TOWN OF WILSON'S MILLS
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
April 18, 2022

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

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Randy Jernigan

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

CONVOCATION: Mayor Byrd declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

INVOCATION: Town Administrator Leighanna Worley gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Byrd asked for the approval of the agenda.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Byrd asked for any comments or corrections to the minutes for the Regular Town Council Meeting for March 21, 2022.

Regular Town Council Meeting- March 21, 2022: Mayor Byrd noted an inconsistency on page 7 of the minutes under the Police Department report. She asked for clarification and said that rewording the sentence would make the meaning clearer.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to approve the Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2022 as amended. Motion carried unanimously

Closed Session – December 20, 2021: Mayor Byrd asked for any comments or corrections to the minutes for the Closed Session Meeting Minutes for December 20, 2021.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tim Brown and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to approve the Closed Session Meeting Minutes for December 20, 2021 as presented. Motion carried unanimously

Closed Session - March 21, 2022: Mayor Byrd asked for any comments or corrections to the minutes for the Closed Session Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2022.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to approve the Closed Session Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2022 as presented. Motion carried unanimously

1st OPEN FORUM Mayor Byrd opened the 1st Public Forum at 6:35pm.

Faye Wright of 725 Powhatan Road asked what happened to BlackBoard Connect, a phone service that allows residents to receive announcements about changes in town. Town Administrator Worley said that BlackBoard was disabled in January of this year and Council decided last July to discontinue the service due to starting to use SeeClickFix. She said that BlackBoard was no longer effective in town and SeeClickFix

is an app that allows residents to sign up to receive announcements as well as report issues in town.

Councilmember David McGowan said that the newly established town online newsletter is also a good way to learn about events in town.

With no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Byrd closed the 1st Open Forum at 6:40pm.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mayor Byrd opened the Public Hearing at 6:40pm.

ORDINANCE to Extend Corporate Limits – The Little Property

Crystal Hoffman of 5300 US Highway 70 asked why the property is being annexed. Attorney Du Sablon said that the property owner desired to be annexed into the town and they filled out an application to request annexation. Mrs. Hoffman asked about the properties surrounding the parcel being annexed and Attorney Du Sablon said that those properties will not be affected and annexation of those properties would be the decision of the property owners.

With no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Byrd closed the Public Hearing at 6:41pm.

Attorney Du Sablon noted a typo on each of the ordinances and said they will have to be amended before being recorded.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett to adopt Annexation Ordinance #197 as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE to Extend Corporate Limits – Wayne Norwood Strickland

Mayor Byrd opened the Public Hearing at 6:44pm.

With no one wishing to speak, Mayor Byrd closed the Public Hearing at 6:45pm.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to adopt Annexation Ordinance #198 as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE to Extend Corporate Limits – Capital Properties of Raleigh

Mayor Byrd opened the Public Hearing at 6:45pm.

With no one wishing to speak, Mayor Byrd closed the Public Hearing at 6:46pm.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to adopt Annexation Ordinance #199 as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE to Extend Corporate Limits – The Strickland Property

Mayor Byrd opened the Public Hearing at 6:47pm.

With no one wishing to speak, Mayor Byrd closed the Public Hearing at 6:48pm.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Tim Brown to adopt Annexation Ordinance #200 as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Rezone – The Little Property

Mayor Byrd opened the Public Hearing at 6:48pm.

Brad Hart of WithersRavenal Incorporated said that the property is requested to be changed to MU for mixed use. He said the current plan is to allow for town home development.

Councilmember David McGowan asked if the property is currently being used for agricultural purposes. Mr. Hart said that the land is not currently being farmed and he is unsure of when it was last farmed.

Crystal Hoffman of 5300 US Highway 70 stated that her property is across the road from the property being rezoned and asked if sewer will be available on her side of the highway. Mayor Byrd said that only properties within the town limits can receive water and sewer from the town, otherwise it has to come from the county. Mayor Byrd welcomed Mrs. Hoffman to come to Town Hall and talk to staff in the Planning Department.

With no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Byrd closed the Public Hearing at 6:55pm.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett to accept the rezone request for The Little Property. Motion carried unanimously.

Rezone – The Strickland Property

Mayor Byrd opened the Public Hearing at 6:56pm.

Ashley Nagy of 1575 Strickland Road asked for clarification on how the rezone will affect the area on Strickland Road. She said that she and her husband are new in town and would like to be up to date on this. Mayor Byrd said that the land is being changed from being zoned as residential to being zoned as Main Street which will allow for more commercial.

Mark Nagy of 1575 Strickland Road inquired about how he can stay up to date on the changes happening in town. Development Compliance Officer Wendy Oldham offered her business card to Mr. Nagy and welcomed him to contact her at Town Hall.

With no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Byrd closed the Public Hearing at 7:04pm.

A motion was made by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin and seconded by Mayor Pro-0tem JC Triplett to accept the rezone request for The Strickland Property. Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR BUSINESS

MAYOR FLETA BYRD:

Mayor Byrd thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She said that she is aware of the rapid growth in Wilson's Mills and that the Town is working hard to control the growth. Mayor Byrd said that she is interested in the concerns of the public and urged them to attend future meetings as well as call her with any concerns.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Leighanna Worley:

Town Administrator Worley said that she does not have a report at this time but did want to announce that the Town is hoping to start a Citizens Academy in the fall. She said this will allow residents to learn more about local government and what takes place in order to make the town run. She said this will be a 6-week program and encouraged the audience to be on the lookout for more information on the town website because it will be advertised once it is approved by Council.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT – Sherry Hudson:

Mayor Byrd referenced the report on the financials for the month ending March 2022 in Council's packets and there were no questions.

Review of Financial Statements – March 2022:

Finance Officer Sherry Hudson said that the revenue percentage listed in the report is lower due to the recently received American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. She said those funds had to be moved to a separate account because they cannot intermingle with the general fund. She also said that this did not cause the fund balance to drop.

Mayor Byrd asked how long we have to use the ARPA. Town Administrator Worley said that we have close to a year and a half to decide how we want to spend the funds and based on that decision, we will have a certain amount of time to spend the funds.

PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT – Wendy Oldham

Development Compliance Officer Wendy Oldham referenced the Planning Department report in Council's packets and there were no questions.

Mrs. Oldham said that Code Enforcement Officer Bradley Boyette is able to get out of the office and enforce the code more now that the weather is changing.

Councilmember McGowan referenced the Planning report and noted that The Cottages are 65% complete and asked when the fence around the retention pond will be put up. Mrs. Oldham said that it has to be put up before the final inspection is approved.

EVENTS REPORT – Emily Matthews

Events Coordinator Emily Matthews said that the Events Committee has been working on starting a Farmers Market in town and the first market will be on May 7th. She encouraged Council and the audience to spread the word and let others know about the Market.

Councilmember McGowan asked if this will conflict with the Clayton Farmers Market and how many vendors will be in attendance. Ms. Matthews said that Clayton's Farmers Market is every Saturday so there will be some Saturdays when both Wilson's Mills and Clayton will have a market. She said that there are 9 vendors currently and one of them is a produce vendor. The remainder of the vendors sell handmade goods such as crocheted items. Ms. Matthews also said there were about 40 applications sent out to various vendors.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT – Chief Williams

Chief Williams referenced the Police Department report in Council's packets and there were no questions.

Policy Amendment – Policy #200-7 – Use of Force

Mayor Byrd referenced Police Policy #200-7 - Use of Force with noted changes.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett to accept Police Policy #200-7 - Use of Force as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy Amendment – Policy #200-12 – Uniforms and Equipment

Mayor Byrd referenced Police Policy #200-12 - Uniforms and Equipment with noted changes.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to accept Police Policy #200-12 - Uniforms and Equipment as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy Amendment – Policy #200-13 – Sidearm, Shoulder Weapons, and Holster

Mayor Byrd referenced Police Policy #200-13 - Sidearm, Shoulder Weapons, and Holster with noted changes.

Mayor asked if this policy includes the new equipment just purchased and Chief confirmed this policy does include the new equipment.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tim Brown and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to accept Police Policy #200-13 - Sidearm, Shoulder Weapons, and Holster as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER:

Chief Williams commended Officer Thomas on a recent traffic stop that resulted in an arrest.

Councilmember Tim Brown asked if all Police Cars are equipped with Wi-Fi at this time. Chief Williams said that all officers have access to wireless internet when they are on duty in their vehicles.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Patrick Moore

Mayor Byrd asked if Community Service workers have started working yet and Public Works Supervisor Patrick Moore said that he has contacted all of them and none of them are available at this time. He said he and the new Streets and Maintenance Worker have been working together to accomplish a lot of work in town.

Councilmember McGowan asked about updates on the lawnmower that was recently returned from Musgraves Equipment. Mr. Moore said that the mower is currently running great.

Councilmember Brown asked if the town has a larger mower for mowing at the park and Mr. Moore said that the town does have a bushhog and it is used to cut the grass at the park.

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett asked about updates on when the rugby fields will be done at the park. Town Administrator Worley said the fields are done, and grass seed has been planted. She stated that if the grass grows as expected the rugby team will start using the fields in the fall.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS:

Mayor Byrd asked if there were any Councilmember comments and there were none.

2nd OPEN FORUM

Mayor Byrd opened the 2nd Public Forum at 7:26pm.

Jackson Hoffman of 5300 US Highway 70 expressed concerns about traffic and traffic lights in town. Mayor Byrd said that any traffic light concerns would go through DOT and the heavy traffic is due to the recent growth and development in town. Mr. Hoffman thanked Council and commended the Police Department on a good job patrolling in town.

With no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Byrd closed the 2nd Open Forum at 7:29pm

ADJOURN:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:29pm.

Fleta A Byrd
FLETA BYRD, Mayor

ATTEST:

Emily Matthews
EMILY MATTHEWS
Deputy Clerk