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

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

Council members present: Mayor Dennis Paschal, Jr., 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 / Attorney Tom Terrell, and Deputy Bob Terry

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Dennis Paschal, Jr.

ARTICLE II. INVOCATION: Councilman Dennis Paschal, III.

After the invocation, **Mayor Paschal** recognized **Attorney Tom Terrell** and invited him to introduce **Ms. Jamie Paulen**, the new attorney from Smith Moore Leatherwood, who will be working with the Town of Wentworth.

Mr. Terrell commented, “When Fred Baggett left our firm, it caused a few dominos to start to fall, and one of the things that took place was that I had to decide whether or not I could step in and fill Fred’s shoes. But, as some of you know, I have hearings all over the State and most of them are in the evenings, so I just didn’t think I could add two more meetings a month.”

Mr. Terrell said he suggested to the mayor that the Town may want to put out an RFP (Request for Proposal) to solicit work from another firm.

He continued, “After I said that, **Jamie Paulen** came around the corner one day and said, ‘I heard you’ve given up Wentworth.’” He said Ms. Paulen told him that she would love to represent Wentworth.

Mr. Terrell said he did not realize that Ms. Paulen had been doing a lot of work for the Town of Stoneville, and noted that the attorney she has been working with brags about her work.

“When we did our RFP a few months ago”, **Mr. Terrell** explained, “we were clear that it would be Jamie Paulen doing the work, but as I have told you and as I have told Jamie, I’ve got her back.”

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Mr. Terrell concluded, “Jamie is already taking some classes at the School of Government and her learning curve is going to be steep but I’ve given her a stack of books about this thick, and about a week to ten days later, she came back into my office and said, ‘Alright, where’s the next set of books?’”

“She is learning a lot and in a few more weeks she will know as much, or more, than I know or Fred Baggett knows, and she’s a great person, so I’m glad that you have Jamie Paulen.”

Mayor Paschal and Council welcomed Ms. Paulen and asked everyone to speak to her after the meeting.

Mayor Paschal said he would also like to welcome **Bryan Carlton** to Rockingham County, and noted that he is the new editor at the Reidsville Review. “He is here tonight for Latala Payne...we hope you enjoy being in Rockingham County.”

.ARTICLE III. Approval of September 4, 2012, Town Council Agenda

A. Requests & Petitions of Citizens

Mayor Paschal said there was no one signed up to address Council and made a motion, “*To approve the Agenda as written.*”

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

ARTICLE IV. Approval of Minutes

- **Unseal and Approve Closed Session Minutes for July 3, 2012**
- **Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes for August 7, 2012**

Mayor Paschal referenced the Closed Session Minutes for July 3, 2012, and made a motion, “*That we unseal the Minutes for that closed session and approve them.*”

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

Regarding the Town Council Meeting Minutes for August 7, 2012, **Mayor Paschal** advised that the Town Clerk made some corrections to the Minutes—“Page 7 under New Business, 4th Paragraph, changing the word ‘corp’ to ‘force recon’ and on Page 9 under Item E, Attorney Proposals, change Mayor Pro Tem *Paschal* to *Conner*.”

There were no other corrections to the Minutes, and **Mayor Paschal** made a motion, *“That the Minutes be approved with those changes.”*

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

Article V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration of Budget Amendment No.1 for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 / Yvonne Russell, Finance Officer

Mayor Paschal advised, “Yvonne is out sick tonight, so I’ll ask Brenda to give a brief synopsis of the amendment.”

Ms. Ward commented, “Basically we have transferred, or did an appropriation of Fund Balance, to cover our purchase of the land (Peach Tree Road), in the amount of \$125,000. But you will see that we also included enough to cover any attorney or recording fees, closing costs, etc.”

“We also transferred from Other Operating Costs, the amount of \$1,500 to the Cultural and Recreational line item, to cover the Chinqua-Penn item that we sponsored for the new Museum...and those are the only two changes.”

Mayor Paschal asked if anyone had any questions. There were no questions from Council.

Councilman Aswell made a motion, *“That we approve Budget Amendment No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2012-2013.”*

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

B. Adoption of Resolution Supporting the 732nd Forward Support Company Battalion 5-113 / Field Artillery North Carolina Army National Guard, Wentworth, North Carolina, and their Families and Loved Ones

Mayor Paschal asked **Councilman Paschal** to read the Resolution for the audience. (*Note: This Resolution—Attachment A—is incorporated by reference and hereby made part of these Minutes.*)

The **Town Clerk** advised Council that **SSG. Don Murray** expressed his appreciation for the Resolution, "...and said he was sorry he could not be here tonight."

Mayor Paschal made a motion, *"That we adopt the Resolution Supporting the 732nd Forward Support Company Battalion 5-113 Field Artillery North Carolina Army National Guard, Wentworth, North Carolina Unit."*

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

Article V. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

**C. Presentation / Update on "Rockingham County Pathways"
(Trails in Rockingham County)**

- **Jesse Day, Regional Planner, Piedmont Triad Regional Council**

Mayor Paschal invited **Mr. Jesse Day** to present his information on the Rockingham County Trails program, and thanked him for coming.

Mr. Day thanked Council and said he would begin the presentation and would be glad to answer any questions afterwards. He noted that he also placed some pamphlets and information on the table by the door.

Mr. Day reminded Council that, "The Town of Wentworth, about a year or so ago, participated in helping to fund the planning effort (for trails)...in cooperation with other municipalities across the county, and there was seed funding from the Reidsville Area Foundation, who provided the majority of the funds..."

"We have come a long way and we have done a lot, but I will just give you a summary of what has taken place. I *will* say that Wentworth has seen a lot of trails in the past couple of years and I want to share with you some of those trail-building efforts."

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“Before I get into the details, some of you may wonder, ‘what are we talking about in this Pathways Plan?’ ...really, it is a trail and recreation plan for the county. What kind of trail? Well, it depends on where you are. For example...the trails on the RCC (Rockingham Community College) campus, are more natural-surface trails, but we will also work on greenway trails and possible pavement, which adds to the cost. But in general, all trails provide more accessible means for the community to be able to walk and exercise safely.”

Continuing with a Power Point presentation, **Mr. Day** asked, “What are the benefits of trails? Well, trails can help tourism and increase prosperity for the Town, and quality of life. Trails could be a safe alternative transportation mode...maybe not a means of getting to work for most of us, but perhaps to a friend’s house or shopping, and they provide accessible recreation. The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan reported walking as the number one desired activity that people want to participate in within a community.”

“Trails can encourage an active lifestyle, and we need more opportunities to be actively healthy. Twenty-eight percent of adults in North Carolina are obese and Rockingham County is a little bit higher than that.”

“Regarding health, this is an interesting statistic—some people say this is the first generation where the children are expected to have a shorter life span than their parents...”

Mr. Day asked, “How would trails enhance tourism? Once we get trails that are long enough, they can become a destination...if you extend a half-mile trail to a five-mile trail, what will that do? Well, how long would it take to bike or walk that trail? It may take an afternoon. When folks start spending an afternoon in the community, they will probably need some food and will buy from local establishments.”

“You have two major rivers coming through the county, which is a unique opportunity to generate tourism here...with the trails creating more accessibility to the rivers in Rockingham County.”

“The National Association of Homebuilders did a survey a couple of years ago and noted that the number one amenity new homeowners are seeking, is trails. They estimate a six to twelve percent increase in property values when homes are located near a trail.”

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Mr. Day talked about the environmental benefits such as preserving the areas around rivers, and providing passive recreation that does not require staff. He said that trails are a way to get people outside to experience their natural environment.

He also talked about the fact that there *are* costs involved with the maintenance of trails and that a lot depends on the trail surface types—they are usually ten feet wide, can be natural, undeveloped, asphalt, crushed stone, granite millings. He said the price depends on what kind of surface materials are used.

Mr. Day discussed trail access and when/if motorized vehicles and other means of transportation would be trail-friendly. He discussed certain instances, depending on the terrain, where some type of bridge or crossover may be necessary and the various materials that could be used for them.

“Signage is great,” said **Mr. Day**, “especially for people who may want to know what to expect...there are samples here from the Greenways in Reidsville and Greensboro. Providing maps along with that signage is also helpful.”

“Some neighbors (landowners) along the trails may want fences, and this can be incorporated into the trail plan. However, we do have some instances where they thought they wanted something, but then decided they actually liked the trail being close by and wound up adding a gate so they could walk right out onto the trails.”

“Moving right along to some of the specifics of what we have learned so far in working on this trails plan, we have certainly tried to get as much feedback as we can. We have a steering committee that has met five times, we have attended festivals and have conducted surveys, with about 250 responses thus far. We plan to hold another round of meetings this fall for a wrap-up to show some of these draft recommendations.”

“We have had meetings with the Chamber boards, Rockingham County Realtors, Eden Rotary, the County Horse Association, various landowners, Duke Energy, and Carolina Marina over at Belews Lake.”

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Mr. Day said that more information is available on their website.

He continued, “So, what have we heard? It seems that folks really want more trails in different parts of the county, depending on where they live, of course. Just to highlight a few, the State parks in the county, trying to connect to those; extending existing community park trail systems was really important; we have heard a lot of comments about Wentworth, Reidsville, and Western Rockingham County, as well as Eden, in terms of trying to create more trail connections between those communities.”

“We also heard that trails can meet recreational and physical activity needs. Folks really identified with that as a good outcome of building more trails; it was mentioned that trails will improve quality of life.”

Mr. Day said people also have questions about funding... “How are we going to fund trail development?”

He continued, “That is a question I wanted to broach with you, as stakeholders in this planning process—how will we provide staff support to help move along grants...and how can we leverage public and private sources for trail development; also, finding land in areas where the Town of Wentworth and other communities across the county can help develop this pathway system.”

“We know there are grants out there, but it still comes down to communities buying into the investment of time and other resources to make this happen.”

Mr. Day finished his presentation by showing slides of the ball field on the RCC campus, and said that a new trail system just went in behind the ball field. He showed photos of a ‘dog walk’ in progress that was led by the Dan River Basin Association and the Piedmont Triad Regional Council on the new trail at RCC, along with photos of the new Animal Shelter trail, which was “helped along” by funding from the Reidsville Area Foundation.

He noted that there is a kiosk-type sign going up at the college near the Bishopric Building with trail information, “...much like the one at Chinqua-Penn Trail, and I encourage everyone to check it out.”

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Mr. Day complimented Wentworth on the work that was already in progress prior to the Rockingham County Pathways Plan, saying that the momentum and “buzz” needs to continue.

After pointing out proposed trails on the map he provided, **Mr. Day** asked Council if they had any questions for him.

Councilman Paschal asked, “Is there a long-term completion date...for the final product?”

“That’s a great question,” replied **Mr. Day**. “Typically, it is really a long-range conceptual plan, so it is probably a 30-year type plan, which isn’t to say that nothing will get done for 30 years.”

“The Reidsville Area Foundation is very interested in seeing some projects on the ground...and that’s what you will see, but some, of course, will not get built right away, all contingent on the economy turning around and funding sources available.”

“More and more we hope to see public and private partnerships coming together to develop trail systems. In the Charlotte area, for instance, they have seen a large investment from the corporate community in the development of the trail system there, with the public sector and volunteers...helping to build the trail system.”

Councilman Paschal asked, “Is there a plan for *one* master trail that would cover some distance in the whole county?”

Mr. Day pointed out on the map what he termed as a “trump” trail system that will connect the major communities. He pointed out that a connection to the Haw River State Park would be a direct connection to the Mountains to Sea Trail that crosses the state.

Councilwoman Powell asked, “So, you’ll be able to follow the trails and go all over North Carolina?”

“Not yet,” replied **Mr. Day**, “but the Mountains to Sea Trail, specifically, is very well-developed in the mountains, because they have a lot of National Forest land that has been preserved. The Piedmont is trailing behind; if you split this state up into three regions—the mountains, the piedmont, and the east—we will have some catching up to do. But yes, you can do it, walk across the state, but you may not be on a trail the whole way.”

The **Town Administrator** asked, “Did the community college just apply to the Reidsville Area Foundation for a grant to do what they have been able to do on their trail?”

“Yes,” replied **Mr. Day**, “and that’s a great point, Brenda. Something to emphasize is that the Reidsville Area Foundation has, basically, a kind of response system...they don’t have a call for grants but if you want to propose a project or ideas on developing trails in the Town of Wentworth, they would like to hear about it.”

“The Dan River Basin Association will work with you and the Piedmont Triad Regional Council can help you with an application. They would like to see some things on the ground in the near future to show some momentum...they invested a lot in the RCC campus but that isn’t to say that they won’t try something in other parts of the community.”

There were no further questions for Mr. Day, and **Mayor Paschal** thanked him for the presentation and update.

Article VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Paschal said no one signed the Speaker Register to address Council, and continued with the Announcements.

Article VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The **Wentworth Planning Board’s** regularly scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, September 18, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Town Hall Council Chambers**.
- The Town of Wentworth will host the **Rockingham County League of Local Governments Dinner Meeting** on **Monday, September 17, 2012**, at the **MARC** (old courthouse); **Social and Networking** at **6:00 p.m.** and **Dinner/Meeting** at **6:30 p.m.**
- The next regular meeting of the **Wentworth Town Council** will be held in the **Town Hall Council Chambers** on **Tuesday, October 2, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.**
- The **Town of Wentworth Christmas Parade** is scheduled for **Saturday, December 8, 2012, at 11:00 a.m.**

(Note: Parade Entry Forms online at www.townofwentworth.com or at Town Hall).

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- **The Wentworth Volunteer Fire Department** is having their **Annual Stew on Saturday (September 8th)**.

Councilman Aswell said the stew may be sold out as far as orders, but indicated they would still be serving stew by the bowl if anyone wanted to eat there for lunch. He also said people could put their names on a waiting list, and may get stew that way.

Mrs. Ward asked to make an announcement and advised that she was contacted by Mike Moore with WMYN/WLOE Radio Station about doing a live broadcast via phone from the Town Hall. She said that the county and each municipality will have a time slot on a certain day of each month.

“We will do our slot on the last Monday,” **Mrs. Ward** said, “which will be the 24th of this month.”

“It is not going to be just me doing this...I am hoping that each of you will participate as well, and I will be glad to give you some more information later.”

Mrs. Ward noted that Mr. (Roy) Sawyers sometimes videos certain programs at the radio station for his website, and she asked him if he had any additional information on the programming.

Mr. Sawyers replied, “You have basically covered it all. It is just a quick check-up on what the cities and towns are doing, and any information you would like to give out to the public...basically, it is your fifteen minutes each month. Mike will set it up and then if not Brenda, the mayor or any of you may want to have some time.”

Mayor Paschal commented, “Sounds good,” and moved on to adjournment of the meeting.”

Article VIII. A D J O U R N

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

Mayor Pro Tem Conner seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the September 4th, 2012, Wentworth Town Council Meeting was adjourned.

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Respectfully Submitted By: _____
Brenda Ward, Town Clerk

Approved: _____
**Dennis Paschal, Jr.
Mayor**