

Commissioners Work Session
Thursday, August 22, 2019
Commissioners Room
5:30 p.m.

Members present: Mayor Robert Johnson, Commissioner Joe Johnston, Mayor Pro-tem Angela Day, Commissioner Debbie Ferguson, Commissioner Bert Hall and Commissioner Junior Goforth.

Absent: North Wilkesboro Town Attorney Gary Vannoy

Staff present: Town Manager Wilson Hooper, Clerk Debra Pearson, Finance Officer Connie Bauguess, and North Wilkesboro Police Major Scott Teague.

- Call to Order- Mayor Robert Johnson
- Invocation- Mayor Robert Johnson
- Pledge of Allegiance-Mayor Robert Johnson

Approval of Agenda- Mayor Robert Johnson called for a motion to approve the August 22, 2019 Agenda-Setting Work Session. **Commissioner Hall made the motion to approve and Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carries.**

Action Items: Two items were brought before the board to take action on at the August 22, 2019 work session.

1. The first item is a **Resolution to add the new Town Manager as signatory to the town's First Citizens Bank account.** Mayor Johnson called for a motion to approve the Resolution. **Commissioner Ferguson made a motion to approve the resolution to add Town Manager Hooper as signatory to the town's First Citizens account. Commissioner Day seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carries.**

2. The second action item is a **Resolution regarding Duke Energy Tree Trimming within the Town Limits.** Jimmy Flythe, Director- West Region, Government and Community Relations with Duke Energy was present at the meeting and spoke to the board regarding the tree trimming procedure done by their contracted tree trimmers. Duke Energy contracts Asplundh Tree Service in Charlotte N.C. to trim trees and other vegetation away from power lines. Two properties were brought to Mr. Flythe's attention due to the excessive pruning done to trees on the properties. Commissioner Hall stated he had spoken with a professional arborist and in the arborist's opinion the mature trees trimmed at these locations would not survive. Iven Goodman, Vegetation Management Specialist, Certified Arborist and Utility Specialist with Duke Energy was also present at the meeting. Mr. Goodman commented the trees would in his opinion survive. Ultimately, Commissioners Johnston, Ferguson, and Hall expressed strong dissatisfaction with the lack of communication between the homeowners and Asplundh workers as well as the methods used to clear tree limbs from the lines. Several trees used as a privacy wall to a home were cut leaving hanging branches still attached to the trees and debris left to be cleaned up by the elderly property owner. Mr. Goodman replied he would be glad to return

to the homeowner and give her the option of topping off the trees, which would probably kill them or he could cut the trees down, but then the property owner would be responsible for disposal of the trees. To voice the town's dissatisfaction, it was asked by the board that a resolution be created and sent to select government officials to voice the town's concerns. After the discussion with Mr. Flythe and Mr. Goodman, a resolution was read by Mayor Johnson to the board, Mr. Flythe and Mr. Goodman. Mayor Johnson then called for a motion to approve this resolution. **Commissioner Hall made the motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Johnston seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carries.** The Mayor and the Board thanked Mr. Flythe and Mr. Goodman for coming to the meeting and for their time and attention to this matter.

IV. Work items: the following items were presented to the board for approval at the September 3, 2018 Commissioners' board meeting.

- 1.) **Public Hearing:** Town Manager Hooper informed the board of a Public Hearing to be held regarding a zoning ordinance text amendment: Board of Adjustment members terms – Planning Director Meredith Detsch will present this item.
- 2.) **Water/Sewer asset & inventory assessment** – Gary Flowers, Municipal Engineering Services Company, gave a power point presentation showing failing sewer lines in areas of the town. The board will approve a resolution and obtain detailed cost estimates on this proposed project.
- 3.) **Elevated Water Storage Tank Project Update** – Emily Miller, McAdams & Associates- Emily Miller gave a brief update on the Elevated Water Tank Project accompanied by a spreadsheet showing the project time schedule.
- 4.) **Wake Forest Baptist Health/Wilkes County sublease** – Gary Vannoy was not in attendance at this meeting. Town Manager Hooper explained the draft sublease between Wilkes County and Wake Forest Baptist Health. The sublease pertains to the Emergency Medical Services' use of an 8500 sq. ft. building. Since the town of North Wilkesboro is owner of the hospital facility, our consent of the sublease is required. The new sublease will terminate the 1985 Bond Agreement between the County and the hospital then named Wilkes Regional Medical Center. The Commissioners will be asked to approve the sublease at the September 3, 2019 regular board meeting.
- 5.) **Mayor and Commissioner topics – Board-** Town Manager Hooper reminded the board of the "Hometown Strong" meeting to be held August 27, 2019 at the Wilkesboro Agricultural Center beginning at 9:00 a.m. "Hometown Strong" is a group that travels to towns in North Carolina, speaking with town representatives on the strengths and weaknesses in their town and discuss topics that would be beneficial to the growth and well-being of the town and its citizens.

With no other items or concerns to be discussed, Mayor Johnson called for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Goforth. Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

TOWN CLERK

Robert L. Johnson, Mayor

APPROVED: _____