
**TOWN OF WENTWORTH
MINUTES FOR**

**THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 6, 2011
7:00 P.M.**

The Wentworth Town Council held its regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, September 6, 2011**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Council members present were:

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

Council members absent: Mayor Pro Tem James Belcher

A quorum was present.

Article I. The meeting was called to order by **Mayor Robert Aswell**.

Article II. The Tenth Anniversary Remembrance of 9/11

⇒ **Presenting Colors & Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Aswell remarked, "Today is the Tenth Anniversary and Remembrance of 9/11. Tonight we have the Rockingham County Junior ROTC, with **Cadet Major Morganne Lawson** leading the Pledge of Allegiance; Rifle 1, **Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Taylor Penrod**; Rifle 2, **Cadet Captain Sarah Trombley**; NC Flag, **Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Paul Grant**, and U.S. Flag, **Cadet Colonel Stephen Harris**."

Mayor Aswell asked everyone to stand while the cadets led in the Pledge of Allegiance and posted colors, and to remain standing for the invocation.

⇒ **Invocation**

Mayor Aswell asked **Rev. Terry Larsen**, Pastor of Shady Grove Baptist Church, to give the invocation.

⇒ **Resolution in Support of 10th Anniversary of 9/11 as a National Day of Service and Acknowledgment of our Law Enforcement / First Responders & Fire Personnel**

Mayor Aswell asked all the law enforcement, first responders, and fire department personnel to come forward.

Town Administrator, Brenda Ward, speaking to the personnel who came forward, noted that the Resolution she would read, "is not only a remembrance of 9/11, but also to recognize you for all that you do for us here, and to let you know that we appreciate it very much and that you are in our prayers everyday."

Mrs. Ward read the Resolution (*attached hereto as part of these Minutes—Attachment 1*).

ARTICLE III. Approval of September 6, 2011 Town Council Agenda

A. Requests & Petitions of Citizens

Mayor Aswell noted that **Lucas Carter** with the Rockingham County Planning Department, and **Harry Rakestraw** of Foch Farm Road in Wentworth, signed up to address Council. He added, “Mr. Carter will be speaking in regards to the Public Hearing.”

Councilman Dennis Paschal made a motion, “*That we add them to the Agenda.*” The motion was seconded by **Councilwoman Conner**.

There was no discussion. **Mayor Aswell** advised that the speakers are added under Article V (Public Hearing). All voted in favor.

Article IV. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes for August 2, 2011

Councilwoman Iris Powell made a motion to, “*Approve the Minutes as written.*” The motion was seconded by **Mayor Aswell**. There was no discussion and all voted in favor.

Article V. Public Hearing – Lucas Carter, Rockingham County Planning Department.

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 to 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.

3. Chapter 1 - Definitions: To add the definition of bona fide farm.

Chapter 2 - Zoning / Article III. Jurisdiction

Delete description of bona fide farm.

4. Chapter 2 – Article VII. District Regulations

Section 4. Table of Permitted Uses / Amended to *include museum and art gallery* in the Public Library line item.

Mayor Aswell opened the Public Hearing, stating, “Regarding the Public Hearing, because there seems to be right much interest in the ordinance changes recommended by the Planning Board, I am reluctant to continue with the hearing since our attorney could not be here tonight. Also, the County planner, Ms. Legaux, who worked with the Planning Board on these changes, is in New Orleans and not able to be here. I know we have some people who wanted to speak regarding this, so I was wondering how Council feels about continuing the hearing until our October 4, 2011, Town Council Meeting.”

Councilwoman Powell said she would like to make a motion, “*To postpone the hearing until the October 4, Town Council Meeting.*”

Mayor Aswell seconded the motion and asked for any discussion.

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Councilman Paschal suggested that after the vote, Council should let the ones who came out for the public hearing and signed the Speaker Register, address Council.

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

Moving to the Speaker Register and those who were added to speak at this point, **Mayor Aswell** invited **Mr. Harry Rakestraw** to come forward.

Mr. Rakestraw commented, “Members of Council and Mayor Aswell, I appreciate the opportunity to speak and I’ll keep it brief because y’all will not be voting on this tonight. I just wanted to make sure that as you prepare for the hearing at the next meeting, you will consider the ramifications this will have on the property owners located in these districts. There are some major changes here in what you can and can’t do on your property, what you can and can’t build on your property.”

“One of the things that concerns me the most is that after I saw this advertised in the paper and I talked to some of the other land owners, nobody knew about it. Even though Council was abiding by the law and you did what you were required to do, I think that anytime you have something that involves a handful of people, and most of them are here tonight, if it involves major changes to their land...they should be given a written notice rather than just posting it in the paper and hoping they will see it. I don’t know whether that is possible or not, but I think it would be good for Council to consider this in the future.”

Mr. Rakestraw added, “It’s not like a rezoning, where you have to send written notice to property owners within so many feet. But all of these people who here tonight, are here because I told them about it (Public Hearing), not because they read it in the paper.”

“Also,” said **Mr. Rakestraw**, “in looking at this map that I got from Planning and Zoning, I have three pieces of property in this area, and two of them are split in two. I have a one-acre lot that is split between the Traditional Neighborhood (District) and the Central Business District, so I have a half-acre in CBD and a half-acre in Traditional Neighborhood. I have three lots there that are right on the corner. In talking about this for the next meeting, I would like for you to consider that these be excluded from either of the districts and leave my property as it currently is...”

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Councilwoman Conner asked Mr. Rakestraw if he would point out his property to her on the map. **Mr. Rakestraw** did so and commented, “My property is currently zoned Community Shopping and I would like to leave it in the zoning district as it is now and not be a part of the TND or CBD boundaries.”

There were no further questions for Mr. Rakestraw.

Mayor Aswell asked **Mr. Lucas Carter**, with Rockingham County Planning and Zoning, if he wanted to make any comments.

Mr. Carter advised, “I am here representing Ms. Legaux who is in Louisiana, and if you guys have tabled the vote, I’ll just hold off and let Frankie (Legaux) present the information next month. That way you are getting the information from the person who has worked directly with the Planning Board on these text amendments, so I’ll just hold off and let her present it to you next month.”

Councilman Paschal remarked, “The mayor and I talked about a possible joint meeting between the Council and the Planning Board sometime between now and the next meeting, because as you move this over and create this Traditional Neighborhood District here, and move the CBD out into an overlay, some of the restrictions we had in there may be more restrictive than we would want up here on the road.”

Councilman Paschal continued, “There are places where we talk about the standard, like we give to Wentworth School and that type of building, and within the CBD overlay, it says you can only build out of brick or stone, and in our standards we have some frame and wood houses here, so that’s somewhat confusing to people.”

“When you go out here and look, if you are trying to incorporate this into what the town looks like, these type buildings *are* part of the town, and whether you use wood or whether you use vinyl, that’s probably something Ms. Legaux needs to look at. It does confuse people when you say it has to be brick or stone, but then you’ve got this showing frame buildings with wood siding...but at the same time we need to have a good mixture of things for people to choose from as they are developing and are thinking, ‘Can I pay this, or can I pay this and still make it look good down through here’.”

“There are several things I think we need to look at and talk over with the Planning Board before the next meeting, and tweak some of this because we are taking a very small area that we have made restrictive and putting it out into an overlay here, which is covering a lot of folks. So we need to make sure we don’t have some things in there that are more restrictive than what we would like to have.”

There were no additional remarks from Council.

Mayor Aswell noted that the next Planning Board Meeting is on September 20th, and made a motion, “*That Council meet with the Planning Board on September 20th.*”

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

Councilman Paschal added, “That will be a public meeting and anyone who wants to attend the joint meeting of the Council and Planning Board is welcome to come.”

(Note: Due to Councilman Paschal being out of town on September 20th, he talked with Mayor Aswell and Council to see if they would object to postponing the September 20th meeting until the October 20th Planning Board meeting. A notice of this change and new meeting date have been posted at the Town Hall and in the calendar section of the local newspaper—Reidsville Review.)

ARTICLE VI. Old Business – There was no Old Business for discussion.

ARTICLE VII. New Business

A. Consideration of Budget Amendment No 2 for Fiscal Year 2011-2012

Finance Officer, Yvonne Russell, explained, “At your last meeting you approved a funding request for Dan River Basin Association in the amount of \$10,000.00. This budget amendment shows a transfer of funds to the appropriate line item for that request. Total budget dollars, \$684,660.00, remains unchanged.”

Mayor Aswell made a motion, “*To approve Budget Amendment No. 2 for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.*”

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

B. Recommendation of Harold W. Vaden, as Private Member Director, Representing the Town of Wentworth on the Rockingham County Partnership for Economic Development Board

Councilwoman Conner advised, "Mr. Vaden is presently serving as a Director, representing the Town of Wentworth...his term will expire December 31st of this year, but he is eligible to serve another three-year term and I would like to *make a motion that we appoint Mr. Vaden to serve another term.*"

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

Article VII. New Business - Continued

C. Consideration of Appointment of Alternate Planning Board Member, Joey Troxler, 8971 NC 87, as a Regular Member of the Wentworth Planning Board, to serve out the term of Kevin Gann (12/31/11).

Councilwoman Conner made a motion, "*To appoint Joey Troxler to serve the remainder of Kevin Gann's term as a regular member of the Wentworth Planning Board.*"

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

D. Report from the Town of Wentworth Historic Preservation Committee

The **Town Administrator** advised that **Kim Proctor, Executive Director** of the Rockingham County Museum, would be addressing Council.

Mrs. Proctor said, "I can tell you that you will be pleased to know that you have seven strong and active members on the Town Historic Preservation Committee, and they are meeting on a regular basis and doing good work.

"Most recently," **Mrs. Proctor** said, "we have completed the memorial marker for the County Home Cemetery on County Home Road. It is a nice brick marker with a granite top that reminds folks of what that space is about. It was a fun project, and we had great help from our Eagle Scout, Jeffrey Haigler."

“We have also been mapping out cemeteries in Wentworth. We started by going back and getting some history...it is part of a larger project that will be...a map...for folks who visit, and will show things like the cemeteries, historic buildings, businesses, government locations...something for Brenda to hand to folks when they come to visit.”

Mrs. Proctor added, “In working with the cemetery project, **Gary Melvin** (Rockingham County GIS Department) and **Mark Pegram** (Clerk of Superior Court) have helped us quite a bit and have been very cooperative. We are working to get these cemeteries listed on the county map.”

“So, that’s where we are, and we thought you deserve an update since you have been so kind to sponsor this committee, and we look forward to doing more things in the future. If you have anything specific, any ideas you would like to present to us, we invite you to come to a meeting or send us an email.”

Mayor Aswell and **Council** thanked **Mrs. Proctor** for her report and her help to the committee.

Article VII. New Business – Continued

**E. Consideration of Resolution in Support of Rockingham County
Big Sweep Week / October 2 – 8, 2011**

Mayor Aswell asked **Mrs. Lee Templeton** to address Council.

Mrs. Templeton explained that the Keep Rockingham County Clean and Green Committee is asking for Council to approve the Resolution in support of Big Sweep Week, the first week in October.”

Mrs. Templeton read the Resolution for everyone. (*Resolution is attached hereto and made a part of these Minutes—Attachment 2*).

Mayor Aswell made a motion, “*To approve the Resolution in Support of Big Sweep Week in Rockingham County, October 2-8, 2011.*”

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

Mrs. Templeton thanked Council for their approval.

F. Consideration of Proclamation in Support of September 17-23, 2011, as Constitution Week in the Town of Wentworth

Mayor Aswell noted that the Proclamation was presented by the Rachel Caldwell Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and read the Proclamation for everyone. (*Note: The Proclamation is attached hereto as part of these Minutes—Attachment 3.*)

Councilman Paschal made a motion, *“That we approve the Proclamation.”*

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

Article VII. New Business – Continued

G. Consideration of Resolution in Support of 2011 Lyme Disease Awareness Month in the Town of Wentworth

Mayor Aswell advised that Lt. Col. Dave Tierney, USMC Retired, and the NC Department of Health and Human Services, supplied the Resolution and asked for Council’s support.

Councilman Paschal made a motion, *“To approve the Resolution in Support of Lyme Disease Awareness.”*

Article VIII. Announcements

⇒ The next regularly scheduled **Wentworth Planning Board Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, September 20, at 7:00 p.m.** in Town Hall Council Chambers.

Mayor Aswell commented, “The Town Council will meet with them at that time.”

⇒ The next regularly scheduled **Town Council Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, October 4, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Mayor Aswell reminded everyone of the stew sale at the Wentworth Volunteer Fire Department on Saturday, September 12th and encouraged them to come out to eat and to purchase.

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Article IX. A D J O U R N

Mayor Aswell made a motion "*that the meeting be adjourned.*" All were in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted By: _____
Brenda Ward, Town Clerk

Approved: _____
Robert Aswell, Mayor