

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL
December 10, 2019
Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at the Whitsett Town Hall. The following members of the Town Council were present: Mayor Richard Fennell, Council Members Jerry Rice, Cindy Wheeler, Lee Greeson, and Jamie King.

Also present were Town Administrator Ken Jacobs and *The Alamance News* reporter Tomas Murawski. Absent was Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia. No public was present.

Of special note and privilege, was the presence of NC Representative Jon Hardister, who would be administering the oath of office to elected officials and presiding over the election of the mayor.

Mayor Fennell called the meeting to order, noted that a quorum was present; and asked Council Member Jerry Rice to offer the invocation.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Mayor Fennell asked for any speakers from the floor, and there were none.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Adoption of the Minutes

Mayor Fennell asked for any changes to the minutes for the November 12, 2019 regular 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 Jamie King. The motion to adopt the November meeting minutes passed by unanimous vote.

2. Any Other Old Business

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

MAYOR RECESSES COUNCIL MEETING

At 7:04, Mayor Fennell recessed the regular meeting of the Town Council to proceed with the swearing in of three newly-elected Council Members. Mayor Fennell asked Representative Jon Hardister of the North Carolina General Assembly to preside over the next portion of the meeting.

SWEARING IN and ELECTION OF MAYOR

1. Swearing In Ceremony

Representative Jon Hardister administered the oath of office to Richard Fennell, Jerry Rice, and Jamie King who would serve four-year terms. Congratulations was extended by Representative Hardister.

2. Election of Mayor

Following the ceremony, Representative Hardister continued to preside over the election of the mayor, since the office of Mayor Pro Tem remained vacant since mid-September. Representative Hardister opened the floor for nominations for the office of mayor.

Council Member Jerry Rice nominated Richard Fennell for Mayor; nomination seconded by Council Member Cindy Wheeler. Representative Hardister asked for further discussion or debate and seeing none, asked for aye/no vote. Stating the ayes have it, Representative Hardister congratulated Mayor Fennell who would serve in mayoral capacity for another two years until next municipal election is held in 2021.

ELECTED MAYOR PRESIDES

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Fennell announced new business at 7:07, and proceeded with the election of Mayor Pro Tem and the appointments of financial officers.

1. Election of Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Fennell continued with a motion to nominate Council Member Jerry Rice for the office of mayor pro tem; motion seconded by Council Member Cindy Wheeler. The unanimous vote effected Jerry Rice as Mayor Pro Tem for the upcoming two years.

2. Appointment of Finance Officer

Mayor Fennell proceeded with a motion to reappoint Council Member Jerry Rice as Finance Officer; motion was seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson. The motion carried by unanimous vote; and Council Member/Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice would resume as Finance Officer.

3. Appointment of Assistant Finance Officer

Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice continued with the motion for Town Clerk Jo Hesson to continue serving as Assistant Finance Officer; motion for reappointment was seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Both officers will serve in their respective positions for two years.

4. Adoption of Council Meeting Dates for 2020

Mayor Fennell asked for any comments on the 2020 schedule for regular monthly Council meetings; and with none, asked for a motion to retain the second Tuesday of each month for Council meetings and approve the 2020 dates as presented.

Since the master calendar also included next year's dates for Planning Board meetings, Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice asked that a disclaimer be added stating that Board meetings are subject to cancellation if no issues for Board discussion exist. With that inclusion, Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice made a motion to adopt next year's meeting calendar; motion seconded by Council Member Cindy Wheeler. By unanimous vote; the 2020 Town Council and Planning Board meetings schedule was adopted, and would be forwarded to Guilford County for posting.

5. Any Items from Council Members

Mayor Fennell asked for any items from Council Members; and no one offered comment.

6. Announcements

Mayor Fennell asked for any announcements; and hearing none, extended a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

7. Speakers from the Floor

Mayor Fennell asked for any speakers from the floor, and there were none.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Planning Board

In the absence of the Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia, Town Administrator Jacobs reported that this month's Board meeting had been cancelled.

2. Enforcement Officer

Enforcement Officer Jacobs reported that one development clearance certificate had been issued since last Council meeting to HVAC contractor for performing a gas line pressure test at 542 NC Highway 100.

3. Town Administrator

Town Administrator Jacobs reported the following informational items:

- Town Council Activities: NC Representative Jon Hardister presented a U.S. flag that flew over the state Capitol and a certificate signed by the Governor to Andy Brown's widow, Worda, who was moved and appreciative of the gesture.
- Town Projects: Work has started on the fencing for the [formerly Adherhold] one-acre parcel that the Town purchased in late 2018. Its appearance is very much in keeping with the character of the Town, and as funds allow, the fencing may be extended
- Meetings: (1) Met with new Parks and Recreation representatives on the Part F grant for clarification and mutual understanding on requirements and processes involved for application. (2) Accompanied the NCLM appraiser who assessed the value of the Town Hall building for property and liability League insurance underwriters. (3) Attended the Census 2020 kick-off meeting. The exhibited disorganization caused Jacobs to vow that, if necessary, he would go door-to-door to achieve an accurate count of Whitsett residents.

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 Jamie King. The motion passed by unanimous vote; and the December 10, 2019 Town Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:18 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at the Whitsett Town Hall.

/s/

Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

/s/

Richard Fennell, Mayor

APPROVED: January 14, 2020