

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the Town of North Wilkesboro was held in the Commissioners Room at Town Hall on Tuesday January 8, 2019.

THERE WERE PRESENT: Robert L. Johnson, Mayor
Debbie Ferguson, Commissioner
Junior Goforth, Commissioner
Bert Hall, Commissioner
Angela Day, Commissioner
Joe Johnston, Commissioner

COMPRISING THE ENTIRE BOARD, ALSO:
Larry South, Town Manager
Debra Pearson, Town Clerk
Gary Vannoy, Town Attorney

Mayor Robert Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and delivered the Invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by North Wilkesboro Police Chief Joe Rankin.

The consent agenda items were as follows:

- a. Approve minutes of the December 4, 2018 regular board meeting, the December 4, 2018 closed session minutes, the December 18, 2018 work session minutes and 2 separate December 18, 2018 closed session minutes.
- b. Approve Withers-Ravenel’s Street Scape design proposal and contract.
- c. Approve DOT Agreement regarding 6th and Main Streetscape Project Contract.
- d. Approve the Capital Project Ordinance Amendment to allow for Tyson Grant.
- e. Approve Amendment to contract to Audit.

Commissioner Hall asked that Item (b) be pulled for further discussion. Commissioner Ferguson requested to pull Item (c). Commissioner Johnston requested Item (e) be pulled as well. These items were placed after Item #7- Public Comments.

Remaining Consent Items (a) and (d) were approved with Commissioner Hall making the motion to approve and Commissioner Day seconding. Motion unanimously carries.

There were no deletions or additions to the agenda. Commissioner Johnston requested to discuss the intake meeting held earlier today with a presentation by Matthew Shoesmith with Kimley-Horn. Mayor Johnson said that discussion would be held under the Town Manager’s Comments Item 8.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Johnston and seconded by Commissioner Ferguson. Motion unanimously carries.

Mayor Johnson opened the floor for public comments. Blake Lovette introduced himself and said he wished to speak to the board regarding some concerns. He voiced concern regarding 9th and Main Street, the 6th and Main Project, the storm drain issue, the Public Safety Facility property and money that is being spent for those projects. He stated in his opinion “beautifying the intersections would not bring revenue or jobs into the town”. He also mentioned problems with large vehicle/trucks not being able to maneuver well at the 6th and Main area. He stated the old Elks Club property would be good

for a town home complex. Commissioners Day and Ferguson agreed and voiced hope that something like that could come to fruition. Commissioner Ferguson told Mr. Lovette the town should be hearing something from our research firm next month. The board thanked Mr. Lovette for coming and for sharing his thoughts on the town. With there being no one else that wished to speak, Mayor Johnson closed the floor for public comments.

Items removed from the Consent Agenda and placed under Public Comments were: Item (b) *Approve Withers-Ravenel's Street Scape design proposal and contract pulled by Commissioner Hall* as well as Item (c) *Approve DOT Agreement regarding 6th and Main Streetscape Project Contract pulled by Commissioner Ferguson*. Commissioner Hall made the motion to table these items at this time with Commissioner Ferguson seconding that motion. Motion unanimously carries. Item (e) *Approve Amendment to contract to Audit* was briefly discussed with consensus agreeing new bids for Auditors should be sought. Commissioner Johnston requested clarification on this item. This Amendment to contract to Audit states the Gibson and Company PA/CPA audit department did not meet their deadline and will not be paid until it is met. Gibson and Company does take responsibility for this delay citing delays due to "scheduling conflicts". The urgency of this amendment is due to the fact LGC needs to be notified, the final audit figures need to be sent to any loan organizations and naturally the town needs the finished audit in order to complete its budget. The auditor's current deadline is January 30, 2019. The audit should have been completed October 31, 2018. Motion to approve the Amendment to contract to Audit by was made by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Goforth to approve the item. Motion unanimously carries.

Town Manager Larry South's comments to the board were to inform the board of a bid for the town's 912 Main Street property would be presented at the board work session January 24, 2019. The process will be if the town board accepts the bid to post the bid making it public, and any other bids will have to be presented within 10 days and will have to be at least 5% more than any previous bid. The town was reminded they are not required to accept any bid. Town Manager South, Leann Nixon, Emily Miller and Dale Shumate looked at the prospect of an elevated tank at the Industrial Park property. This would serve existing and any new businesses at the park with additional water for sprinkler systems, etc. Tank cost may run \$1.2 - \$2 million dollars. Commissioner Hall mentioned there is a market for used tanks and that might need to be looked at. Tourism Director and Town Manager met with DFI December 13, 2018, and everything is still on schedule for reporting to the board. Larry met with David Graham HCCOG regarding the Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan for updating. Moonshine Heritage Day has been postponed for now. There are five (5) applicants for the Planning Director position. Currently Kelly Coffey from HCCOG is filling in for Sam Hinnant's position and is doing a great job. Michael Parsons with the NW Zoning Board praised Kelly for the great job he's doing. Commissioner Ferguson mentioned the need for a Codes Enforcement person in Sam Hinnant's absence. Hiring someone on a part-time basis may be an option. The Planning Director job description would have to be amended in order to take off the Codes Enforcement duties. Johnston states we may need to regroup and re-advertise as the current applicants may not be suitable. Smoot Park splash pad is still not finished. Attorney Vannoy offered to send a letter of dismissal of his services to Mr. Buster Mastin if the board consents. This project was to be completed March 2018. At this time the town has incurred costs of \$100,000.00. Materials to complete the project have been purchased and are at the job site at Smoot Park. Town revenue has been lost due to this delay. Attorney Vannoy said he would call tomorrow (January 9) and touch base with him regarding this situation. The Kimley-Horn intake project was discussed briefly. It has been agreed that the Town of North Wilkesboro will work with the Town of Wilkesboro to install interconnections on the Yadkin River instead of implementing the W. Kerr Scott raw water intake project. Commissioner Johnston said he thinks a lot of good things came out of the meeting held earlier today and that the "Actiflow" process sounds like a good idea. The strategy of utilizing the Yadkin River instead of W. Kerr Scott is the better idea. Town Manager urged the board to make the final decision so that letters can go out and the state can be informed. All concurred the way to proceed was the Yadkin intake option.

There being no further business, Commissioner Hall made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ferguson seconded that motion. Mayor Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

_____ TOWN CLERK _____ MAYOR

APPROVED: _____

