

**TOWN OF NORTH WILKESBORO
COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

March 7, 2023

5:30 p.m.

HELD AT THE NORTH WILKESBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BOARD ROOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87914389936?pwd=elh3bDZybmZSVWd2YTJuenpXNmtVUT09>

Meeting ID: 879 1438 9936

Passcode: 141514

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
 Meredith H. Detsch, Planning Director
 Debra W. Pearson, Town Clerk

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. Mayor Hauser asked for a moment of silence to honor the passing of former North Wilkesboro Commissioner and Mayor, Robert L. Johnson. Former Mayor Johnson passed away March 5, 2023, after an extended illness. He was 79 years old.

IV. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda -

There are two additions to the agenda tonight. The first addition was to add a brief presentation by Attorney John Willardson, President of the local chapter of Kiwanis Club International. This addition came under VI. Awards and Recognitions.

The second amendment to the agenda came towards the end of the meeting when a motion was made to call for a Public Hearing regarding PARTF/Community Engagement on April 4, 2023, beginning at 5:00 p.m. This item was added to the Agenda under XI. Consideration of New Business, letter E.

V. Approval of Agenda -

Mayor Hauser called for a motion to approve the agenda as amended. **The motion to approve the agenda as amended for the Kiwanis Club Presentation Commissioner Church and seconded by Commissioner Hall. Motion unanimously carries. A motion to approve a second amendment to the agenda to call for a Public Hearing regarding PARTF/Community Engagement on April 4, 2023, beginning at 5:00 p.m. was made by Commissioner Parsons and seconded by Commissioner Church. Motion unanimously carries.**

VI. Awards and Recognitions – Town Manager Minton introduced Wilkes County Attorney and President of the local chapter of Kiwanis Club John Willardson, and welcomed him to the meeting. Mr. Willardson made a request to the Board to approve a Proclamation declaring April 3, 2023, as Kiwanis International Day. This Proclamation is in observance of 100 years the Kiwanis Club has served Wilkes County since its Charter began on April 3, 1923. Mr. Willardson read the proclamation to the board and attendees of the meeting. **Motion to approve the Proclamation Declaring April 3, 2023, as Kiwanis International Day was made by Commissioner Parsons, and seconded by Commissioner Church. Motion unanimously carries**

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.) February 23, 2023 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes- Debbie Pearson, Town Clerk
- B.) Budget Amendments- Connie Bauguess, Finance Officer

The motion to approve the Routine Business/Consent items was made by Commissioner Hall and the motion 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:

- She informing the board there will be an information session at the Yakin Valley Market Place on March 16 at 6:00 p.m. Staff will be talking about the All-Star Race Week and Fan Fest for 2023., and will be taking feedback from the community about how they would like to be involved. We will also address the Downtown Social District to answer any questions. Other topics of discussion will be "Cyclovia", the Cruise In's, the Farmer's Market, Shine to Wine, and Concerts On The Deck. There is also a surprise announcement to be made. Town Manager Minton said she would like for everyone to attend next Thursday's event being held at the Yadkin Valley Market Place beginning at 6:00 p.m. Refreshments will be available.
- Requests for quotes "RFQ"s for the raw water intake have been sent out. A letter of intent for funding has been received from the NC Department of Environmental Quality.
- Staff is still applying for funding for Smoot Park PARTF. Council will need to call a special meeting to conduct a Public Hearing for community engagement. The board will take a look at March 23 or April 24, 2023, to conduct that Public Hearing.
- The North Wilkesboro Fire Chief position has been advertised. This is a part-time position as budgeted for this fiscal year. Applications will be accepted for the next forty-five days.
- The North Wilkesboro Fire Department has an application for a grant that staff would like for the board to consider allowing them to apply for. It requires a 50/50 match of \$25,000. Town Manager Minton states if the grant is approved the town will be able to match the grant. The matching funds would come from the contingency fund. This grant is to purchase air packs needed by the firefighters.
- Town Manager Minton reports that concerns are being heard from the community in regard to downtown parking. North Wilkesboro Police Chief Thornburg has come up with some possible solutions. Ms. Minton says more information will be available closer to the end of the month and she requests a little more time to come up with possible solutions to these issues. Manager Minton wants to assure the community their voice is being heard.

Emerging Issues:

Town Manager Minton's report including the need to call for a special meeting in March or April to discuss PARTF for Smoot Park prompted Commissioner Parsons to ask to amend the agenda at this time and add a request to call for a public hearing placing it on the agenda as **Consideration of New Business, Item E. Commissioner Parsons made a motion to amend the agenda in order to add this item under Consideration of New Business, Item E., and to call for a Special Meeting to conduct a public hearing for April 4, 2023 in regard to PARTF/Community Engagement. Commissioner Church seconded the motion. Motion to amend the agenda as stated unanimously carries.**

Commissioner Palmer inquired about mowing this season. He hopes the town can "up our standards" with performance measures on mowing. He stated he feels this increases confidence in the community. Town Manager Minton reports the town is sending out bids for mowing. Currently, the Hwy 268 corridor will be mowed by Cutting Edge Lawn and Landscape through the next budget cycle. Some town-owned property is being serviced by Airport Road Landscaping and the balance is being mowed by town staff.

Town Attorney Daniel Johnson has nothing to report.

X. Consideration of Old Business-

- C.) Conduct Public Hearing on Alleyway/Street Closing- Planning Director Detsch.

At 5:55 Mayor Hauser declared the floor open for a Public Hearing to consider the approval of the Resolution to Close Rainbow Street/Alleyway. The property owner, Mr. Gray Elledge wishes to close this section of the property. The property is within the Town of North Wilkesboro's ETJ, therefore a municipality can close a property that is not within the city limits if requested by the property owner and approved by the board of adjustment to be heard by the board of commissioners. NCDOT does not claim this road as part of its system. The County of Wilkes referred this applicant to the Town of North Wilkesboro to facilitate the closure. A Resolution of Intent to Close an Alleyway/Street was approved by the Commissioners on February 7, 2023. Town staff has followed all statutory requirements for this closure by way of newspaper advertising and letters of notice sent out to the owners of abutting properties. Tonight, Commissioners are asked to approve the resolution to close an unopened street or alleyway in the town's ETJ. With no comments or concerns, Mayor Hauser declared the floor

closed to the Public Hearing and asked for a motion to approve the resolution. **Motion to approve a Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the Town of North Wilkesboro to Close an Unopened Street or Alley in the Town's ETJ was made by Commissioner Church and seconded by Commissioner Hall. Motion unanimously carries.**

XI. Consideration of New Business –

C.) Consideration of Agreement between Wilkes County and the Town of North Wilkesboro for Utility Improvements on Hwy 115. Town Manager Minton-

Wilkes County Government has approached the Town of North Wilkesboro to share in costs associated with NCDOT Project R-5759, which includes utility improvements to be completed with the widening of Hwy. 115. WK Dickson and the county wish to capitalize on the Hwy. 115 corridor changes that are being done by NCDOT for cost savings of the Speedway wastewater project. The County of Wilkes is asking that we absorb \$385,000. in improvements to the wastewater system within the footprint of the Town of North Wilkesboro on Hwy. 115. The county will cover the balance of the costs outside of the \$385,000. Return on investment is difficult to determine at this time. Leanne Nixon with the EDC and Thomas Salley with Wilkesboro Tourism is working to figure out metrics and are working with NC State and SMI to determine how to measure the economic impact. It is thought that on a typical race day, the town would earn anywhere from \$1000 to \$1700 in wastewater fees. Last year July to September the town saw a 29% spike in sales tax. Even with these upgrades, the impact of development remains uncertain. Pipe upgrade costs will be around \$114,000., the pump station upgrades at the speedway road marker are estimated at \$320,000., and approximately a cost of \$900,000. for a force main pipe. The town is being asked to pay for one-fourth of the costs of these upgrades. The town would be able to allocate \$128,400 annually over the next three years to pay for this project without incurring debt service. This money will not be due until the completion of the project.

The town will also be responsible for its water pipes which involve upgrading 2400 feet of pipe from eight-inch to twelve-inch pipe. Planned improvements will come at a cost of \$96,000 in betterment to the NCDOT. This is a separate project from the Speedway Project. The town will also incur costs to install street lighting and pay for the maintenance of sidewalks that will be created by NCDOT. Town Manager Minton commented, "building this infrastructure will increase the town's potential for growth".

E.) Call for a Public Hearing in regards to PARTF/Community Engagement to be held April 4, 2023.

This item was added to the agenda earlier tonight. **An earlier motion to amend the agenda to add Item E. and to Call for a Public Hearing regarding PARTF/Community Engagement on April 4, 2023, was made by Commissioner Parsons and seconded by Commissioner Church. The motion unanimously carries.** The Public Hearing will be held in the Commissioners Board Room on that date, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

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

Debra W. Pearson, Town Clerk

Approved: _____