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**TOWN OF WENTWORTH  
MINUTES FOR  
THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 4, 2012  
7:00 P.M.**

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The Wentworth Town Council held its regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, December 4, 2012**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

**Council members present:** Mayor Dennis Paschal, Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Conner, Councilman Robert Aswell, Councilwoman Iris Powell, and Councilman Dennis Paschal, III.

**A quorum was present.**

**Staff Present:** Brenda Ward, Town Administrator-Town Clerk / Yvonne Russell, Finance Officer - Deputy Clerk / Attorney Pat Kane, and Sheriff Sam Page.

**ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Paschal**

**Mayor Paschal** acknowledged **Sheriff Sam Page**'s attendance at the meeting, and said he would also like to wish **Councilman Dennis Paschal, III**, "...a happy birthday...he's getting older now."

**ARTICLE II. INVOCATION: Councilman Paschal**

**ARTICLE III. Approval of December 4, 2012, Town Council Agenda**

**A. Requests & Petitions of Citizens**

Regarding approval of the meeting agenda, **Mayor Paschal** advised, "We have **T. Butler** signed up to speak regarding the Post Office. I would like to make a motion. *"...that we approve the Agenda and add Mrs. Butler under Old Business on the Update on the Post Office."*

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

**ARTICLE IV. Approval of Minutes**

**A. Town Council Meeting: November 8, 2012**

**Mayor Paschal** made a motion, *"To approve the Minutes as written, with a note that it was the Personnel Committee's intent to make Yvonne Russell's salary increase retroactive to her anniversary date, September 15<sup>th</sup>, as noted on Page 10, of the November 8, 2012, Town Council Meeting Minutes, and as recommended by the Town Administrator."*

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

**ARTICLE V. OLD BUSINESS**

➤ **Update on Post Office**

**Mayor Paschal** asked the **Town Administrator** to give the update, "...on the post office and the land purchase."

**Mrs. Ward** advised, "We reported on our post office meeting at the November Council meeting, but I told you at that time that I would be checking back with the Postal Service, as they instructed us to give them a call in mid-November. This is what I received by email:

'The project requirements are being finalized now, with the start of formal project approval after the Thanksgiving holiday. That is not a fast process and may take two to four months. Also, our department has restructured in the last thirty days and I no longer cover this territory. Your contact going forward is Rob McNiece. He can be reached at...' and he gave me a number...'and is copied on this email. He will be able to provide you an update on the project in another 30-45 days.'

"In the meantime," **Mrs. Ward** said, "the Postal Service had the Postmaster in Wentworth to post this letter saying, 'Effective February 9, 2013, the Wentworth Post Office will provide four hours of window service each week day...' They give the retail hours and say they will have 24-hour access, but the postmaster told me they still haven't told her how they plan to accomplish that, since they don't have a secure place to leave the mail until it can be processed."

"So, this is ongoing," **Mrs. Ward** concluded.

**Mayor Paschal** noted that **Mrs. T Butler** signed the Speaker Register, and invited her to address Council concerning the post office issue.

**Mrs. Butler** thanked the Mayor and Council, commenting, "I am sure I am not alone...I think all the citizens of Wentworth want to have a Wentworth bottom-line address. One of the problems we are running into is with people coming to the new county museum—they *can't find their way*, because Google doesn't recognize the address they put in. They try to use Wentworth, and apparently Wentworth doesn't exist (with Google)."

**Mrs. Butler** continued, “We have had business cards printed that have our name, and then, Wentworth, North Carolina...and then, our mailing address, which is Reidsville. We don’t live in *Reidsville*, we live in *Wentworth* and we want to have a Wentworth bottom-line address, so anything that we can do to make that happen...I know we have a proposal on the table to provide a building for them. How could they possibly turn that down?”

“They have before,” replied **Mayor Paschal**.

“They have done it over and over again” said **Mrs. Butler**, “but it just makes no sense to have a county seat with all the county services that are provided in Wentworth, and not have a post office that is open reasonable hours and that has twenty-four- hour access. So I applaud all the work you folks are doing and continue to do to try to get us a post office. I wish you the very best of luck. Thanks.”

**Councilman Paschal III** commented, “Just on that note, I would encourage citizens to contact your representatives in Congress and let them know how you feel about the situation, and contact the Postal Service. Sometimes it is just a matter of everybody being vocal, and I know several people have, and if we continue to do that...I think that will be a big help.”

**Mrs. Ward** said she had a call from the County Manager’s office, “asking when we were going to get a Wentworth address...that one of the commissioners wanted to know.”

She added, “Apparently it was one of the new commissioners, because the others are aware that we have been working on the Postal Service for quite some time. But maybe we can get them behind this as well.”

**ARTICLE V. OLD BUSINESS – Continued**

➤ **Update on Land Purchase**

**Mrs. Ward** reported to Council that, “**Attorney Brian Byrd** with Smith Moore has been working with us to get all the paperwork signed. We have wired them the funds and we’re just waiting on the final copies of the signed papers.”

➤ **Update on Christmas Parade**

**Mayor Paschal** asked the Finance Officer, **Yvonne Russell**, to give the report on the Christmas Parade.

**Mrs. Russell** said, “Well, as you know, it is this Saturday...I gave each one of you a Parade Line-up List just in case you were curious to see what all entries we have and where they are in the parade. We have about 22 floats, which is the most we have ever had and they vary in size...some are small and some are large. We have two professional floats and seven performing groups. We have the Rockingham County High School Band, and the ROTC from Rockingham County High School. We have the Reidsville Kickers—I think they are a line-dancing group—we have the Jamestown Pipe and Drums Band, and the Reidsville Recreation cheerleaders and Step Team.”

**Mrs. Russell** added, “**Miss North Carolina, Arlie Honeycutt**, from Garner, is going to be in the parade. She is a vocal performance major at East Carolina University.”

“In addition to the 27 floats and the 7 performing groups,” **Mrs. Russell** continued, “we have about 41 other entries...seventy total, but some of those entries have multiple cars in them, so we have actually more than that. It starts at 11:00 a.m. Everyone in the parade needs to be at their station, lined up, by 10:45. So you guys try to be at Wilson Way to get on the Council float at about 10:30 to give you time to get situated. Everybody needs to be ready to go at 10:45 so we can get started at 11:00 on the dot.”

**Mrs. Russell** asked Council if they had any questions. There were none, and she added, “I wanted to mention also, that Shady Grove Baptist Church is going to have a tent outside the Town Hall and they’re going to give away hot chocolate and coffee during the parade.”

**Mrs. Ward** added, “And Santa Claus will be here after the parade to talk to the kids.”

“That’s right,” said **Mrs. Russell**, “and we’ll have hot chocolate and cookies like we always do, and Miss North Carolina will be here as well to sign autographs and take pictures.”

**Mayor Paschal** said, “Thank you, we appreciate it, and thank y’all for all the hard work y’all do on the Christmas Parade every year to make it possible. Everybody seems to enjoy it.”

**ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Approval of 2013 Holiday Schedule for the Town of Wentworth**

**Mayor Paschal** noted the first item of New Business—the 2013 Holiday Schedule.

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** made a motion, *“That we adopt the Holiday Schedule for the Town of Wentworth for 2013.”*

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

**B. Consideration of Longevity Pay for Town Employees – Year Ending 2012**

**Mayor Paschal** introduced the next item of New Business and made a motion, *“That we do indeed, give Brenda and Yvonne longevity pay this year.”*

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

**ARTICLE VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Mayor Paschal** said that **Mrs. Butler**, who signed the Speaker Register, “has already addressed Council.”

**ARTICLE VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mayor Paschal made the following announcements:**

- The Town of Wentworth **Christmas Parade** is on **Saturday, December 8, 2012, at 11:00 a.m.**
- The **Wentworth Planning Board Meeting** is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 18, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Town Hall Council Chambers.**

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- The next *regular meeting* of the **Wentworth Town Council** will be held in the **Town Hall Council Chambers** on **Tuesday, January 8, 2013**, at **7:00 p.m.**

(Per our Rules of Procedure, "*If the regular meeting day is a legal holiday, the meeting shall be held on Tuesday of the following week.*")

**Mayor Paschal** advised that a new 2013 Meeting Schedule will be available at the January meeting, and noted that subsequent Council meetings will continue to be held on the first Tuesday of each month.

- **Everyone is invited to stay after the meeting for refreshments.  
MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

Prior to adjourning the meeting, **Mayor Paschal** introduced **Pat Kane**, with Smith Moore Leatherwood, who will be serving as the Town Attorney, and apologized for not introducing him earlier. He said it must be that Mr. Kane was hidden behind a poinsettia, and commented, "out of sight, out of mind."

**Mayor Paschal** welcomed Mr. Kane on behalf of the Town Council.

**ARTICLE IX. A D J O U R N**

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

**Councilwoman Powell** seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned.

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

**Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Dennis Paschal, Jr., Mayor**