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**TOWN OF WENTWORTH  
MINUTES FOR**

**THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 3, 2012  
7:00 P.M.**

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The **Wentworth Town Council** held its regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, January 3, 2012**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

**Council members present:**

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

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 Dennis Paschal**

**ARTICLE II. INVOCATION: Mayor Paschal**

**ARTICLE III. Approval of January 3, 2012, Town Council Agenda**

**A. Requests & Petitions of Citizens**

**Mayor Paschal** advised that Ms. Beverly Wilcox and Mr. Steve Boles signed the Speaker Register and made a motion to, *“Add Ms. Wilcox under Article VII. Public Comments, and Mr. Bowles under New Business, Item E.”*

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

**ARTICLE IV. Approval of Town Council Organizational Meeting Minutes for December 6, 2011**

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** made a motion to, *“Accept them as written.”* **Councilman Aswell** 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.**

**Mayor Paschal** commented: “The next item on the Agenda...we had a Public Hearing scheduled for several items—Consideration of Revisions to the Town of Wentworth Planning & Zoning Ordinances, as Recommended by the Wentworth Planning Board.”

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**Mayor Paschal** said he would like to table the Public Hearing, "...until after we have a chance to meet with the Planning Board again, because there are still some things in here that we talked about before, and some people have concerns. *I make a motion we table the Public Hearing until our May 1<sup>st</sup> Town Council Meeting.*"

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** seconded the motion. **Mayor Paschal** asked if there was any discussion.

**Councilman Paschal, III.** asked, "Has there already been a joint meeting with the Planning Board?"

**Mayor Paschal** said he was going to make a motion to have a joint meeting in March, "...after I do this."

**Councilman Paschal, III** commented, "I know we have some of the worksheets...are we going to all sit down together then, in March, and hash out the things..."

**Mayor Paschal** replied, "...we're going to sit in there until we come out with something on this...we had one joint meeting before, and some of the things we talked about are still in here...we had some citizens who were concerned with certain aspects of it. I just want to make sure that the area we designated over there for our Central Business District...some of you might know and some may not know; but that was a very restricted area over here as far as certain things you could and could not do to a building. We are looking at bringing an overlay out onto the commercial side over here, and some of it is a little too restrictive."

"I had a motion and a second to reschedule the Public Hearing until the May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Is there any more discussion?" asked **Mayor Paschal**.

There was no further discussion and all voted in favor of continuing the Public Hearing until the May 1, 2012, Town Council Meeting.

**Mayor Paschal** then made a motion, "*To schedule a joint meeting with the Wentworth Planning Board for their March meeting...March 20<sup>th</sup>.*"

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

**ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Update / Report from Sheriff Sam Page,  
Rockingham County Sheriff's Department**

**Mayor Paschal** invited **Sheriff Sam Page** to address Council.

**Sheriff Page** wished everybody a Happy New Year and said he would like to go over some things with Council concerning the equipment purchased by the Town for the Sheriff's Department. He said he would be brief in his update "...on some things that are going on."

**Sheriff Page** commented, "You mentioned Crimestoppers support—we appreciate that, because it does help us to catch bad guys and put them where they need to be."

"As for the status on all the safety equipment that was purchased with the support of the Town Council..., I just want to let you know that all the trauma training for the specialized medical equipment, has been provided to all the patrol officers, SWAT Team officers, and the Township Deputy for Wentworth. We have actually had to use it three times with patients that were having severe bleeding situations...we had to use the trauma kit to save a life...three times since we got underway with the program...so we appreciate that."

"**Deputy Loftis** has completed all his required in-service training this year, along with any specialized certifications he currently holds."

**Sheriff Page** said the *less lethal* (Tazer) devices, the long guns for the Wentworth Town Deputy, and SWAT Team uniforms for the authorized deputies, "have all been purchased, and we really appreciate it."

"Also," he said, "you may hear about something called the Justice Reinvestment Act, House Bill 642, which is dated June 23, 2011. I just pulled some information from that. We are participating in a program called the Misdemeanor Confinement Program here. It is, basically, for any misdemeanor-convicted inmates receiving 91 to 180 day sentences, and confined to local jails. We have agreed to participate in this for potential revenue. They (State) are paying us \$40/day to house these inmates. We have said we could accept 15 females and 5 males. If we run that out for 30 days and out for a year, then potentially, \$288,000 in revenue could be brought into the jail facility."

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**Sheriff Page** continued, “Currently, seventy-four jails in North Carolina are participating...the program started effective January 1, 2012. So, instead of misdemeanants going to the State prison system with a 91-180 day sentence, we are housing them...they will be staying at the jails that are participating in this program.”

**Mayor Paschal** asked, “And we have plenty of room?”

“Yes sir,” replied **Sheriff Page**, “We expect to have some customers coming in shortly,”

He continued, “You may also have heard...I recently went to Washington in December dealing with the Secure Communities Program. I had the opportunity to testify before the House Judiciary Committee on the SCP (Secure Communities Program) in the United States, and how it impacts local jails.”

The **Sheriff** explained that the SCP, is an Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) jail program that provides access to the Immigration Fingerprint Data Base.

“When we arrest somebody who comes into our jail,” he explained, “and it is determined that they are not born in the United States, then we process them and run their prints through the Immigration Data Base... it helps us to identify who is in our jails and particularly who is being released back into the communities. Another good thing is that it helps us to identify potential criminals wanted in other places. But, we didn’t have access to this database prior to this year. Again, the most important thing I can do as Sheriff, running a jail, is to know who is in my jail and who is getting released back into the community. It is called the Secure Communities Program...it is a Federal ICE program. All one-hundred counties in North Carolina participate, and by January 1, 2013, all counties in all fifty states will be participating.”

**Sheriff Page** continued, “Since October, 2010, we have processed sixty-three criminal illegal aliens through the Secure Communities Program. Forty-one persons have been picked up by ICE for processing. As to the offenses, twenty-nine arrests were for DWI (driving while intoxicated), eleven for driving offenses, one for attempted murder, and the others were for drugs and assault charges. So, we have an assortment here.”

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**Sheriff Page** concluded, “Ladies & gentlemen of the Council, I said I would be brief...the Wentworth Township has been very gracious and supportive of the Rockingham County Sheriff’s office and our deputies over these many years. We appreciate you for allowing us to serve you and the citizens of this wonderful town. I thank you for recognizing, during this past Christmas Parade, our former deputy, Clarence Cheshire, who passed away last year. That meant a lot to us. I appreciate your continued support and if the Mayor or Council has any questions, as you know, just give me a call. Thank you again for your time tonight and I look forward to many more years of working with the Town of Wentworth.”

**Mayor Paschal** and members of Council thanked the Sheriff for coming.

**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS - Continued**

**B. Information on “First Garden Tour of Wentworth”  
- Mrs. Beth Robertson**

**Mayor Paschal** invited **Mrs. Beth Robertson** to talk to everyone about the “First Garden Tour of Wentworth.”

“First of all,” **Mrs. Robertson** began, “I would like to let you know some of the members of my committee...Donnie Robertson, Sandra Roach, Steve Rivers and Judy Wall. Also, Doug Roach and Terry Stamey, who could not be here tonight. I want to thank you for letting us come tonight.”

“I want to talk about something that is near and dear to my heart...it is the First Garden Tour of Wentworth...what is this all about? We have eight homes in the Wentworth area, and on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., for a price of \$10.00, you’ll be able to go and view these gardens. You’ll see everything from organic blueberries, to honeybees, to roses, to all types of flowers and shrubberies...nice and beautiful outdoor spaces.”

**Mrs. Robertson** said the proceeds from the ticket sales go to the Arthritis Foundation. She added, “Many of you probably either suffer from arthritis or you know someone who does. You know that it can be very debilitating and life changing. For every \$1.00 collected, 76 cents goes to research and activities for people with arthritis. I think it is well worth supporting.”

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**Mrs. Robertson** explained, “My reason for coming tonight is to ask you for your support, for permission to have some tickets for sale here at the Town Hall, and to ask you all to be there to support the community at this worthwhile event.”

“There will be eight homes...each homeowner is working hard. The committee selected the homes back in October, so we have been hard at work on the preparations. I look forward to seeing all of you and hope you will come out.”

**Mayor Paschal** thanked Mrs. Robertson for coming out and asked if she had already made arrangements for the tickets to be sold at the Town Hall.

**Mrs. Robertson** said she had discussed it with Mrs. Ward (Town Administrator).

**Councilman Paschal, III** suggested the staff put the information on the Town website.

**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued...**

**C. Six-Month Report for FY 2011-2012 / Budget Vs Actual  
- Yvonne Russell, Finance Officer**

**Mayor Paschal** asked the Finance Officer to present the financial report.

**Mrs. Russell** said there was nothing out of the ordinary to report, explaining, “Everything is in line with what we estimated for this year. As for revenues and expenditures, the first column shows what we have spent to date. Everything is in order with what we estimated...but I will be happy to answer any specific questions you have.”

There were no questions for Mrs. Russell, and **Mayor Paschal** thanked her for a good job on the report.

**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

**D. Consideration of Resolution of Support for the Extension of US 311  
Through Eden  
- Councilman Robert Aswell**

**Mayor Paschal** asked Councilman Aswell if he would like to comment on the resolution.

**Councilman Aswell** advised, “This was discussed at the Piedmont Triad Rural Transportation Organization (PTRPO) meeting last month. The group wanted to support Eden in their request to extend US 311 from NC 14 up to NC 770 and on to US 58 before you get to Danville. The idea is to have a US highway going by the proposed industrial site planned up there.”

**Councilman Aswell** said he would like to make a motion, “*To pass the resolution.*”

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

**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

**E. Consideration of Funding Request from Rockingham County Crimestoppers**

- Mr. Steve Boles, Chairman

The **Mayor** invited **Mr. Boles** to address Council.

**Mr. Boles** thanked Council for letting him speak and for considering the Funding Request before them. He noted that he is the Chairman of the Board of Directors for Rockingham County Crimestoppers.

“Essentially,” began Mr. Boles, “we are asking you to consider financial support for Crimestoppers. Let me tell you a little bit about Crimestoppers to give you an idea of who we are and what we do.”

“We are a 501C-3 non-profit organization, tax exempt from the IRS and donations. Support to Crimestoppers is tax deductible for individuals and agencies that normally have to pay taxes.”

“The mission statement pretty well sums it up: The mission of Crimestoppers of Rockingham County, Inc. is to work in partnership with local law enforcement to further promote and enhance the effectiveness of criminal investigations by acting as a conduit for the exchange of information and ideas, thereby reducing crime and increasing the quality of life within Rockingham County.”

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**Mr. Boles** continued, “The very first Crimestoppers organization began in 1976 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and it didn’t take long for that concept to spread. Rockingham County Crimestoppers began in April 1982.”

“There is no systematic funding source, be it tax revenue, or fines from the court system...to fund Crimestoppers. So, over the years, we have tried various fundraisers and grants, and we continue to do those different things. Most fundraisers have a lifecycle, then things change and that fundraiser comes to an end. One example is the carnival we used to do at the mall in Reidsville—it was a great, great fundraiser, but the conditions changed and we were no longer allowed the opportunity to do that in the parking lot at the mall. We have had to shift and shuffle over the years as far as funding.”

“Since we started, we have recorded in excess of 1,000 persons arrested. That was through tips and information given through Crimestoppers. That has accounted for approximately 1,500 felony charges, approximately ten million dollars in drugs recovered, and over a million dollars in personal property recovered. We are extremely proud of those numbers.”

“We have a Board of Directors made up of local folks from throughout the county, and we meet once a month and hear reward considerations from our Crimestoppers liaison from the Sheriff’s Department. That person receives the information, and if it is not a Sheriff’s Department tip, then it may be from one of the municipal jurisdictions within the county. “

**Mr. Boles** continued, ”Several years ago we started Campus Crimestoppers, so if there is a student in a school who is aware of a crime in the school—drugs, knives, gun, etc.—the system works the same way in the school system.”

“That’s where we are, and why we ask for your consideration of \$1,000 if that is something that can be worked into your budget; and we would love to see that on a recurring basis, if that is possible.”

**Mr. Boles** said he would be glad to answer any questions council may have.

**Councilman Aswell** asked, “Are there any other cities and towns backing you (financially)?”

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**Mr. Boles** replied, "It comes and goes over time. I served six years on the Board in Madison, the Board of Aldermen. Approximately ten years ago, it was a recurring budget item in Madison, but Madison...because of the economy, has cut just about everything they can cut. So, right now we are not in the Madison budget. The other municipalities will vary from year to year and from budget to budget depending on who is on the council."

**Councilman Paschal, III** asked, "As for the Crimestoppers program in the schools, does the school system in any way help fund any portion of Crimestoppers as a result of that, or has their been a request made...?"

"No, they don't," replied **Mr. Boles**, "and I'm not sure if over the past years, prior to my tenure as chairman, if that request was ever formally made or not. I don't hold a lot of hope for that with their financial woes, but that is a very legitimate question and something I will follow up on."

He added, "Typically, those rewards are small...\$25.00."

**Councilman Paschal, III** replied, "I have heard that, and there are a lot of students who are aware of it...it is something that is known and does work."

"It has been very successful and we've been pleased with that," **Mr. Boles** said.

**Mayor Paschal** remarked, "We appreciate all your hard work. We may be one of those councils whose budget varies from year to year, and not able to do it on a recurring basis."

**Mayor Paschal** asked the Finance Officer if the current budget would allow the expenditure. **Mrs. Russell** confirmed that sufficient funds are available.

**Councilman Aswell** made a motion, "*That we donate \$1,000 out of this year's budget, not make it recurring, but take a look at it each year.*"

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** seconded the motion.

**Mayor Paschal** asked for any additional discussion.

**Councilman Paschal III** asked, "This comes from which fund?"

The **Finance Officer** replied, "The Public Safety and Health line item."

There were no further questions. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**Mr. Boles** expressed his thanks, adding, "We are very pleased that most months Deputy Loftis is able to attend our board meeting, during lunch, so any questions, concerns, or additional information that you need, if you cannot reach one of the board members, Deputy Loftis is a good resource there. Thank you very much and I appreciate your time."

**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

**F. Appointments to the Town of Wentworth Planning Board**

1. Reappointment of Regular Planning Board Members, Terms Expiring
  - Kay Hammock 2-Year Term
  - Nathaniel Willis 4-Year Term
  - Lee Templeton 4-Year Term
  - Joey Troxler 4-Year Term
2. Appointment of Alternate Member, Gary Moore, as a Regular Member, for a 4-Year Term.

Regarding the reappointment of regular members, **Councilman Aswell** made a motion, "*That we reappoint them.*"

**Councilwoman Powell** seconded the motion.

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

**Councilman Paschal, III** made a motion, "*That we appoint Alternate Member Gary Moore as a regular member for a 4-year term.*"

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

**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

- G. Approval for New Council member, Dennis Paschal, III, to Attend the Essentials of Municipal Government & Ethics Class in Chapel Hill NC / February 17-18, 2012; Registration Fee: \$350.00 + Hotel / Meals / Mileage Expenses**

**Mayor Paschal** said, “*I make a motion we approve that expense.*”

**Councilman Aswell** seconded the motion; there was no discussion and all voted in favor. The motion carried.

**Article VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Requests & Petitions of Citizens**

**Mayor Paschal** invited **Ms. Beverly Wilcox** to address Council and commented, “Beverly, let me officially apologize that you didn’t get to speak before (December 2011 Town Council Organizational Meeting). We had looked at it (Speaker Register) one time, and didn’t see that you had signed until the meeting was over.”

**Ms. Wilcox:** “Apology accepted, but please note that it wasn’t even on the Agenda, so it wasn’t really an oversight *that night*...it was an oversight whenever the Agenda was done.”

**Mayor Paschal** said, “It was a special Agenda that night.”

The **Town Clerk** commented, “The December meeting was our *organizational* meeting, it wasn’t a regular meeting.”

**Ms. Wilcox** said, “But the statute doesn’t say, ‘don’t let them speak at an organizational meeting’.”

**Mrs. Ward** replied, “The statute says we are to have public comments at *regular* meetings, and this wasn’t a regular meeting, it was an organizational meeting, but we did have the Speaker Register there for anyone who wanted to speak. It was an oversight on my part.”

“It’s done,” said **Ms. Wilcox**. “What I wanted to speak to you about then and I will speak about now, is that everyone running for office this last time spoke glowingly about recycling and how to improve the process. The reality is that recycling is the last effort and that the first effort should be to reduce, the second, reuse, and the third, recycle. So, we should only be recycling what is left over after we have reduced and reused.”

**Mrs. Wilcox** also suggested that we “turn the lights off” in the Town Hall at night and in the parking lot, as well. She said, as leaders of the community, the Town Council should be setting an example (conserving energy).

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**Ms. Wilcox** suggested that rather than spend money for recycling bins and plastic containers, the money saved could be used for the purchase of motion sensors and timers, to lower the electric bill.

**Ms. Wilcox** said that lights on inside the Town Hall, “only serves to light it up for burglars.”

**Mayor Paschal** responded, “As far as the lights on out here at night, this is a public area, and the public can pull in out here (parking lot)...if somebody is threatened or has a flat tire on the side of the road, they can get over to this area. Even though I know we don’t have a lot of people driving through Wentworth in the middle of the night, the parking lot being lighted would help out. It provides a safe area.”

**Mayor Paschal** added, “As far as the lights on inside the building, every time I drive by, I look around to see if there is anybody in the building. We could probably cut out a few, but as far as leaving the building dark, I really don’t think that is a good idea.”

**Ms. Wilcox** made another suggestion to the Town Council, regarding a sign for the community—“a real sign, a sign that tells people something.” She mentioned the last group that came to Rockingham Community College for a performance and said, “...I hope everyone was embarrassed, because the auditorium wasn’t but maybe a quarter full. We don’t have a newspaper, we don’t have a television (station)...unless there is some crime to report or maybe a Christmas Parade. We have no means of public communication. We don’t have a radio station. But we could have a sign—a sign that says real things.”

Referring to the Christmas Parade sign that was placed in front of the Town Hall, **Ms. Wilcox** commented, “If it brought people out to the Christmas Parade, just think what it (a sign) could do for other events—the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, and all sorts of civic groups, and meetings. I understand there are quite a few (people) here tonight, but there are also meetings where hardly no one is here. If you let people know, if you remind them...then maybe they would come. Maybe they would take part.”

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“So I ask you, please,” said **Ms. Wilcox**, “do not spend money on those... the ‘Welcome to Wentworth’ signs. If you don’t live here, that sign isn’t going to make you feel any more welcome than if it wasn’t there. It’s just...a grandiose government thing—how many bricks and rocks and other things can we put up?”

**Mayor Paschal** commented, “We do use the local papers, Beverly...”

She replied, “Ask them what their circulation is...”

**Mayor Paschal** continued, “...and I know that you wouldn’t advocate us opening up a radio or TV station or a newspaper that the government pays for, now would you?”

**Mrs. Ward, Town Administrator**, commented that the electrician who wired the building would have to come to cut off the lights that stay on inside the Town Hall, “...because we can’t turn them off. We turn off everything we can. I suppose it has something to do with code for public buildings.”

**Ms. Wilcox** reiterated that Council should set the example and look for ways to cut costs and improve communication.

**Mayor Paschal** thanked Ms. Wilcox for her comments.

**Note:** Regarding “public communication,” a reporter for the three Rockingham County newspapers was present for the meeting, along with Mr. Roy Sawyers who videos the meetings for his website ([www.rockinghamupdate.com](http://www.rockinghamupdate.com)). We encourage citizens to take advantage of these media outlets.

The **Mayor** was about to make the announcements when **Councilman Aswell** asked to make a request.

He asked if staff would send a letter to the North Carolina Department of Transportation thanking them for their help with the Christmas Parade—cleaning the highway prior to the parade, providing the roadblocks, etc.

**Mayor Paschal** said that was a good idea and mentioned the Sheriff’s Department and all they did to help out, as well.

**Councilman Paschal III** said Council should also thank Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Ward for their hard work.

**Mrs. Ward** replied, “Thank you. I know we have already sent out some letters, but we will check to make sure DOT and the Sheriff’s Department are included.”

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**Article VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mayor Paschal** made the following announcements:

- The **Town Hall will be closed on Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>** (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day).
- The next regular meeting of the **Town of Wentworth Planning Board** will be held on **Tuesday, January 17, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall Council Chambers.
- The next regular meeting of the **Wentworth Town Council** will be held in the Town Hall Council Chambers on **Tuesday, February 7, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.**

**Fred Baggett, Town Attorney**, asked, “I’m sorry, but I was late...and when I came in, you were making a motion to continue all the public hearings until March 20<sup>th</sup>, and a joint meeting with the...”

**Mayor Paschal** replied, “No, we made a motion to continue the Public Hearing until our May meeting, May 1<sup>st</sup>, and we are to have a joint meeting with the Planning Board at their March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.”

“Okay,” said **Mr. Baggett**, “I was more concerned with the Public Hearing...you’ve got a clean motion to continue to a date certain?”

“Yes.” replied **Mayor Paschal**.

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

**Mayor Paschal** made a motion, “*That we adjourn.*”

There were three seconds to the motion. All voted in favor and the meeting adjourned.

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

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