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

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

In accordance to the Remote Participation Policy adopted by Council on March 30, 2020, Councilmember Randy Jernigan joined via Zoom and was able to vote and comment.

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

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

INVOCATION: Mayor Uzzle gave the invocation.

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

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Uzzle asked for any comments or corrections to the minutes for Regular Town Council Meeting for December 21, 2020.

Regular Town Council Meeting- December 21, 2020: A motion was made by Councilmember Phillip Wright and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to approve the Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes for December 21, 2020 as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session Council Meeting- November 16, 2020 Mayor Uzzle asked for any comments or corrections to the minutes for the Closed Session Minutes for November 16, 2020.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Phillip Wright to approve the Closed Session Minutes for November 16, 2020 as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

1st OPEN FORUM Mayor Uzzle opened the 1st Open Forum at 6:33pm.

PROCLAMATION for "All in Red" Week Mayor Jeff Holt of Pine Level told Council about a county-wide initiative to raise awareness about heart disease. He stated that February 5th-12th is "All in Red" Week and asked for Council and staff to wear red in support and to help raise awareness. He also stated that Town Administrator Leighanna Worley has information about donating funds to the cause.

With no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Uzzle closed the 1st Open Forum at 6:46pm.

PROCLAMATION

DECLARING FEBRUARY 5-12, 2021 AS

***"ALL IN RED WEEK"* 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 5, 2021 marks the launch of an 8-day County-wide heart health awareness campaign entitled **"ALL IN RED",** presented by Johnston Health and Dr. Matthew Hook, 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;

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 and management of common medical conditions, and;

Whereas, **ALL IN RED** week 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 5, 2021,** National Wear Red Day, and/or run a RED promo or fundraiser from February 5-12; 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 Jim Uzzle and the Wilson's Mills Town Council do hereby proclaim February 5 until February 12, 2021 as "***ALL IN RED WEEK***" and encourage businesses, industries and citizens in the community to support and participate in this event.

Duly proclaimed this 19th day of January 2021

REGULAR BUSINESS

MAYOR JIM UZZLE – Mayor and Sewer Report:

Mayor Uzzle said that he did not have any current updates regarding sewer at this time. He asked Town Administrator Leighanna Worley if there have been any updates from the County about upgrading the sewer line from 8-inch to 16-inch. Ms. Worley stated there are no new updates.

MAYOR PRO-TEM JC TRIPLETT – Street Department Report:

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett stated that there is not much to report at this time. Town Administrator Leighanna Worley stated that work in Poplar Creek can now start because we have entered 2021.

COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIP WRIGHT – Events Report

Councilmember Phillip Wright stated that a movie night took place last month for all staff, council, volunteer boards, and their families. Councilmember David McGowan asked what feedback was given about the movie night and Town Administrator Leighanna Worley stated that there was great feedback from all who attended.

Town Administrator Leighanna Worley announced that at the last Events Committee meeting the committee decided to make movie nights a regular activity for the community. She also stated that there was a resignation from the Events Committee recently which leaves 2 members. She said that anyone willing to volunteer for the committee should contact Town Hall.

COUNCILMEMBER CAROLYN DOBBIN – Planning Report:

Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin stated that the Planning Board recently went over a rezoning request as well as preliminary plat review for Crescent Mills Subdivision. Councilmember Dobbin referenced the staff report and welcomed any questions.

Councilmember David McGowan asked about the development off Southerland Road and asked if there were any updates. Development Compliance Officer Wendy Oldham said that she recently had another meeting with the developer's representative, and they are still interested in the site. She said that they are making sure their guidelines are straight and she should receive preliminary plans in the next 6 months.

RESOLUTION Adopting the Cape Fear Hazard Mitigation Plan

Mayor referenced the Resolution for Adopting the Cape Fear Hazard Mitigation Plan. Town Administrator Leighanna Worley stated that this is not part of the town's UDO, but revisions are adopted every time there is an update. She stated that Development Compliance Officer Wendy Oldham listed all specific changes in the request for action in Council's packets.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to adopt the Cape Fear Hazard Mitigation Plan as submitted. Motion carried unanumiously.

Town Administrator Leighanna Worley said that Development Compliance Officer Wendy Oldham wanted to update Council on the fences around the stormwater ponds. She said that Ms. Oldham reviewed the plans from Mill Creek and The Cottages, and the plans are showing fences. Councilmember David McGowan asked if that meant the fences would not be put up until the project was complete. Mrs. Oldham said that at the end of the project the ponds will be cleaned and converted before the fences will go up.

COUNCILMEMBER DAVID McGOWAN – Police Department Report:

Councilmember David McGowan deferred to Chief Williams.

Chief Williams' Presentation of the 2020 Annual Report

Chief Williams referenced the annual report in Council's packets and offered to answer any questions.

Councilmember David McGowan commended Chief on the number of car stops in the year 2020 and asked if the annual report for 2021 can be printed and presented as a comparison to 2020. He stated he would like to see the changes from year to year and how the numbers are changing.

COUNCILMEMBER RANDY JERNIGAN – Maintenance Department Report:

Mayor Uzzle referenced the maintenance report in Council's packets and deferred to Councilmember Randy Jernigan for any additions or comments on the report. Councilmember Jernigan stated that he had nothing to add.

Councilmember David McGowan asked about the status of purchasing a new truck for the maintenance and streets department. Councilmember Randy Jernigan stated that the current vehicle is running again but Council needs to decide on when they will buy a new truck. Town Administrator Leighanna Worley said that her report will talk about the new Public Works Supervisor position and that will be a good time to discuss the new vehicle.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT – Sherry Hudson:

Mayor Uzzle referenced the report on the financials for the month ending December 2020 in Council's packets.

Review of Financial Statements – December 2020:

Mayor Uzzle asked Council if there were any questions and there were none.

Councilmember David McGowan thanked Ms. Hudson for the added footnotes in this month's report.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Leighanna Worley:

Town Administrator Leighanna Worley referenced the materials in Council's packets regarding the Public Works Supervisor job description. She stated that Councilmember David McGowan made a motion to move forward with this position in December but then withdrew the motion. She said that after the motion was withdrawn, Council never came back to the topic.

Public Works Supervisor Position

Councilmember David McGowan asked a question about the job description on page 2 under specific duties and responsibilities. He asked for clarification on the employee's authority to terminate employment in the department. Town Administrator Leighanna Worley said that the employee will not a have that authority, but this will be an exempt position.

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett asked if this is a position that can be postponed until later in the year. Town Administrator Leighanna Worley said that there are big projects in the Streets Department coming up and having someone in this position would really be helpful.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Randy Jernigan to approve the job description for Public Works Supervisor and move forward in the hiring process. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Uzzle stated that he has received an estimate for the maintenance building to be placed at Town Hall. He said that he has one to present tonight and 2 more estimate on the way. He stated that once all the estimates are received Council can call a special meeting to discuss. Councilmember David McGowan suggested that that Council receive an estimate for electrical, concrete and all other necessities as well.

Salary Study Bids Update

Town Administrator Leighanna Worley said that Council requested last month that she start the process of retrieving bids for a salary study to be conducted. She said that she created a Request for Proposal and sent it to Town Attorney Gabriel Du Sablon to review. Ms. Worley said that the RFP will need to run for 2 weeks and that Council can either call for a special meeting to review the bids early or they can review them at the February Council meeting. Upon discussion, Council decided to meet in 2 weeks to review the bids received.

CALL SPECIAL MEETING

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to call a special meeting for February 4th, 2021 at 11a.m. to review bids received in reference to the salary study. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember David McGowan asked about page 2 of the bid proposal and asked if it could state that the study should be conducted using data from similar sized towns based on size. Town Administrator Leighanna Worley said that the study would take into consideration comparable towns.

OTHER:

Councilmember David McGowan stated that a couple months ago it was suggested to invite Mr. Allen Wellons and his engineer to a Council meeting to discuss the process of building a new town hall. He asked if a special meeting can be called and Town Attorney Gabriel Du Sablon stated that this is an acceptable reason to call a

special and closed meeting. Councilmember McGowan asked if this can be placed on next month's agenda if Mr. Wellons is available.

Councilmember David McGowan asked about any updates on a new maintenance vehicle. Town Administrator Leighanna Worley referenced the information from the truck found last month and Councilmember Randy Jernigan said that the truck Ms. Worley found will be sufficient for the needs of the department. Ms. Worley reviewed the estimate from Deacon Jones and said it would be $36,700 with a 5-year warranty. She stated that the only other vehicle that has been like this one would be $43,000 and that the town has done business with Deacon Jones in the past. Councilmember David McGowan suggested applying the replacement policy now in place for the replacement of police vehicles. Ms. Worley said that the vehicle for the Maintenance Department will not be used in the same way that police vehicles are used. Councilmember David McGowan asked if a report can be created to show all the work that has been done on the current maintenance vehicle in the last year. Ms. Worley stated that she can create a report for Council.

2nd OPEN FORUM:

Mayor Uzzle opened the 2nd Public Forum at 7:20pm.

With no one wishing to speak, Mayor Uzzle closed the 2nd Open Forum at 7:21pm.

ADJOURN:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:21pm.

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JIM UZZLE, JR., Mayor

ATTEST:

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