

**TOWN OF NORTH WILKESBORO
COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

April 4, 2023

5:30 p.m.

HELD AT THE NORTH WILKESBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BOARD ROOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86055937203?pwd=QThnVFY2OEhSTGJldVEySURBTUZydz09>

Meeting ID: 860 5593 7203

Passcode: 202625

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: Chief Rob Thornburg, NRPD
 Debra W. Pearson, Town Clerk
 Daniel Johnson, Town Attorney
 Connie Bauguess, Finance Officer
 Meredith H. Detsch, Planning Director
 Taylor Gann, Community Development Director
 Curt Hayes, Inspections
 Gary Barrows, North Wilkesboro Fire Department

ATTENDING VIA ZOOM: Craig Hopkins, Gibson & Company, P.A.

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. Brook Horne with the Wilkes Art Gallery requests a temporary closure of C Street between 9th Street to 10th Street for a special event being held May 19th from 3:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. There will be a Ward Nichols art exhibit at that time. This will be added as Item J. under XI. Consideration of New Business.

V. Approval of Agenda -

Mayor Hauser called for a motion to approve the agenda as amended. **The motion to approve the agenda as amended adding Item J. Wilkes Art Gallery Road Closure under New Business was made by Commissioner Church and seconded by Commissioner Hall. Motion unanimously carries.**

VI. Awards and Recognitions – there were none tonight.

VII. General Public Comment Period -

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

There was no one in attendance wishing to speak.

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.) Budget Amendments- Connie Bauguess, Finance Officer.
- B.) Proclamation for Resilient & Thriving Communities- Town Manager Holly Minton.
- C.) T-Mobile Grant Acceptance- Taylor Gann, Community Development Director.
- D.) Easement for Mic Zulpo- Attorney Daniel Johnson.

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

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

Town Manager Holly R. Minton & Town Attorney Daniel Johnson

Town Manager Minton's report included the following:

- Town Manager Minton began by thanking the board for their attendance at the Budget Work Shop meeting held earlier today.
- We had planned on having Ms. May Martin attend our meeting tonight in order to present the plaque honoring her late husband and former North Wilkesboro Fire Chief Jimmy Martin. The fire truck is having some detailing done and is not available tonight. We will ask Mrs. Martin to join us at the next meeting if that is convenient for her.
- Town Manager Minton reports paperwork for the AFP and WRMC grants for the Smoot Park pool she had previously planned to present resolutions for tonight but has not come back yet.
- Carolina West Wireless approached the town informing us that 3% of our bill can be allocated for our local schools. We would like to split that 3% between North Wilkesboro Elementary and CC Wright Schools. Ms. Minton remarked she thinks this is a great program and asked for a "head nod" from the board.
- The board previously passed a resolution to sell the town's fire truck. This is an older model Aerial 2105 truck. We placed this truck on GovDeals twice but did not receive an offer. We will look at other options to sell it. This will be brought before the board again at a future date.
- We've received 3 offers relating to the raw water intake project. That information will be forthcoming

This concluded Town Manager Minton's report. She asked if anyone had any questions or emerging issues at this time.

Emerging Issues:

Commissioner Palmer asked about the parking issue. He asked if measurements had ever been done to consider angled parking. Commissioner Palmer stated research shows there could be an increase of 40% more parking if parallel, and it could narrow the lane of passage helping also with speeding. This will be explored.

Town Attorney Daniel Johnson has nothing to report.

IX. Consideration of Old Business-

There is no Old Business to discuss at this time.

X. Consideration of New Business –

- J.) Wilkes Art Gallery Road Closure or Special Event request- Taylor Gann, Community Development Director.

Mayor Hauser skipped to this item to save Ms. Horne with Wilkes Art Gallery from having to stay for the duration of this meeting. Manager Minton stated we have a request for a temporary road closure on May 19th from 3:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. for a Ward Nichols art event. The town will post this on the website. Commissioner Palmer stated we are lucky to have Mr. Nichols' artwork on exhibit again in our town, and anyone liking artwork, should come out to see his work. **Mayor Hauser asked for a motion to approve the street closure of C Street from 9th Street to 10th Street, Friday, May 19, 2023, from 3:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Commissioner Day made the motion to approve this item, with Commissioner Church seconding this motion. Motion unanimously carries.**

- E.) Audit Presentation - Craig Hopkins, Gibson & Company, P.A.-

Mr. Craig Hopkins attended the meeting via ZOOM, giving the board a brief overview of the town's audit. Reporting on the June 30, 2022 materials, there were no issues with the numbers provided. He stated, "In our unqualified opinion, the best way to say it is, all I's were dotted and t's were crossed". This was a very clean report. He said, "I would like to point out that the date of this report is awfully late due to issues in the office, and major impacts in our office". He gave his apologies for the late audit.

Financial statements were briefly reviewed with the Commissioners by Mr. Hopkins. Mr. Hopkins asked if anyone had questions regarding this audit report. Hearing none, Mayor Hauser thanked Ms. Hopkins for his presentation. Commissioner Parsons asked if this would be presented again for final approval. Finance Officer Bauguess replied that now the audit will go to the League of Government for approval. Commissioner Parsons then asked Ms. Bauguess if she saw anything in the audit that would cause concern. She said one thing she did see was the difference in the lease payment. She said they showed \$13M still owed from the lease, and that lets her know the town has \$2M available in unrestricted funds as of June 30, 2023.

Town Manager Minton stated Ms. Bauguess does a really strong job getting us a clean audit each year. Commissioner Parsons says this is duly noted by every town manager we have had over the last 10+ years. Commissioner Parsons stated Finance Officer Bauguess is a real asset to the town.

- F.) Annexation of Parcel ID#1400854 11.070 Acres on Hwy. 18N- Town Manager Holly Minton
- G.) RFP for Auditors- Recommendations- Town Manager Holly Minton and Connie Bauguess, Finance Officer.
- H.) Outdoor Economy Plan- Memorandum Of Understanding- Meredith H. Detsch, Planning Director
- I.) 115 Widening-Lighting- Meredith Detsch, Planning Director

XII. Closed Session- *No closed session tonight.*

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 6:20 p.m.

Marc R. Hauser, MAYOR

Prepared by Debra W. Pearson, Town Clerk
Finalized by Meredith Detsch, Interim Town Clerk

Approved: _____