

**Town of North Wilkesboro
Commissioners Monthly Meeting
August 6, 2019**

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 August 6, 2019.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Wilson B. Hooper Town Manager
 Debra Pearson, Town Clerk
 Gary Vannoy, Town Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

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.

IV. Awards and Recognitions

1. Resolution to Award Retiring North Wilkesboro Police Officer Gary Tilley Firearm and Badge- Chief Joe Rankin along with Mayor Johnson reading a resolution awarded Officer Tilley his Firearm and Badge. Officer Tilley retired July 1, 2019 with 30 years of service. Chief Rankin made note that Officer Tilley never accepted compensation time for hours worked over the normal work week. Officer Tilley remarked he was proud to serve the Town of North Wilkesboro and felt it was an honor to serve. The board stood, applauded, shook hands with and thanked Officer Tilley for his dedication and service. The entire audience applauded and thanked him as well.
2. Public Oath of Office for Incoming North Wilkesboro Town Manager Wilson Hooper- Newly appointed Town Manager Wilson Hooper ceremoniously took the Oath of Office given by Mayor Johnson. Manager Hooper was officially sworn in July 29, 2019.
3. Public Oath of Office for Incoming North Wilkesboro Planning Director Meredith H. Detsch- the new Planning Director Meredith Detsch ceremoniously took the Oath of Office given by Mayor Johnson at this meeting as well. Planning Director Detsch was officially sworn in July 29, 2019 as well.

V. Public Comments

Mayor Robert Johnson opened the floor for public comments. No citizens present wished to speak, however Commissioner Bert Hall wished to say a few words regarding the recent trimming of trees here in the city limits of North Wilkesboro. He stated in his opinion the town should draw up a resolution to send to Duke

Energy stating our dissatisfaction and regrets on how many of the mature trees have been cut back. He says the cutting of trees in some areas have absolutely ruined the aesthetics of some neighborhoods. Commissioner Hall has spoken with an arborist about the trees in one particular neighborhood and it is the arborist's opinion those trees will not survive. Commissioner Ferguson stated these cuttings are an unplanned, unexpected and unbudgeted expense for the property owner to clean up brush and limbs left behind, and replace trees that die from such extreme trimming back. **It is the consensus of the board to send a resolution stating the disapproval of extreme cutting of trees to Duke Energy.**

It was noted additions or deletions section is to be added to future agendas. Before the meeting began, Manager Hooper informed the board of a couple of last minute additions to the agenda. Those items were 8. (a). Appointments to the North Wilkesboro Housing Board and 11 (a). Highway 268 Forced Main Water line repair requiring approval for Manager Hooper to contract work and approval of a Budget Ordinance to Amend the Water Fund. Manager Hooper gave a quick rundown of the format that will be used on future agendas. **Mayor Johnson asked for a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Ferguson made the motion to approve with Commissioner Day seconding the motion. Motion unanimously carries.**

VI. Consent Agenda

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes
5. Ordinance to close street for Foothills Corvette Club Cruise-In to be held August 17
6. Appoint Jimmy Martin to the North Wilkesboro ABC Board
7. Appointments to Business Revolving Loan Program Review Committee
8. Appointment to Wilkes Joint Planning Board- Re-appoint Terri Stackhouse to the Joint Planning Board, term to expire 7/2022.
- a. Appointments to NW Housing Authority Board of Commissioners (**New item**)
Reappointments of Jimmy Martin and Alex Hamilton to the Housing Board.

Mayor Johnson called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Commissioner Ferguson and seconded by Commissioner Day. Motion unanimously carries.

VII. Town Manager's/Attorney's Report

9. Update from NC Department of Transportation on Hwy. 268 Upgrade – Trent Beaver, construction engineer with NC Department of Transportation gave a brief yet informative update on the Hwy. 268 Upgrade. The \$26M project begin date was November 15, 2015 with a project completion date of April 26, 2020. He reported Duke Power delayed the project by not doing the clearing and installing utilities in a timely manner. He informed the board that this project has had several factors slowing down the progress which included heavy rains, two hurricanes and a sinkhole developing. Commissioner Johnston had a few comments 3.5 miles taking four years to complete is good. Anything you can do to get asphalt down by April will be appreciated. Increase bids may mean less time to complete a project. Commissioner Johnston asked Mr. Beaver to come back in three months to give an update. It was agreed he would come back at that time. Commissioner Johnston noted he'd seen areas of the project get "redone" several times. Mr. Beaver stated NCDOT cannot direct the contractor's work. The board thanked Mr. Beaver for coming.

Manager Hooper mentioned a Hometown Strong Community Focus Partnership event coming to the AG Center and asked the board to make plans to attend. The Hometown Strong process involves introduction

with staff, an overview of Hometown Strong, planning a field trip in our town, identifying a focus area, partnership formation and lastly project implementation and template for success documentation. Manager Hooper handed out a sheet showing a brief rundown of what the Hometown Strong program is about and will get the date and time of this program to the board as soon as it is decided.

10. *This item was deleted due to National Enduro Unifour Bike Club Presentation speaker not available to come.*

VIII. Business

11. Contract with Kimley-Horn for Elevated Water Storage Tank Design Services – Amended contracts for Kimley-Horn. A contract with McAdams & Co. will be doing the contract work for the town. They are not under contract and would like assurance from us that we will keep them. We are \$63,000.00 from Project Fund for administrative services for the duration of the project. **Mayor Johnson asked for a motion to approve items A and B. Commissioner Ferguson made a motion to A.- authorize Manager to approve contract and B.- to negotiate contracts with McAdams. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carries.**

a. Hwy. 268 Forced Main Water Line Repair- **New Item-** Repairs on a leak of our forced main water line on Hwy. 268 is going to require two easements, with repair crew laying pipe and bypassing the failing pipe under 6 parcels of privately-owned property. Town Manager Hooper is asking the board for permission to contract the work and to approve a budget amendment for capital outlay. **Mayor Johnson called for a motion to approve 11. A.) approve Town Manager to sign off on contract work and B.) approve budget amendment moving funds from the contingency line item to Capital Outlay line item comes from Commissioner Ferguson with commissioner hall seconding the motion. Motion unanimously carries.**

IX. Policy

12. Discuss 908 and 910 Main Street Property – Gary Vannoy Gary wanted to touch base with the board regarding the splash pad progress. Backfill and putting the splash pad together is ready to begin. This project should be completed by the end of August. Addressing the 908 and 910 properties, Attorney Vannoy has been talking with John Logsdon about a restrictive covenant both parties could agree on, and the common wall being shared with Attorney William McElwee's office. They are hoping to come up with language that will be agreeable with Mr. Logsdon, Attorney McElwee and the town in order to move forward with selling this property. Commissioner Johnston commented sharing a common wall is not unusual in some city buildings. The board wants Manager Hooper to gather appraisal information for further discussion.

X. Mayor and Commissioner Topics

Mayor and Commissioners may bring up topics not listed on agenda for discussion or staff follow up-

XI. Adjourn- With no other items to discuss Mayor Johnson called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hall made the motion to adjourn with Commissioner Goforth seconding the Motion. Motion unanimously carries. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Debra W. Pearson, Town Clerk

Robert L. Johnson, Mayor

Approved _____

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