

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

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

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: Councilmember Tim Brown 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.

Mayor Wright added agenda item 8 "Closed Session: N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5) "...acquisition of real property located on Swift Creek Road..." to the agenda.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett 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 June 21, 2021.

Regular Town Council Meeting-June 21, 2021: A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to approve the Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes for June 21, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session Council Meeting-June 21, 2021: Mayor Wright asked for any comments or corrections to the minutes for the Closed Session Council Meeting for June 21, 2021.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett and seconded by Councilmember Tim Brown to approve the Closed Session Meeting Minutes for June 21, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT RECONITIONS: Chief Williams introduced Matthew Peedin as the new Police Sergeant.

Ceremonial Oath of Office-Sergeant Matthew R. Peedin Town Clerk Leighanna Worley administered to the oath of office to Sergeant Matthew Peedin. Sergeant Peedin's Wife, Chelsea, held the bible during the oath and pinned Sergeant Peedin. Sergeant Peedin's children and parents were present for the ceremony.

Introduction of New Positions and Officers Chief Williams said that former Police Sergeant Terry Winstead recently retired. He also said that officers Benjamin Deese and Raymond Barton have been promoted to Lead Officers. Chief Williams said that Officer Antione Thomas has moved into a full-time position effective on July 21st.

1st OPEN FORUM Mayor Wright opened the 1st Public Forum at 6:40pm.

Joe Wilder of 39 Durant Road stated that he has come to meetings in the past to ask about sewer and has not heard anything. Mr. Wilder also expressed that he would like speedbumps to be placed on Durant Road. Councilmember Randy Jernigan said that speedbumps can cause damage to vehicles traveling on the road and that he feels there can be an alternative placed on the road instead of speedbumps. Councilmember Jernigan said that any damage caused by the speedbumps would

be the responsibility of the town. Councilmember Jernigan said he will speak with Public Works Supervisor Patrick Moore about alternative solutions. Councilmember David McGowan asked if there are speedbumps on other roads in town. Councilmember Jernigan said there are some in Lockwood Subdivision. In response to Mr. Wilder's concerns about sewer on Durant Road, Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett said that sewer will more than likely be placed on Durant Road when another grant is received. Town Administrator Leighanna Worley said that the town paid for a manhole on Durant so that when another sewer project starts Durant will be a priority. She also said that the grant process would not start until a sewer feasibility study is done. Ms. Worley said that Durant Road was not part of the last sewer project because not enough people wanted it to be placed on the road. Councilmember McGowan suggested that Mr. Wilder conduct a survey with the residents of the road in order to figure out who would be interested in sewer on that road.

With no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Wright closed the 1st Open Forum at 6:56pm.

REGULAR BUSINESS

**MAYOR PHILLIP
WRIGHT – Mayor and
Events Report:**

Mayor Wright deferred to Events Coordinator Emily Matthews.

Ms. Matthews stated that the Events Committee has not met in the last couple months and they are hoping to meet again in October or November in order to plan a Christmas event for the town.

**MAYOR PRO-TEM JC
TRIPLETT – Sewer
Report:**

Mayor Pro-tem Triplett stated that he thinks a feasibility study needs to be conducted soon. Town Administrator Worley said that she has a meeting next week about feasibility studies. Councilmember Tim Brown asked about the cost of a feasibility study and Ms. Worley stated that we have never had a study done before, so she is not sure of the price.

**COUNCILMEMBER
CAROLYN DOBBIN
– Planning Report:**

Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin referenced the report in Council's packets and stated there was not a Planning Board meeting last month. Councilmember McGowan expressed concerns about there not being a meeting in the months of May and June and Councilmember Dobbin stated that there was no business to be conducted and that is why a meeting was not held.

**COUNCILMEMBER
DAVID McGOWAN –
Police Department Report:**

Councilmember McGowan deferred to Chief Williams.

Chief Williams referenced the report in Council's packets and there were no questions. He stated that there is a full-time position open in the department and they have received several applications. Councilmember McGowan asked about radio reception in town and Chief said he has spoken with Johnston County Communications about this.

**COUNCILMEMBER
RANDY JERNIGAN –
Public Works Department
Report:**

Councilmember Randy Jernigan referenced the report in Council's packets. He said that the lawnmower has recently been returned to town hall and Public Works Supervisor Patrick Moore stated that the mower is in good working condition.

**Award Bid for Work
on Stone Ridge Drive**

Councilmember Jernigan referenced all bids in Council's packets and recommended the bid from Stuckey's Backhoe Service, Inc. He said that they have done work for Smithfield as well as the county and recommended approving the bid.

A motion was made by Councilmember Randy Jernigan and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to accept the bid from Stuckey's Backhoe Service, Inc for \$9,850. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Jernigan said that Public Works Supervisor Patrick Moore is looking into getting bids for the repaving of Parker Street, Deer Flag Lane and Antler Drive.

Councilmember Jernigan said that the second Public Works truck has arrived. Councilmember McGowan asked if the old truck is still in use and Town Administrator Worley said that the older truck is being utilized for animal control at the moment.

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

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

Mayor Wright referenced the report on the financials for the month ending June 2021 in Council's packets.

Finance Officer Sherry Hudson said that we finished the fiscal year in good condition. Councilmember McGowan asked about the percentage of taxes that have been paid and Ms. Hudson said that over 99 percent of taxes have been paid.

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

**Discussion of the
Upper Coastal Plain
RPO's Resolution for
I-42**

Town Administrator Worley said that NCDOT is renaming Highway 70 to Interstate 42 and the Rural Planning Organization (RPO) has asked to pass the resolution that is in Council's packets. RPO has asked all members if they are in agreement with the included resolution. There were no objections from Council. Councilmember Jernigan expressed concerns about the new interstate being confused with the current Highway 42.

**Participation
Commitment for
Triangle J COG
Grant Assistance**

Town Administrator Worley said that the town managers in Johnston County have discussed having staff at TJCOG who can handle grants. Ms. Worley referenced items in Council's packets and said based on the population of Wilson's Mills, it would be 4000 dollars to participate. She stated that by participating in this the town would receive assistance with applying for grants as well as help with locating grants that would help the town grow. The assistance will be on an as-needed basis. Councilmember McGowan asked if this is renewable annually and Ms. Worley confirmed that it is. She also stated that an agreement will hopefully be presented to Council in August.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett to accept the participation commitment for Triangle J COG Grant Assistance. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER:

Ms. Worley said that at last month's meeting Council discussed the annexation of a property. She said that the annexation maps were not turned in on time by the property owner and so the annexation will be rescheduled to August. She also said that the public hearing notice was already published, and the developers are paying for it to be published again

Ms. Worley said that last month Council asked about the loans that the town currently has. She said that the balance for the loan for the Community Park is \$107,199 with a 2.94% interest rate and the balance on the loan for the vehicles is \$71,512 at 3.15% interest. Ms. Worley suggested for the audit to be completed in a couple months and then see what the fund balance is and possibly pay off the loans.

2nd OPEN FORUM:

Mayor Wright opened the 2nd Public Forum at 7:24pm.

Joe Wilder of 39 Durant Road said that there is a manhole across from his house and wanted to see if he could use the manhole for sewer. Town Administrator Worley said that Mr. Wilder would need to contact Johnston County Public Utilities to ask about using the manhole.

With no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Wright closed the 2nd Open Forum at 7:27pm.

**MOTION TO GO INTO
CLOSED SESSION:**

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett and seconded by Councilmember Tim Brown to go into Closed Session at 7:27pm pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5) "...acquisition of real property located on Swift Creek Road..." Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION TO COME OUT
OF CLOSED SESSION:**

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett to come out of Closed Session at 7:54pm. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:54pm.

PHILLIP WRIGHT, Mayor

ATTEST:

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