

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

\*\*\*Meeting held via Zoom\*\*\*

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

**ABSENT:** Councilmember Randy Jernigan and Town Administrator/Clerk Leighanna Worley.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Deputy Clerk Emily Matthews and Town Attorney Gabriel Du Sablon.

**CONVOCATION:** Mayor Byrd declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 6:44pm.

**INVOCATION:** Mayor Fleta Byrd 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 Carolyn Dobbin to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mayor Byrd asked for any comments or corrections to the minutes for the Regular Town Council Meeting for December 21, 2021.

**Regular Town  
Council Meeting-  
December 21, 2021:**

Mayor Byrd mentioned a typo on page 3 of the minutes.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to approve the Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes for December 21, 2021 as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

**MAYOR FLETA BYRD:**

**PROCLAMATION  
Declaring All In Red  
Month in Wilson's  
Mills:**

**PROCLAMATION  
DECLARING FEBRUARY 2022 AS  
"ALL IN RED MONTH" IN  
THE TOWN OF WILSON'S MILLS**

**Whereas**, the well-being of our community is of paramount importance and maintaining excellent health among our citizens is a top priority, February marks the one-month County-wide heart health awareness campaign entitled "**ALL IN RED**", presented by Johnston Health and Aramark, and organized by the Johnston Health Foundation; and

**Whereas**, In the United States, North Carolina, and Johnston County heart disease is the leading cause of death among men and women; and

**Whereas**, Heart Disease and Stroke rank among the top five health priorities in Johnston County; per the 2019 Johnston County Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Plan; and

**Whereas**, per the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about 80% of deaths from premature heart disease and stroke could be prevented by changes in physical activity, diet, education, management of common medical conditions; and

**Whereas, ALL IN RED** is an opportunity to increase heart health awareness, while addressing the growing needs of local heart patients; and

**Whereas, the ALL IN RED** campaign invites all Johnston County residents, business owners and visitors to participate in this initiative by **wearing RED on February 4, 2022**, National Wear Red Day, and/or **running a RED promo or fundraiser in February**; and

**Whereas, the financial challenges of a heart patient are enormous**; all funds raised within this campaign period will benefit local heart patients through the Johnston Health Foundation's Heart Fund; and

**Whereas, on this day, we recognize heart disease and stroke survivors, those battling the disease, their families who are their source of love and encouragement, and applaud the efforts of our medical professionals who provide quality care; and**

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the Honorable Fleta Byrd and the Wilson's Mills Town Council do hereby proclaim February 2022 as "**ALL IN RED MONTH**" and encourage businesses, industries, and citizens in the community to support and participate in this event.

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

**Sewer Updates:**

**Welcome Letter for  
New Residents:**

Mayor Byrd said that there are no current updates in regard to sewer but the County is in the process of working on getting updates to her.

Mayor Byrd referenced the "Welcome to New Residents" letter written by Councilmember McGowan in Council's packets. She thanked Councilmember McGowan for his hard work on the letter. After discussion Council made changes and additions to the letter. Mayor Byrd said once the letter is finalized it would be great to get copies to various departments to hand out around town. Councilmember Brown said that he thinks that the letter is a great idea. Public Works Supervisor Patrick Moore asked if a section could be added about residents registering their pets with the town. Councilmember McGowan said he will make that addition as well as the other changes and send it into Deputy Clerk Emily Matthews to print copies.

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

**Review of Financial  
Statements –  
December 2021:**

Mayor Byrd referenced the report on the financials for the month ending December 2021 in Council's packets and there were no questions.

Councilmember David McGowan stated that Finance Officer Sherry Hudson has done a great job with the finances for the town and Councilmember Brown and Mayor Byrd agreed.

**PLANNING AND  
ZONING REPORT –  
Wendy Oldham**

Development Compliance Officer Wendy Oldham referenced the planning department report in Council's packets. Councilmember McGowan asked about the Parrish Ridge subdivision and why there is a re-inspection scheduled. Mrs. Oldham said that before the town can take over the subdivisions the infrastructure needs to be corrected. She said right now there is an issue with erosion control and a stormwater runoff problem. Mrs. Oldham also said that the developers have been told what to fix and if the corrections are not made the bond money will be kept. Councilmember McGowan asked if the issues are related to the retention pond being lower than normal. Mrs. Oldham said that the issue is due to the stormwater ponds and banks not being graded and stabilized correctly. She also said that if the town must make these corrections then the bond money will be

**CALL PUBLIC  
HEARING –  
Annexation  
Ordinance  
Amendment**

used to fix the issues. Councilmember McGowan asked if the subdivision has been turned over to the HOA yet and Mrs. Oldham said it has been turned over but the developer is still responsible until all corrections are made.

Development Compliance Officer Oldham said that in June of 2020 Council had a hearing to annex land on both sides of Strickland Road. After it was annexed, it was brought to her attention that the metes and bounds were not correct. She said that Council needs to call for another public hearing and call for another vote. Attorney Du Sablon said that this is not an additional annexation, it is just a public hearing in order to amend the annexation ordinance.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to call for a public hearing at the Regular Town Council meeting on February 21, 2022 at 6:30pm. Motion carried unanimously.

**EVENTS REPORT –  
Emily Matthews**

Events Coordinator Emily Matthews said there was nothing to report due to there not being an Events Committee meeting in January since Town Hall is closed to the public.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT  
REPORT – Chief  
Williams**

Chief referenced the report in Council's packets. Councilmember McGowan asked if there are any plans to get active participants involved in the Community Service Program. He said there is litter on the town streets again and community service workers could help pick up. Public Works Supervisor Patick Moore said that Chief has talked to him about 2 participants and he will call next week about when they will start.

Councilmember McGowan asked where most of the traffic accidents are happening, and Chief said that most are occurring at the intersection of Swift Creek Road and Highway 70 as well as the intersection of Wilson's Mills Road and Highway 70.

**Police Department  
Policy Amendments:**

Chief said that the amended policy in Council's packets is in regard to complaints within the Police Department. He said that the new policy would allow all complaints to be handled by the Chief or Lieutenant.

Councilmember McGowan said he would like for the officers to be protected and he feels the complaint form needs to be notarized in order to lower the risk of fictitious complaints. Chief Williams said that he does not see the need for a notary and that citizens are given an option to complain anonymously. He said that having to get the complaint notarized could deter the citizens from complaining. Mayor Pro-tem Triplett said that it is stated on the complaint form that the stating of false information is subject to criminal penalties so getting the form notarized is an unnecessary extra step. Councilmember Brown said that he doesn't think the name of the complainant can remain anonymous and feels they should have to state their name if they are willing to complain.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to accept the policy as presented. Voting in favor of the motion were Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett, Councilmembers Tim Brown and Carolyn Dobbin. Voting in opposition of the motion was Councilmember David McGowan. Motion passed 3 to 1.

**PUBLIC WORKS  
REPORT – Patrick Moore**

Councilmember Brown asked what typically happens for an animal control call to take place. Public Works Supervisor Patrick Moore said that usually the calls are about loose animals in town. Councilmember Brown asked if there is a leash law in town and what happens with the animals that are picked up. Mr. Moore said that there is a leash law and that the animals are held at town hall for 24 hours. After 24 hours if they are not claimed that are taken to the Johnston County Shelter. If they are claimed there is a reclaim fee for the owner and they are required to register the animal with the town. Mayor Pro-tem Triplett suggested purchasing a scanner to scan animals for microchips and Mr. Moore said he would look into price and report back.

**COUNCILMEMBER  
COMMENTS:**

Councilmember Brown said he appreciates Councilmember McGowan's concerns for the safety of the police officers and he wants them to be protected as well.

**ADJOURN:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:54pm.

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FLETA BYRD, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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EMILY MATTHEWS  
Deputy Clerk