara Cooke to serve as one of the representatives for the Town of Wentworth.”

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

Mayor Aswell continued, “Okay, we need one more.”

Councilman Paschal asked if there were any volunteers (audience).

Mr. Robert Witherspoon raised his hand.

Mayor Aswell said, “I will volunteer for it.”

Councilwoman Conner asked, “Will Lee Bedell be involved?”
(**Note:** Lee Bedell is the Fire Chief for Wentworth Volunteer Fire Department).

Mrs. Ward replied, “There will be representatives from the Fire Chiefs Council, which I assume is made up of all the fire chiefs, but they didn’t say if our representative could be an elected official...”

Councilwoman Conner said, “I wish we could talk Larry Terrell into doing it.”

Mrs. Ward said, “He actually called and asked me about it but he didn’t ever say whether he would do it or not.” (**Mrs. Ward** then realized that Mr. Terrell was in the audience...but he declined an appointment to the 911 Board.)

It was noted that Council now has two volunteers, Mr. Witherspoon and Mayor Aswell.

Mrs. Ward said she thought the volunteers should know, that if they are appointed, there may be “lots of meetings and it could be time consuming until everything is set up.”

Mrs. Ward asked, “Well, we have a citizen representative already, so do you want to go with Robert (Mayor Aswell) as your Police Chief substitute, since he has worked for the Sheriff’s Department, and since you already have your citizen representative...I’m just trying to help you move this along.”

Mayor Aswell said, "I'll entertain a motion for the next representative."

Councilman Paschal asked the Clerk, "So you think since we have one citizen, we ought to have someone else...?"

Mrs. Ward replied, "I only said you need someone in lieu of a Police Chief. It is up to you who is appointed. I even asked them if we should select someone from the Sheriff's Department since we contract with them for law enforcement. They said, 'No, the Sheriff's Department will have a representative.' I really think they are trying to spread out the representation."

Councilwoman Conner asked if Mrs. Cooke could be, "the police chief representative, since she worked for the Highway Patrol all those years, and then we can select someone else as the citizen representative."

Mrs. Ward replied, "It is up to you. The mayor has asked for a motion."

Councilman Paschal asked the mayor, "Do you really want to do it, Robert? Do you have the time?"

"Yes, I'll do it" replied **Mayor Aswell**.

Councilman Paschal made a motion, "*That we appoint Robert Aswell.*"

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

ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

D. Consideration of Appointment to Town of Wentworth Committees:

1. Planning Board

Gary Moore / 166 Rock Spring Drive

2. Appearance Committee

Anthony W. Hearn / 237 Salem Church Road

The **Town Administrator** advised, “We have several people whose terms on the Planning Board will expire at the end of the year. One person does not want to be reappointed. You recently moved Alternate Joey Troxler to the regular board to fill another vacancy, so Gary (Moore) would be serving as an Alternate at this point in time.”

Mayor Aswell made a motion, *“To appoint Gary Moore as an Alternate to the Wentworth Planning Board.”*

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

2. Appearance Committee

Anthony W. Hearn / 237 Salem Church Road

Mrs. Ward advised, “Mr. Hearn actually resides right outside Wentworth, but I believe our bylaws say we can have one person on each committee who is a non-resident. Mr. Hearn works at Chinqua-Penn doing their flower arrangements and some decorating, I believe.”

Councilman Paschal made a motion, *“That we appoint Mr. Anthony W. Hearn of 237 Salem Church Road to the Appearance Committee.”*

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

ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

E. Approval of Public Meeting at the Town Hall on Thursday, November 17, 2011, to Obtain Public Input on the Greenway/Recreational Trail Plan for Rockingham County (6:00 – 8:00 p.m.)

The **Town Administrator** advised that **Mrs. T. Butler** with the Dan River Basin Authority may have some comments to make regarding the trails meeting.

Mayor Aswell invited Mrs. Butler to come forward.

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Mrs. Butler said, “The Dan River Basin Authority received a grant from the Reidsville Area Foundation to develop a master plan for trails and greenways in Rockingham County. This would enable us to consolidate the planning that has been done in the various municipalities and some in Rockingham County. It also will enable us to obtain grant money. Usually, you cannot apply for many of the grants unless you have a Master Plan.”

“The Master Plan is something that will be under development for about 18 months, and you folks have been really supportive of that, and we very much appreciate it. As an early stage of this planning, we are having meetings in the municipalities, and this one mentioned on your Agenda, is to be here in Wentworth and will enable Wentworth citizens to come and tell us what they would like to have in that plan and give options as to where things should be.”

Mrs. Butler advised that **Lee Templeton**, a member of the Wentworth Planning Board, has been coordinating the plans for the meeting in Wentworth. She asked Mrs. Templeton if she had any comments.

Mrs. Templeton advised that Jesse Day with the Piedmont Triad Regional Council, formerly Piedmont Triad Council of Governments, has been conducting the meetings in other places. She noted that Hanna Cockburn will be leading the Wentworth meeting. She said everybody is welcome, whether they live in Wentworth or not.

Councilwoman Powell asked about the trails and plans that the Town has worked on in the past, and included in the Land Use Plan.

Mrs. Ward explained that the Master Plan is for all of Rockingham County and, “...will include our planning and is a step toward putting it all in motion.”

Councilman Paschal made a motion, *“To approve the public meeting at the Town Hall on Thursday, November 11, 2011, to obtain public input on the Greenway/Recreational Trail Plan for Rockingham County, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.”*

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

ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

F. Consideration of Proposal from Robert Witherspoon in Reference to Snow Removal at Town Hall

The **Town Administrator** said that with colder weather on its way, Mr. Witherspoon asked about submitting a proposal for snow removal.

“He did it for us last season and did a good job,” said **Mrs. Ward**.

Councilwoman Conner remarked, “He is right next door, so it is convenient.”

Councilman Paschal asked Mrs. Ward if she knew how much the Town spent last year for snow removal. **Mrs. Ward** said she did not know for sure, and asked the Finance Officer if she remembered. **Mrs. Russell** could not say for sure, either.

Councilman Paschal remarked, “Our lot is the Town Hall so when it snows, we need to see that it’s scraped, and we may not get any snow but he is right here close by, so I make a motion, *“that we approve the proposal from Robert Witherspoon for snow removal at the Town Hall.”*

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

ARTICLE VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Requests & Petitions of Citizens

Mayor Aswell invited **Mr. Allen Hart** with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development office, to address Council.

Mr. Hart introduced himself and advised that he is a resident of 530 Cedar Lane in Wentworth. He thanked Council for the opportunity to speak.

Mr. Hart continued, “Some of you may not know me, I know Dennis knows me, and knows I work for the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development. I just wanted to make you aware of a grant opportunity that you may want to avail yourselves of. I am an Area Specialist for that agency and we provide financial and technical assistance for rural communities in North Carolina.”

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Mr. Hart said there may be an opportunity for grant assistance for the Town for a rural business enterprise grant.

He explained that it would be a grant to the Town to help assist in the creation of businesses in the city limits. Specifically, small businesses...with fewer than 50 employees and less than one million dollars per year of gross revenue.

Mr. Hart said, "I have talked with a resident here in the county who wants to open a day care facility in Wentworth, so that's an opportunity, and there are others you may want to consider. Our grant application deadline is February 13, 2012. I just want to make you aware that the funds are available. It is competitively scored and we can assist your staff in the preparation of an application."

"I have been doing this for 35 years and I've never known a town to have too many jobs, so if we can help to create some jobs, especially here in my hometown, then I would like to be a part of that."

Mr. Hart concluded, "Brenda (Ward) knows how to get in touch with me, we communicate fairly regularly, so if we can assist with that, we would be pleased to do something. Thank you very much."

Mayor Aswell asked if council had any questions for Mr. Hart.

Councilman Paschal said, "I think it is a good opportunity. If we can find some folks to use the money...we need to look into it."

Mayor Aswell said, "So, do we want to have Brenda look into it?"

Mrs. Ward replied, "Mr. Hart said he is available to help, and that's what we would need—his help—if this is something you want us to consider."

Mr. Hart said he could send an application packet to the Town, and then go from there.

Mrs. Ward added, "I wanted Mr. Hart to tell us exactly how this works so you would know whether or not you want the Town to take on something like this."

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Councilman Paschal asked, “How *does* it work...do you just give us the money and we dole it out?”

Mr. Hart replied, “It can be grant money to the ultimate recipient, the business owner, or you can set up a revolving loan fund, where you have a little pot of money here to loan out to businesses and then the money would come back to the town as loan payments are made, either way.”

“It sounds like to me,” **Councilman Paschal** said, “you have got to have a business to get it started.”

“You have to have a business that would commit to coming to Wentworth,” **Mr. Hart** replied.

Councilman Paschal asked, “How much funding is available? Is it per town, per capita...?”

Mr. Hart said, “We are going to be considering grants for \$75,000 or less, and we have a little over a million dollars in North Carolina for this grant program.”

Councilman Paschal asked, “Is it strictly for commercial, or can it be agricultural (businesses) within the town limits, or does it have to be right here in our shopping area?”

Mr. Hart explained, “Wentworth would be the applicant, so it *does* have to be for a business that wants to open here in Wentworth, but it does *not* have to be in your Central Business District. I do not think that agricultural enterprises in and of themselves, would qualify. We have done industrial type things, restaurants, barber shop, florist, offices...anything to help save and create jobs, we’ll look at. ”

“I can provide your Town Administrator an application package and give you all the details...and we can bring a specialist up here to get the ball rolling...”

“And we have to have applicants, too,” said **Councilman Paschal**.

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Mrs. Ward asked, “We have someone who is interested, but what are we required to do...do we have to advertise, as far as letting people know that grant funding is available? Do you know?” (Mrs. Ward asked the question of Town Attorney, Fred Baggett).

Mr. Baggett replied, “Not as a matter of State law. There may be Federal regulations governing that...”

Mr. Hart added, “There will be a public hearing and a presentation to Council as far as either accepting or rejecting the grant, but I don’t know of any public involvement other than that.”

There were no further questions, and **Mayor Aswell** moved on to the announcements.

ARTICLE IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Rockingham County Museum & Archives (RCHSMA) extends an invitation to Council and the public for the **Restoration Celebration** (Wright Tavern & Grounds) – NC Highway 65 in Wentworth, on Saturday, November 5, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Election Day, November 8th
- The Wentworth Historic Preservation Committee extends an invitation to Council and the public for the **Dedication Ceremony & Unveiling of the County Home Cemetery Marker**, on Sunday, November 13, 2:00 p.m.
- The next regular meeting of the **Wentworth Planning Board** will be held in the Town Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, November 15, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.
- The **Organizational Meeting** of the newly-elected Wentworth Town Council will be held in the Town Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, December 6, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. / **RECEPTION AFTER MEETING.**
- **The Town of Wentworth CHRISTMAS PARADE is on Saturday, December 10th at 11:00 a.m.**

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ARTICLE X. A D J O U R N

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

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

Respectfully Submitted By: _____
Brenda Ward, Town Clerk

Approved: _____
Robert Aswell, Mayor