

**TOWN OF NORTH WILKESBORO
COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

February 23, 2023

5:30 p.m.

HELD AT THE NORTH WILKESBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BOARD ROOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83405104401?pwd=dG5FNnRDY0g2eUgwV0k3MnBhbEVsUT09>

Meeting ID: 834 0510 4401

Passcode: 398578

And YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7NdWfFjwMjbLuarfqHDemg>

THERE WERE PRESENT: Marc R. Hauser, Mayor
 Angela Day, Commissioner
 Andrew Palmer, Commissioner
 Michael Parsons, Commissioner
 Bert Hall, Commissioner
 Otis W. Church, Mayor Pro-tem
 Holly R. Minton, Town Manager

ALSO PRESENT: Daniel Johnson, Town Attorney
 Chief Rob Thornburg, NRPD
 Sarah Davis, Planner I
 Debra W. Pearson, Town Clerk
 Taylor Gann, Community Dev. Director
 Thomas Salley, Wilkesboro Tourism Director

CALL TO ORDER

I. II. III. Call to Order, Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance - Mayor Hauser called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and delivered the Invocation. Mayor Hauser then asked North Wilkesboro Police Chief Rob Thornburg to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda -

There is one addition to the agenda tonight. This addition is to amend the motion made by Commissioner Parsons at the January 26, 2023 meeting regarding the Town Code Meeting Schedule. This will be entered as Item F.) 1.) under X. Consideration of Old Business

V. Approval of Agenda -

Mayor Hauser called for a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Day and seconded by Commissioner Church. Motion unanimously carries.

VI. Awards and Recognitions – Mayor Hauser acknowledged that today is Commissioner Andrew Palmer’s birthday. Everyone wished Andrew a happy birthday.

VII. General Public Comment Period -

Mayor will acknowledge no more than 5 speakers. Speakers have five-minute limits.

Wilkesboro Tourism Authority President Thomas Salley is in attendance tonight to speak at the Social District Public Hearing portion of the meeting,

VIII. Routine Business/Consent - (action)

All consent items may be approved in one motion. Items requiring further discussion may be pulled and voted upon separately.

- A.) Approve January 26, 2023, and February 7, 2023 Minutes
- B.) Budget Amendment #15
- C.) Capital Project Ordinance Amendment #8
- D.) Resolution Declaring Certain Property Surplus and Authorizing Disposal
- E.) Approve Resolution 2023-03 To Approve Expenditures for Contracts and Purchases of Goods and Materials Involving a Public Officer

The motion to approve the Routine Business/Consent items was made by Commissioner Church and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Hall. Motion unanimously carries.

IX. Manager's/Town Attorney's Report/Emerging Issues -

Town Manager Holly R. Minton & Town Attorney Daniel Johnson

- Town Manager Minton reports that applications for a Lead Fellow in Finance have been sent out and we have received authorization to hire a Lead Fellow for our Finance Department.
- All-Star FanFest news- Staff released a sponsorship package about a week and a half ago and reports we are one or two sponsorships short of being completely sponsored.

Town Manager Minton asked if anyone had emerging issues they wished to discuss at this time.

There were no comments or concerns.

Town Attorney Daniel Johnson has nothing to report.

X. Consideration of Old Business-

F.) Conduct a Public Hearing to Consider a Proposed Text Amendment to the Town Code of Ordinances, Town Code Chapter 3, Alcoholic Beverages in regards to creating a downtown Social District- Meredith Detsch, Sarah Davis-

To recap:

- SS 160A-205.4. Authorization of social district: A city may adopt an ordinance designating a social district for use in accordance with G.S. 18B-904.1. (2021-150, s. 20.2.)
- Social Districts enable patrons of downtown ABC-permitted establishments to drink an alcoholic beverage on sidewalks and public areas within defined districts.
- Town staff has worked on a proposed Town Code Amendment, Maintenance Plan, Map, and Logos for this.
- The Board voted to call for a public hearing for the Social District at the January 26, 2023 meeting and Town Staff has advertised the public hearing in accordance with General Statutes.

Mayor Hauser declared the floor open to conduct a Public Hearing regarding a Proposed Text Amendment to the Town Code of Ordinances, Town Code Chapter 3, Alcoholic Beverages in the Social District. Planner 1 Sarah Davis presented this item to the board. She read aloud the Social District Management and Maintenance Plan which covers rules and hours permitted. The staff has added Cherry Street to the Social District, just beyond the CBD Loop at the request of one member of the board. This would include the Elks Lodge in the Social District. To do this, Planner 1 Davis reports that sidewalks and/or other safety measures would be required to safely cross Cherry Street to access the Elks Lodge. Planner 1 Davis says costs for sidewalks and curbing would be \$58,000.00 not including staff time or labor. Another option would be to paint striping and install ballasts to prevent vehicles from entering a dedicated area of the Elks Lodge property. The cost for this would be \$2200.00 plus labor. It is the board's decision whether or not to continue with creating access to the Elks Lodge on Cherry Street to include it in the Social District. If the board chooses not to include Cherry Street, an amendment to the map to remove it would be required when the motion to approve the map is made. Commissioner Parsons asked about private parking areas and privately owned lots within the district and the property owner's liability. It was discussed that if a property owner wishes not to have patrons in their respective parking areas or lots, signs would need to be posted. Posting these signs could be covered at the town's expense. Recommendations and board approval would be needed for the town to place these signs at the property owner's request. Staff will reach out to property owners and report back to the board. Town Manager Minton stated, "our intent is to be as pro-business as possible". Mayor Hauser asked if anyone had any further comments or concerns on this matter. Thomas Salley, Tourism Director for Wilkesboro, spoke to the board in favor of the social district. He stated he has reviewed the plan and it has his full endorsement. He said he feels the social district will be well-executed. With no other comments or concerns, Mayor Hauser declared the floor closed to Public Hearing. He called for a motion to vote on the Proposed Text Amendment to the Town Code of Ordinances, Town Code Chapter 3, Alcoholic beverages in regards to creating a downtown Social District. **Commissioner Parsons made the motion stating "I move to approve the proposed Text Amendment to the Town Code of Ordinances Chapter 3- Alcoholic Beverages, Article II- Social Districts; The North Wilkesboro Social District Management and Maintenance Plan; and the amended North Wilkesboro Social District Map to remove the section that extends from the CBD Loop to Cherry Street". Commissioner Church seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carries.**

F.) 1.) Amendment to Town Code- Meetings-

Commissioner Parsons made a motion to amend the motion made at the January 26, 2023 Commissioner's Board meeting. Commissioner Parsons states "**I move to amend my motion made at the January 2, 2023 Town Board meeting concerning the monthly meeting schedule- I move that the changes to Town Code, Monthly Meetings, in Chapter II, Article II be made as set forth at the prior meeting". This motion was seconded by Commissioner Palmer. Motion unanimously carries.**

XI. Consideration of New Business –

G.) Wilkes County Public Library Presentation- Suzanne Moore

Wilkes County Public Library Librarian Suzanne Moore gave a presentation to the Board on upcoming events at the Wilkes County Library and presented the Mayor and each Commissioner a book titled “Veterans History Project” Volume 1. This book’s text and photography are copyrighted by the Wilkes County Library. This book looks at times from the Civil War through post-9/11 campaigns. Mrs. Moore acknowledged and thanked all that contributed to the creation of this book, and noted that funding in part came from the Town of North Wilkesboro. Mrs. Moore continued with a PowerPoint presentation featuring upcoming events at our downtown library location, as well as “The Reading Trap” 2023 Selections at the Traphill branch of the Appalachian Regional Library, held every second Thursday at 6:00 p.m. There is also a program called “Keeping It Reel” that involves viewing films based on the book, author interviews, and documentaries taking place every first Saturday at 1:00 p.m. at Two Rivers Cinema. She highlighted events such as Heritage Cooking Classes, Imagination Café’ for children, Read and Seed Community Garden Project, and Wilkes County Wellness, just to name a few, taking place at the library. To obtain more information on these events all others you can go to; <https://www.arlibrary.org/wilkes>. Our commissioners thanked Mrs. Moore for her informative presentation tonight.

XII. Closed Session-

At 6:10 p.m. Mayor Hauser asked for a motion to go into a closed session. **Commissioner Palmer made the motion to conduct a Closed Session according to GS 143-318-11 (a) (6)- To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, and condition of appointment of an individual public officer. Commissioner Day seconds the motion. Motion unanimously carries.**

At 6:30 p.m. the motion to come out of Closed Session was made by Commissioner Church and seconded by Commissioner Hall. A decision was made to increase the salary of North Wilkesboro Police Chief Charles “Rob” Thornburg, beginning immediately. **The motion to approve the salary increase was made by Commissioner Church and seconded by Commissioner Hall. Abstaining from the vote were Commissioners Day and Parsons.** Both Day and Parsons wished to note that this was not a personal decision but was reflective of the town’s budget cycle, and departmental well-being. Both Commissioners agreed Chief Thornburg is deserving of a salary increase. **Votes to approve the salary increase are 3 to 2 in favor of the increase. Motion carries.**

XIII. Adjourn-

With no other comments or concerns, Mayor Hauser called for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Church and seconded by Commissioner Hall The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Marc R. Hauser, MAYOR

Debra W. Pearson, Town Clerk

Approved: _____