

TOWN OF WILSON'S MILLS
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
March 20, 2023

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

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

CONVOCATION: Mayor Byrd declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

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

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 Randy Jernigan 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 February 20, 2023.

Regular Town
Council Meeting-
February 20, 2023:

A motion was made by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbins and seconded by Councilmember Tim Brown to approve the Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes for February 20, 2023, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

1st OPEN FORUM Mayor Byrd opened the 1st Public Forum at 6:33pm.

With no one wishing to speak, Mayor Byrd closed the 1st Open Forum at 6:34pm.

REGULAR BUSINESS

MAYOR FLETA BYRD:

Mayor Byrd said she has recently attended the Mayor's meeting that was held in Micro and also attended the Town and State meeting with Town Administrator Leighanna Worley.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Leighanna Worley:

Town Administrator Worley said that she and Mayor Byrd will be attending the North Carolina League of Municipalities Business Meeting in Concord this year and a voting delegate and alternate need to be voted on before attending the meeting.

NCLM Business
Meeting Voting
Delegate/Alternate

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to appoint Town Administrator Leighanna Worley as the NCLM Business Meeting Voting Delegate and Mayor Fleta Byrd as the NCLM Business Meeting alternate. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER:

Ms. Worley said the LGC approved the purchase for the new town hall and the closing should take place in early May. This will give time for due diligence. She said she and the department heads have been talking to our IT company about the phone and internet at the new location. She said there are several layouts possible for Council chambers and she can provide the layouts to Council at their April meeting.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT – Sherry Hudson:

Finance Officer Sherry Hudson referenced the financials for the month ending February 2023 in Council's packets and asked if there were any questions.

Councilmember David McGowan asked about the Capital Outlay line item in the Police Department and Ms. Hudson said those expenses have been used for the new security

Review of Financial Statements – February 2023:

cameras at the park as well as other expenses that go along with having the cameras. Councilmember McGowan asked why the Powell Bill line item has only been spent 1% and Ms. Hudson said there have not been any roads paved in town this fiscal year.

Councilmember Tim Brown asked about the court facility fees and Ms. Hudson said those are fees to the town from the Clerk of Court.

PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT – Wendy Oldham

Mrs. Oldham referenced the Planning Department report in Council’s packets and asked if there were any questions.

Councilmember Brown expressed concerns about the condition of Strickland Road and asked if the state is aware of its need for repairing. Mrs. Oldham said she can contact engineers as well as DOT to see if it can be repaved.

CALL PUBLIC HEARING: Rezone 3181 US Hwy 70 West

Mrs. Oldham reference the rezone application in Council’s packets and asked if there were any questions.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tim Brown and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbins to call the public hearing for the rezone of 3181 US Highway 70 West for Monday April 17, 2023 at 6:30pm in the Wilson’s Mills Elementary School cafeteria. Motion carried unanimously.

Appoint New Planning Board Member – M. Eason

Mrs. Oldham referenced the planning board appointment application in Council’s packets.

A motion was made by Councilmember Randy Jernigan and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbins to appoint M. Eason to the Planning Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Appoint New Planning Board Member – D. Riley

Mrs. Oldham referenced the planning board appointment application in Council’s packets.

A motion was made by Councilmember Randy Jernigan and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbins to appoint Doris Riley to the Planning Board.

Councilmember David McGowan asked why Mrs. Riley did not attend the Planning Board meeting in prior month to introduce herself. Mrs. Riley stated that the night of the Planning Board meeting that she was invited to attend, she had a family obligation and family is very important to her.

With a motion on the table, motion carried unanimously.

EVENTS REPORT – Emily Matthews

Events Coordinator Emily Matthews said the Farmers Market season will start on April 1st. She stated the town’s administrative assistant went around Wilson’s Mills, Smithfield and Clayton last Friday to hand out flyers to businesses.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT – Chief Williams

Sergeant Raymond Barton referenced the Police Department report in Council’s packets and asked if there were any questions.

Councilmember Brown asked about updates on the School Resource Officer position and Sergeant Barton said the department is waiting for paperwork to be completed and then he can start. He said the position was given to a former employee of the town.

Councilmember McGowan asked if the SUV’s have arrived and Sergeant Barton said once the vehicles receive microchips they will arrive.

Police Department Policy Amendment – #200-4

Sergeant Barton stated the policy updates will change the mile radius in which an officer needs to live in order to have a take home car. He said the previous milage was 20 miles and the policy update will change it to 25. He reviewed other town’s policies and said some have

recently changed to 25 miles and some have changed to 30. Councilmember McGowan suggested we change ours to 30 miles as well.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Randy Jernigan to approve Police Policy 200-4 to reflect a 30 mile radius rather than 25. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC WORKS
REPORT – Patrick Moore**

Public Works Director Patrick Moore referenced the Public Works report in Council’s packets and there were no questions

**COUNCILMEMBER
COMMENTS:**

Councilmember David McGowan welcomed residents to attend meetings in person.

Councilmember Tim Brown asked about how the residents in town are adjusting since the ordinance about owning chickens was approved. Mrs. Oldham said that she and the town’s Code Enforcement Officer have been working with residents to ensure they understand the ordinance and what is allowed.

Town Administrator Worley said that Council’s next budget session will be on March 30th at 4:30 in the elementary school cafeteria.

Mayor Byrd thanked staff for all the work they are doing to get ready to move into the new town hall.

Councilmember David McGowan expressed condolences to Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett for the passing of his wife Caren.

2nd OPEN FORUM

Mayor Byrd opened the 2nd Public Forum at 7:16pm.

Jim Uzzle asked if a decision has been made about placing a sign at the new town hall, Mayor Byrd said that the staff is in the process of making that decision. Mr. Uzzle stated that he feels placing a 30 mile radius to take home cars will deter officers from living in town limits.

With no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Byrd closed the 2nd Open Forum at 7:18pm.

ADJOURN:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:18pm.




FLETA BYRD, Mayor


EMILY MATTHEWS
Deputy Clerk