

**Commissioners Work Session
Thursday, November 21, 2019
Commissioners Room
5:30 p.m.**

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

Absent: Commissioner Joe Johnston, Town Attorney Gary Vannoy.

Staff present: Town Manager Wilson Hooper, Clerk Debra Pearson, NW Fire Chief Jimmy Martin, Planning Director Meredith Detsch, North Wilkesboro Police Chief Joe Rankin, Finance Officer Connie Bauguess, Tourism Director Crystal Keener, and Public Works Director Dale Shumate.

- Call to Order- Mayor Robert Johnson
- Invocation- Mayor Robert Johnson
- Pledge of Allegiance- NW Police Chief Joe Rankin

V. Approval of Agenda- Mayor Robert Johnson called for a motion to approve the November 21, 2019 Agenda-Setting Work Session. **Commissioner Day made the motion to approve and Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carries.**

VI. One item was brought before the board to be considered for approval at the December 3, 2019 regular Board meeting.

1. That item is:

Approve a Resolution declaring an item surplus for donation to a non-profit. (CVCC), in accordance with G.S. 160A-280.

Approve a Resolution declaring property surplus for auction in accordance with G.S. 160-A-270.

Both items were placed on the December 3, 2019 Regular Board Meeting consent agenda, and will be advertised locally within 10 days of approval. All revenue coming from sales will go to the General Fund.

2.) **Marketplace Mural Update- Discussion only.** Town Manager Hooper updated the Board on the progress of the Marketplace Mural. William Davis is the artist that began the mural and for the last two years has not worked on it due to “personal matters.” He was commissioned by the Wilkes Art Gallery with the Art Gallery paying him \$8000., and the Town paying him \$5000., respectively for the work he did. The original cost for the project was \$20,000. Since Mr. Davis had not contacted the Town for two years and simply showed up recently to finish the mural, Town Manager Hooper advised Mr. Davis to complete the western-most side of the mural by December 31, 2019 and no more. Mr. Davis was to meet with Tourism Director Crystal Keener and Town Manager Hooper via a telephone conference, but did not keep the appointment. Commissioners Day and Ferguson are not in agreement to allow Mr. Davis to finish as he went against instruction from Manager Hooper. Commissioner Hall said to the contrary “I’d like to see him finish”. He said the Town should allow

him to finish the wall with a six (6) week deadline “and if we don’t like it, we’ll paint over it.” Commissioner Goforth stated “you can’t judge an unfinished piece/section of artwork.” Manager Hooper proposed a strategy for completion of the mural with the actual work beginning Spring 2020.

3.) **Extending Watershed Protections for Intake Project-Discussion only.** Talks continue regarding updating the Town’s zoning code to establish watershed protection for the Yadkin river. November 4, 2019, North Wilkesboro requested Wilkesboro update its zoning ordinance to extend protections and is working on follow up items as requested by the Wilkesboro Town Council. November 14, 2019, the North Wilkesboro Planning Board considered the request to update the town’s own zoning ordinance, passing a Resolution supporting an update to the code for this purpose. Full approval of the update was postponed until the group’s next meeting so that the Planning Board members could familiarize themselves with the particulars of the update. Once this is approved by the Planning Board, the Board of Commissioners will be asked to schedule a public hearing and approve the updates at a future regular Board meeting. On November 18, 2019, North Wilkesboro requested that Wilkes County update its water protection ordinance to extend protections to new geography within the County.

4.) **December 3 Organizational Meeting and New Board Preview-Discussion only.** An organizational meeting will be held at the time of the regularly scheduled Commissioners meeting on December 3, 2019. Newly elected officials will take the “Oath of Office” and outgoing Commissioners will be recognized at that time as well. The Commissioners will be asked to consider dates during the first two weeks of December to hold a morning long orientation session with staff. This will give Commissioners a chance to discuss matters as they pertain to the new Board members regarding board appointments, establishment of subcommittees and meeting schedules. February or March 2020, an off-site retreat will be held with all Department Heads being asked to attend. Manager Hooper informed the Board that three MPA students from ASU will attend the retreat as well. They will be working with Manager Hooper to “enhance the Budget Book.” They are not considered interns and will be paid a nominal fee for their services.

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. Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

TOWN CLERK

Robert L. Johnson, Mayor

APPROVED: _____