

TOWN OF WILSON'S MILLS  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
December 16, 2024

**PRESENT:** Mayor Fleta Byrd, Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett, Councilmembers David McGowan, Carolyn Dobbin, Tim Brown, and Randy Jernigan.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Town Administrator Leighanna Worley, Town Clerk Emily Matthews, and Town Attorney Gabriel Du Sablon.

**CONVOCATION:** Mayor Byrd declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**PLEDGE** Mayor Byrd led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**INVOCATION:** Mayor Byrd gave the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Mayor Byrd added agenda item 6h "Councilmember Comments."

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Hearing:** Mayor Byrd said this public hearing was postponed from October per the applicant's request. She said since the postponement the applicant has decided to withdraw their application and the public hearing has been cancelled.

**CANCELLED –  
Ordinance to  
Amend Zoning –  
Catawba Road –  
Parcel 1708051V**

**1<sup>st</sup> OPEN FORUM** Mayor Byrd opened the 1<sup>st</sup> Public Forum at 6:32pm.

With no one wishing to speak, Mayor Byrd closed the 1<sup>st</sup> Open Forum at 6:33pm.

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

**MAYOR FLETA BYRD:** Mayor Byrd said she went to the Economic Development Gala with Town Administrator Worley and Planning Director Oldham. She said she also attended the mayors meeting in Selma and the Johnston County Mayors discussed the regionalization of sewer at their meeting. She also attended Tinsel Tree Lane and the Kenly Christmas Breakfast. Mayor Byrd also said she is working with Mrs. Oldham and Attorney Du Sablon to create an ordinance in regard to a burn ban in town. She is also working with Mrs. Oldham to create an ordinance to establish a moratorium on residential growth. She said this will be an ordinance so it will have to go to the Planning Board before coming to Council for approval. The Planning Department is working and doing research on this, and Mayor Byrd and Mrs. Oldham are working together to create an ordinance to send to the Planning Board. She and Mrs. Oldham are working to get the wording correctly on the ordinance in order for it to be beneficial to all.

**TOWN  
ADMINISTRATOR'S  
REPORT – Leighanna  
Worley:**

Ms. Worley said there will be a meeting at the Community Park on January 3<sup>rd</sup> to look at the location of the future dog park. Ms. Worley told Council on January 8<sup>th</sup> the bids for the Council Chambers will be opened, bids have been set out and the pre-bid meeting was held earlier this month. She said the panel for the Police Department design has been finished and they are reviewing submissions from engineers. She said a meeting with the top candidate will be held on January 9<sup>th</sup> and information should be able to come to Council at their January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. The



Request for Qualifications for the salary study have been sent out and they should be ready to present to Council at their January work session. The launch for the new branding and logo will be on February 16th at the Community Park from 2-4pm.

**FINANCE OFFICER'S  
REPORT – Sherry  
Hudson:**

Town Administrator Worley presented the Finance report on behalf of Finance Officer Sherry Hudson.

**Review of Financial  
Statements –  
November 2024:**

Mayor Byrd said she has spoken with Ms. Hudson about the Finance report and the ad valorem revenue is not where we would like it to be but it should increase by the end of the month.

**PLANNING AND  
ZONING REPORT –  
Wendy Oldham**

Councilmember McGowan expressed concerns about the punch list for the Cottages subdivision and asked when the items are scheduled to be completed. Mrs. Oldham said the developers had to schedule for the stormwater system to be flushed and she has expressed the urgency of the situation to the developer.

Mayor Byrd asked why Mill Creek subdivision still has a punch list because she thought the subdivision was complete. Mrs. Oldham said the landscaping in the subdivision must be up to town standards before we will take over the subdivision and that is on the punch list.

**Call Public Hearing:  
Special Use Permit -  
330 Twin Creek  
Drive:**

Planning Director Oldham said that an application was submitted for a Special Use Permit and a public hearing will need to be called for next month.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett and second by Councilmember David McGowan to call a public hearing for Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the Wilson's Mills Elementary School cafeteria in regards to Special Use Permit for 330 Twin Creek Drive. Motion carried unanimously.

**EVENTS REPORT –  
Emily Matthews**

Events Coordinator Emily Matthews gave updates on Tinsel Tree Lane earlier this month and said there was a total of 6 vendors and 3 food trucks due to some of the participants having to drop out prior to the event. She said the activities on December 6<sup>th</sup> were moved inside due to the cold weather. Mayor Byrd said the event was a success.

**Appointment to  
Events Committee –  
Willie Robertson**

Ms. Matthews referenced the Events Committee Appointment Application for Willie Robertson and said he stated he is excited to work with the Committee.

A motion was made by Councilmember Randy Jernigan and seconded by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett to appoint Willie Robertson to the Wilson's Mills Events Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT  
REPORT – Chief  
Williams**

Councilmember McGowan asked if a vehicle is towed if it is stopped by an officer and it doesn't have insurance. Chief said it is up to the discretion of the officer.

Councilmember Brown asked if the Police Department is fully staffed and Chief Williams said there are no current openings but they do need more officers to have shifts covered effectively. Councilmember McGowan asked if all police vehicles are on the road and Chief Williams said 2 vehicles are waiting on equipment.

Mayor Byrd said she is proud of the Police Department and their professionalism.

Councilmember McGowan asked to review the pursuit policy. Chief Williams said the length of a pursuit is up to the discretion of the officer and the main concern is that they stay safe while in pursuit. He also said the length of a pursuit can be



determined by the time of day as well as the severity of the violation.

**Top Cop – Annual Officer  
of the Year Award**

Chief Williams presented the 2025 Top Cop Award to Officer Tevon Davis. Officer Davis said he appreciates the opportunity to protect and serve Wilson's Mills.

**PUBLIC WORKS  
REPORT – Patrick Moore**

Councilmember David McGowan said he and Public Works Director Patrick Moore will be purchasing food on Wednesday for the Wilson's Mills Elementary food pantry.

**2<sup>nd</sup> OPEN FORUM**

Mayor Byrd opened the 2nd Public Forum at 7:00pm.

With no one wishing to speak, Mayor Byrd closed the 2nd Open Forum at 7:01pm.

**COUNCILMEMBER  
COMMENTS:**

Mayor Byrd thanked all the officers that showed up to support Officer Davis.

Councilmember McGowan expressed his concerns about burning in town as well as the lack of quorum at Planning Board meetings. He suggested that any members missing more than 3 meetings in a calendar year be removed from the Planning Board. He also said he is concerned that the Unified Development Ordinance will not be addressed by Council until April or May. Mayor Byrd said the Planning Board is working on the UDO so that they can have all corrections to Council by their May meeting. Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett said the Planning Board members are taking the steps needed to do their job.

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett asked when residents will be required to change their address to Wilson's Mills. Ms. Worley said she is not sure when it will be required but residents can make the change now if they would like.

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett asked what services other towns provide in replacement of burning and asked how much it would cost to provide this service. Councilmember McGowan said he doesn't want to ban burning, he said he would speak further with Attorney Du Sablon and hopefully they can discuss this further at next month's meeting.

**ADJOURN:**

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett and seconded by Councilmember Randy Jernigan to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.



  
EMILY MATTHEWS, CMC  
Town Clerk

  
FLETA A. BYRD, Mayor

