

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL
August 13, 2019
Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at the Whitsett Town Hall. The following members of the Town Council were present: Mayor Richard Fennell, Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown, Council Members Jerry Rice, Cindy Wheeler, and Lee Greeson.

Also present were Town Administrator Ken Jacobs, *The Alamance News* reporter Tomas Murawski, and three Town residents. Absent was Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia.

Following the public hearing, Mayor Fennell called the regular Council meeting to order at approximately 7:03 p.m., and noted that a quorum was present.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Mayor Fennell asked for any speakers from the floor, and no one asked to be acknowledged.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Adoption of the Minutes

Mayor Fennell asked for any changes to the minutes from the July 9, 2019 regular monthly meeting; and hearing none, asked for a motion to adopt the minutes. A motion to adopt the minutes as written was made by Council Member Jerry Rice; motion seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson. The motion to adopt the July minutes passed by unanimous vote.

2. Action on Proposed Rezoning from Public and Institutional (PI) to Residential RS-40

Mayor Fennell asked for any Council discussion on the proposed rezoning; and with none, asked for a motion for action. Council Member Jerry Rice made a motion to approve the rezoning of 491 Brightwood Church Road from PI to RS-40; motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Andy Brown. By unanimous vote, the rezoning was adopted.

3. Any Other Old Business

Mayor Fennell asked if there were any other old business; and there was none.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Planning Board

In the absence of the Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia, Town Administrator Ken Jacobs gave a brief report of items discussed starting with suggestions for the Town's walking track on the undeveloped one-acre parcel (adjacent to the Town's ball field) purchased by the Town last budget year. Bids are being solicited to clear and grade the lot, removing trash trees, leaving only mature trees, and install a winding walking track using crushed concrete.

With respect to the anticipated widening of US 70, copies of the minutes from the initial feasibility study meeting were given to Board members for their perusal. Although the project spans from Greensboro to Alamance County, the Town's concern is from University Drive to Rock Creek Dairy Road, with a central focus on the impact it will have on the Town's land-use plan Neighborhood Business (NB) district. In the near future, the Board will be rethinking the commercial architectural standards relative to the NB zoning district along US 70.

As for the Town's ball field, it is disappointing once again that the field has become underused, and the terms of the current contract not adhered to. Many improvements to the field and equipment have been made, e.g., backstop and fencing replacements, purchases of new bleacher seats, new bases, etc., and yet, long-term commitment is not sustained. Any outreach would be appreciated. The one caution is that the field is short and not intended for power-hitting adults.

Finally, the subject of the state-wide thrust for constructing bike and pedestrian lanes along any main or secondary thoroughfare scheduled to be widened was introduced. The Board is on alert should the Town become subjected.

2. Enforcement Committee

There was no Enforcement Committee activity this month.

3. Enforcement Officer

Enforcement Officer Jacobs reported that three development clearance certificates had been issued since last Council meeting to: (1) Absolute Comfort Heating and Cooling to install new electric furnace and air conditioning system at 6787 Kelsey Court, (2) Margarito Salinas at 7211 Greeson Road to situate a 12'x40' accessory building on property, and (3) David Chapman at 6900 Stella Drive to install a household generator.

4. Town Administrator

Town Administrator Jacobs reported the following informational items:

- Town Properties: (1) Walked through the 1.02-acre lot at 7201 Whitsett Park Road that the Town recently acquired with Ludd Summers and Mike Clapp for specs and an estimate to clear, grade, and install walking track.
- Town Hall Activities: (1) All Town business licenses for 2019-2020 have been renewed and mailed. (2) Executed new contract with CenturyLink that will save about \$100 a month for telecommunication services.
- Meetings: (1) Attended meeting in Garner on the push for bike and pedestrian availability. (2) Met with Wannetta Mallette, who heads up BGMPO's Transportation Advisory Committee, about getting both Whitsett Park Road and the intersection of Brightwood Church Road on the Strategic Prioritization Office of Transportation (SPOT) 6.0 schedule for ranking.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Any Items from Council Members

Mayor Fennell asked for any items from Council members; and Council Member Lee Greeson stated that to drum up business for use of the Town's ball field, he would ask around to local coaches.

2. Announcements

Mayor Fennell asked for any announcements; and there were none.

3. Speakers from the Floor

Mayor Fennell asked for any speakers from the floor; and no one asked to be recognized.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, Mayor Fennell invited a motion to adjourn. Council Member Jerry Rice made the motion to adjourn; motion seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson. The motion passed by unanimous vote; and the August 13, 2019 Town Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:21 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at the Whitsett Town Hall.

/s/

Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

/s/

Richard Fennell, Mayor

APPROVED: September 10, 2019