TOWN OF WILSON'S MILLS
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
April 19, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Phillip Wright, Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett, Councilmembers David McGowan, Randy Jernigan, and Carolyn Dobbin.

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Administrator/Clerk Leighanna Worley, Finance Officer Sherry Hudson, and Town Attorney Gabriel Du Sablon.

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

INVOCATION: Mayor Wright gave the invocation.

PLEDGE TO FLAG Mayor Wright led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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

Councilmember David McGowan asked to remove agenda item g(ii) "Appointment of Alternate to Triangle J Council of Governments Board." Councilmember Randy Jernigan asked to add agenda item 7e (i) "Call Special Meeting to Award the Bid for Poplar Creek."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Wright asked for any comments or corrections to the minutes for the Regular Town Council Meeting for March 15, 2021.

Regular Town Council Meeting- March 15, 2021:

Councilmember David McGowan made a correction to page 6 of the minutes. He stated he would like to change the wording from "With no one wishing to speak, Mayor Uzzle closed the 2nd Open Forum at 8:06pm" to "With no one wishing to speak, Mayor Wright closed the 2nd Open Forum at 8:06pm."

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to approve the Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes for March 15, 2021 as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

Audit Presentation for Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Jay Sharpe of Sharpe Patel, CPAs reviewed the audit presentation in Council's packets. He said that the audit was submitted to the Local Government Commission on time and has been approved. Mr. Sharpe said that Finance Officer Sherry Hudson was readily available to work with him on getting the audit completed. He said that he reviewed test controls and conducted a risk assessment. He stated the town is doing very well and the audit had good results. He also stated that the audit for 2020 got a late start due to delay in the 2019 audit which was done by previous auditors. He said that there was one finding related to adjustments that had to be made. Mr. Sharpe also reviewed several figures for years 2018, 2019, and 2020.

1st OPEN FORUM Mayor Wright opened the 1st Open Forum at 6:48pm.

With no one wishing to speak Mayor Wright closed the 1st Open Forum at 6:49pm.

REGULAR BUSINESS

MAYOR PHILLIP WRIGHT – Mayor and Events Report:

Proclamation Recognizing National Day of Prayer

Mayor Wright read the following proclamation.

PROCLAMATION
RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
IN THE TOWN OF WILSON'S MILLS

WHEREAS: The 70th year observance of the National Day of Prayer will be held on Thursday, May 6, 2021, with the theme "Lord, pour out Your Love, Life, and Liberty"

based on 2 Corinthians 3:17, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty"; and

WHEREAS: A National Day of Prayer has been part of our national heritage since it was declared by the First Continental Congress in 1775 and the United States Congress in 1952 approved as a Joint Resolution, "That the President shall set aside and proclaim a suitable day each year, other than a Sunday, as a National Day of Prayer, on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups and as individuals" and

WHEREAS: The United States Congress, in 1988 by Public Law 100-307, as amended, establishes, "An act to provide for setting aside the first Thursday in May as the date on which the National Day of Prayer is celebrated," and

WHEREAS: Leaders and citizens of our communities, towns, states, and nation are afforded the privilege of prayer with the joy of seeking divine guidance, strength, protection and comfort from Almighty God; and

WHEREAS: Recognizing the love of God, we, citizens of Wilson's Mills, treasure the freedom to gather in prayer, exercising reliance on God's power in the face of present challenges and threats, asking for His blessing on every individual of our town; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phillip R. Wright, Mayor of Wilson's Mills, do hereby proclaim, **May 6th, 2021**, as a

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

throughout the Town of Wilson's Mills and I commend this observance to all our citizens.

THIS IS THE 19TH DAY OF APRIL 2021

Councilmember David McGowan stated that he appreciates that National Day of Prayer is being recognized and would like to have a proclamation for Memorial Day as well. Mayor Wright said that this can be discussed at the Council meeting in May.

Mayor Wright stated there are not any updates regarding the Events Committee. He said they are still waiting on quotes for equipment for movie nights.

Mayor Wright announced that the next budget session will be May 20th at 4:30pm.

MAYOR PRO-TEM JC TRIPLETT – Sewer Report:

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett deferred to Town Administrator Leighanna Worley. Ms. Worley said it was discussed at Council's last meeting that the county commissioners decided not to do the sewer feasibility study and instead suggested looking back at the agreement. She said that the 5 years that was stated in the agreement was meant as a starting point and there is a plan to do a changeover in phases.

Town Administrator Leighanna Worley said that the town is working with the developers of Crescent Mills subdivision on a development agreement. The agreement will include some sewer capacity which the town will need to purchase. Ms. Worley also said that this is in the area where the town asked for the lines to be upsized. There is also capacity that is needed by the county, so this agreement will include the town, county, and developers of Crescent Mills. She said since the capacity is going to be split, the upsize cost can be split as well. Chandra Farmer is working on a draft agreement and it should be completed by May or June to present to Council. Ms. Worley said this is something that the current fund balance can be used for. Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett asked if the town would get some of the money back and Ms. Worley said whatever money will be put forward, we can get back once other development comes in and purchases that capacity.

COUNCILMEMBER CAROLYN DOBBIN – Planning Report:

Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin stated that the Planning Board could not have a meeting last month due to not having a quorum. She referenced the staff report in Council's packets and there were no questions.

Councilmember David McGowan asked how many times in the past year there has not been a quorum at Planning Board meetings. Development Compliance Officer Wendy Oldham stated there have been 4 meetings in the last year without a quorum.

COUNCILMEMBER DAVID McGOWAN – Police Department Report:

Councilmember David McGowan deferred to Chief Williams. Chief Williams referenced his report in Council's packets. He said that a Dodge Durango was recently purchased for the Police Department. He said this will be vehicle #19 and will replace vehicle #11.

Councilmember David McGowan commended the officers on the number of vehicle stops that took place in March.

COUNCILMEMBER RANDY JERNIGAN – Public Works Department Report:

Councilmember Randy Jernigan said the new maintenance truck was purchased from Kenly Chevrolet. He said that he is hoping to have a new one to replace the Ford in the future.

Call Special Meeting to Award the Bid for Poplar Creek

Town Administrator Leighanna Worley said that bids that were put out for paving of Poplar Creek and some contractors called suggesting additional ways to repair the streets. She said that Public Works Supervisor Patrick Moore and Engineer Brian Leonard discussed the other options that were suggested. Some of the options would save money while still allowing the street to be stable. Ms. Worley said the process is being delayed in order to give the contractors more time to send their bids back in with the new methods listed. Ms. Worley said that a special meeting needs to be called to award the bid. She said that bids will be back by April 30th and suggested the week of May 3rd for the special meeting.

Councilmember David McGowan asked for an explanation of the options. Public Works Supervisor Patrick Moore reviewed the new Request for Proposal.

After discussion Council decided to call the special meeting for May 6th at 1:00pm.

A motion was made by Councilmember Randy Jernigan and seconded by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett to call for a special meeting on May 6, 2021 at 1:00pm to award the bid for the paving of Poplar Creek. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember David McGowan referenced the Public Works report and asked about the removal of junk cars at the Community Park. He asked if this is an ongoing issue. Town Administrator Leighanna Worley said the cars were at the park when it was developed, and they are just now getting moved.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT – Sherry Hudson:

Review of Financial Statements – March 2021:

Mayor Wright referenced the report on the financials for the month ending March 2021 in Council's packets. Mayor Wright asked Council if there were any questions and there were none.

Finance Officer Sherry Hudson commended Jay Sharpe and his team on the job they did with the 2019-2020 audit. She said that the only finding was that the prior year adjustment was not able to be completed. She said the reason it was not able to be completed is due to the delay in the completion of the 2018-2019 audit. Councilmember David McGowan commended Ms. Hudson on a job well done.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Leighanna Worley:

Ratify Maintenance Truck Purchase

Town Administrator Leighanna Worley stated the total of the new maintenance truck was $39,574 and since that is over $30,000 the purchase needs to be ratified. She said in Council's packets there are 2 bids for trucks rather than the usual 3. This truck is difficult to find and there was a truck at another dealership, however it was gone by the time Public Works Supervisor Patrick Moore went to look at it again.

A motion was made by Councilmember Randy Jernigan and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to ratify the purchase of the maintenance truck for $39,574. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett asked about the other maintenance vehicle in the Public Works Department and Town Administrator Leighanna Worley said it will need to be replaced after July 1.

SeeClickFix Software:

Town Administrator Leighanna Worley updated Council on SeeClickFix which will replace BlackBoard as a message system to residents. She said this program will also allow residents to report any kind of concern or code violation. It is planned for the program to go live June 1st.

Salary Study Update:

Town Administrator Leighanna Worley updated Council on the ongoing salary study. She said we are now in the questionnaire phase of the salary study and all questionnaires are due by May 7th. She said the numbers from the salary study should be back by June 9th. Ms. Worley asked Council if they would like for the final numbers to be presented at the June 21st meeting or if they would rather have an additional budget session to discuss the numbers.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to have a budget session on June 14th at 6:30pm to discuss the findings of the salary study. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Vacant Councilmember Seat

Mayor Wright said that 3 applications were received for the vacant Councilmember seat. Attorney Gabriel Du Sablon said there are 2 options on how to proceed with voting. He said that Council can use a ballot method or make a motion on a preferred candidate and have a vote on the motion. Attorney Du Sablon suggested doing a motion and vote method due to there only being 3 applicants. He also said that if Council chooses a ballot method, they will need to set rules. Attorney Du Sablon stated that other people are allowed to be nominated at this time.

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett asked if the ballot method is used, can members of the Council nominate more than one person. Attorney Du Sablon stated that Council can set the rules on how many can be nominated.

Councilmember David McGowan said that he is in favor of the ballot method because he feels that the voting process needs to be discreet. Councilmember McGowan also said that he would like to restrict one nomination per member. Attorney Du Sablon suggested having 2 votes, one to choose the method and one to set the list of nominees. Attorney Du Sablon also stated that if the ballot method is chosen, the votes will still be public record.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Randy Jernigan to use the ballot method for voting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wright stated that applications were received from Tim Brown, Mary Elizabeth Whitmire, and Shawn Michael Fritz.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett to accept only the nominations of Tim Brown, Mary Elizabeth Whitmire, and Shawn Michael Fritz. Motion carried unanimously.

Town Attorney Gabriel Du Sablon said that Council will need to decide on the rules of the voting process.

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett discussed what would happen if the vote ended in a tie. Town Attorney Gabriel Du Sablon suggested having a vote and having the mayor break in the event of a tie.

A motion was made by Councilmember Randy Jernigan and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to accept the following voting rules: limit nominations to 1 per councilmember; each councilmember may only have one name on their ballot; after one round of voting the nominee with the least number of votes will be dropped; the voting shall continue until a majority is reached; and if the vote ends in a tie the mayor shall cast a ballot. Motion carried unanimously.

Town Administrator Leighanna Worley verified that each Councilmember's name will be on their ballot and Attorney Du Sablon confirmed that Council is required by law to sign their ballots.

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett said he would like a 2-minute introduction from each candidate.

Tim Brown of 75 Powell Drive said that he has lived in Wilson's Mills all his life. He said he was on the Wilson's Mills Fire Department for 21 years and also the Associate Pastor and Youth Minister at Wilson's Mills Baptist Church for 16 years. Mr. Brown said he currently owns Tebco Fencing.

Shawn Fritz of 46 Woodglen Drive said that he lives in Ives Landing where he serves as secretary for the Homeowners Association. While serving as secretary he has created a website which has improved communication within the HOA. Mr. Fritz also said that he runs the audio and visual for the Council meetings each month. He also said that he uses procedural technology within the company he works for and this could help improve policies and procedures for council.

Mary Elizabeth Whitmire of 144 Uzzle Industrial Drive owns 4 businesses and is a mother of 3. She said that she is on the Wilson's Mills Planning Board and is currently serving her 2nd term. She also said that she has served on the UDO Committee. Mrs. Whitmire stated that she is very involved in the community and wants to see the town grow.

Each councilmember marked cast their ballots in the 1st round. Town Attorney Gabriel Du Sablon tallied the votes, and they were as follows: Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett-Tim Brown; Councilmember Randy Jernigan-Tim Brown; Councilmember David McGowan-Shawn Fritz; Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin-Tim Brown.

Pursuant to the rules set by Council, Mary Elizabeth Whitmire was dropped from the ballot with the least number of votes.

Each councilmember marked cast their ballots in the 2nd round. Town Attorney Gabriel Du Sablon tallied the votes, and they were as follows: Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett-Tim Brown; Councilmember Randy Jernigan-Tim Brown; Councilmember David McGowan-Shawn Fritz; Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin-Tim Brown.
Town Administrator Leighanna Worley announced that by majority the vote goes to Tim Brown.

Town Administrator Leighanna Worley said that in order to give time for Mr. Brown to complete his orientation he will be sworn in on May 17th at the regular Council meeting. She then said that in order to participate in the Special Called meeting on May 6th, Mr. Brown can be sworn in tomorrow in her office and a ceremonial swearing in can take place on May 17th.

Councilmember David McGowan thanked the other applicants and reminded them of the upcoming election. Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett thanked them as well and said that all of them are well qualified.

Attorney Gabriel Du Sablon stated that the newly filled Councilmember seat as well as the Mayoral seat will be up for re-election in November of this year.

Councilmember Randy Jernigan thanked all of the applicants. He said that the town needs to grow and encouraged all applicants to run in the upcoming election.

2nd OPEN FORUM:

Mayor Wright opened the 2nd Public Forum at 7:57pm.

Joseph Wilder of 39 Durant Road expressed concerns about vehicles speeding on Durant Road and nearby streets. He said that speedbumps need to be put in. Mayor Wright asked if there is a speed limit sign and Mr. Wilder stated there is a sign speed limit sign for 25 mph. Mr. Wilder also asked about sewer being placed in that area and Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett said he is now the liaison for sewer and Mr. Wilder could contact him with any questions.

Councilmember David McGowan addressed concerns about Council and their voting on certain matters. He said that Council must act professional in their actions and votes and vote how they feel best without allowing others to sway their opinion. Councilmember McGowan said that citizens deserve for Councilmembers to be in attendance at meetings and also deserve the heartfelt votes of Council. He also stated the votes of Council should be in strict compliance with all rules and regulations. Councilmember McGowan then congratulated Tim Brown on his appointment to Council.

With no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Wright closed the 2nd Open Forum at 8:03pm.

MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett and seconded by Councilmember Randy Jernigan to go into Closed Session at 8:04pm pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION TO COME OUT OF CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Randy Jernigan to come out of Closed Session at 8:19pm. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:19pm.

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PHILLIP WRIGHT, Mayor

ATTEST:

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EMILY MATTHEWS for LEIGHANNA WORLEY, MMC, NCCMC
Town Administrator / Clerk