TOWN OF WILSON'S MILLS
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
March 15, 2021

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

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

CONVOCATION: Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

INVOCATION: Councilmember Phillip Wright gave the invocation.

PLEDGE TO FLAG Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett stated that 2 items needed to be added to the agenda. He said that item c "Discussion with Attorney Concerning the Resignation of Mayor Uzzle and item g(i) "Approval of Grant Agreement" needed to be added.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Phillip Wright to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett asked for any comments or corrections to the minutes for the Regular Town Council Meeting for February 15, 2021.

Regular Town Council Meeting- February 15, 2021: A motion was made by Councilmember Randy Jernigan and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to approve the Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes for February 15, 2021 as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session Meeting Minutes- February 15, 2021: Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett asked for any comments or corrections to the minutes for the Special Council Meeting for February 4, 2021.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Phillip Wright to approve the Special Council Meeting Minutes for February 4, 2021 as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Resignation of Mayor Jim Uzzle Attorney Gabriel Du Sablon stated that Town Administrator Leighanna Worley received the letter below from Mr. Jim Uzzle indicting his resignation as mayor of Wilson's Mills.

"To the Town Council of Wilson's Mills,

It is with a saddened heart that I must submit my signation from the Office of Mayor of Wilson's Mills, NC effective immediately.

I wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavors with the Town.

Sincerely,
Jim Uzzle, Jr."

Attorney Du Sablon said that state law dictates the process of which a member of a governing board is replaced in the event of a vacancy. He also said that Council has no authority to prevent the resignation, but the first step would be to have a vote to accept the resignation in order to establish a firm date.

A motion was made by Councilmember Phillip Wright and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to accept the resignation of Jim Uzzle as Mayor of the Town of Wilson's Mills effective March 15, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Town Attorney Gabriel Du Sablon said that state law says the Council is the entity that makes the replacement when a member resigns. He said there is no set time period in which the member must be replaced and that Council can solicit interest to those that qualify. At the next meeting Council can come forward and nominate those that were interested. He said there can be a motion and a vote on the nominees.

Councilmember David McGowan said he was under the impression that the runner-up in the last election would be considered as well as other members of the Council. Attorney Du Sablon said that anyone who is eligible can be nominated including Council and previous nominees.

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett suggested soliciting applications and those interested could apply. Attorney Du Sablon said that is an option.

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett asked if Council could move forward with the Mayor Pro-tem running meetings. Attorney Du Sablon said that since the end of the mayoral term is not until December, it is best to fill the position now.

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett discussed the possibility of applications again and Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin agreed it should be an application and in the application that applicant should explain why they want to be mayor.

Councilmember David McGowan and that he feels that a current Councilmember would be the best fit for mayor. Councilmember Phillip Wright agreed and said that the current councilmembers will be familiar with the town busines already.

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett expressed concerns on having to replace a councilmember if they were to move into the position of mayor. Councilmember Phillip Wright and Randy Jernigan both stated that it would be easier to fill a councilmember position.

Councilmember David McGowan said that he is not in favor of using applications to fill the mayor position.

Attorney Du Sablon said that another process would be to create a ballot of all nominees and each councilmember votes via ballot. Councilmember David McGowan said that this is a decision that needs to be made tonight. He suggested creating a ballot with all members of council as well as all runners-up in the last election. Attorney Du Sablon said that that can all be done in one motion.

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett said that he enjoys being a councilmember and does not want to be mayor or resign his position as town councilmember.

Councilmember Phillip Wright asked Town Administrator Leighanna Worley how she would put out applications to the public. Ms. Worley said she would advertise it on the town Facebook page as well as the town website. Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett suggested letting Town Administrator Leighanna Worley advertise online to solicit interest.

Councilmember Phillip Wright said that he has served 2 terms as mayor and if Council chooses to select him as the replacement, he is okay with that decision.

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett asked if anyone else would be interested in filling the position as mayor and no one showed interest.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett and seconded by Councilmember Randy Jernigan to appoint Phillip Wright as the Mayor of Wilson's Mills effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember David McGowan thanked former Mayor Jim Uzzle for everything that he has done. He wished Mr. Uzzle happiness and health in the future.

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett said with the new mayor appointed, it is time to fill the councilmember seat that is now vacant. He suggested the process of applications again.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to allow for applications to be turned in until March 31, 2021 to fill the vacant Councilmember position. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett asked Town Administrator Leighanna Worley to get an application ready and posted on the town website. Ms. Worley said she will have it on the website and Facebook page by Wednesday.

At the direction of the attorney, Mayor Phillip Wright took over the meeting.

1st OPEN FORUM

Mayor Wright opened the 1st Open Forum at 7:14pm.

With no one wishing to speak Mayor Wright closed the 1st Open Forum at 7:15pm.

REGULAR BUSINESS

MAYOR PHILLIP WRIGHT – Mayor and Sewer Report:

Review/Discussion of Agreement with Johnston County

Mayor Wright deferred to Town Administrator Leighanna Worley for a sewer update. Ms. Worley referenced her report about meeting with County Manager Rick Hester. She spoke about the county's plan to update the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and said that the County will not be doing their own feasibility study and they would like to go back to the discussion of the interlocal agreement they have with the town. The County wanted to update the agreement and have the town take over water and sewer within a 5-year period. Ms. Worley said she met with Attorney Du Sablon as well as Chad Sary and Brian Leonard to discuss options on how to move forward. She said the best step would be to reach out to Triangle J Council of Government to see what it would mean for the town to take over water and sewer in the next 5 years.

Attorney Du Sablon said that the county seems to be pushing to update the current agreement. He said one article in the agreement does say for the town to take over water and sewer in 5 years. He agreed with Ms. Worley about looking at other sources to get outside help with what it would entail.

Councilmember David McGowan asked why this is coming up now instead of in the distant future. Attorney Du Sablon said that the current agreement was in 2017 and stated 40 years or when the town pays off the grant received for the sewer. He said that the new agreement proposed would supersede the old one. Town Administrator Leighanna Worley said that in the current agreement it is stated that the county takes it back when the loan is paid off, but the new agreement would allow us to keep control of the water and sewer.

Mayor Wright asked if there was any further discussion and there was none.

Discussion of Appointed Liaison for Public Works Department

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett suggested that Councilmember Randy Jernigan take over as the liaison for the Public Works Department. Mayor Pro-tem Triplett stated that he is willing to take over as the liaison for sewer. Councilmember Randy Jernigan accepting the position as liaison for the Public Works Department.

COUNCILMEMBER RANDY JERNIGAN – Public Works Department Report:

Councilmember Randy Jernigan introduced Patrick Moore who recently began working as the Public Works Supervisor. Councilmember Jernigan referenced the report in Council's packets. He said that the Public Works Department has been working to paint the speedbumps in Lockwood Subdivision as well as doing inventory on supplies in the department. He asked if there were any questions and there were none.
Town Administrator Leighanna Worley commended Mr. Moore on his work in the department. She stated that the maintenance truck was repaired last week, and the repairs were not as serious as previously anticipated. She stated that the total price was $450. Ms. Worley also said that at the first budget session on Thursday she plans to bring suggestions to council on how to move forward with the maintenance truck. She stated that Mr. Moore will be meeting the Town Engineer soon to discuss Poplar Creek.

Councilmember David McGowan thanked the Public Works Department for their work on picking up trash around town.

MAYOR PHILLIP WRIGHT – Events Report

Mayor Phillip Wright said that the Events Committee met last week, and they discussed having drive-in movie nights in the future. Councilmember David McGowan asked if there was still a plan to purchase the necessary equipment and Town Administrator Leighanna Worley stated that she is still waiting on prices and then the committee will review and decide how to move forward.

COUNCILMEMBER CAROLYN DOBBIN – Planning Report:

Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin said at the last Planning Board meeting they welcomed new member Jay Mouser. Councilmember Dobbin referenced the staff report and said at the last meeting Development Compliance Officer Wendy Oldham gave an update on the fees for Millcreek phase 2. She said that Chad Sary gave updates on changes to the UDO and that these changes were mandatory. The deadline to comply to these changes is July 1, 2021.

COUNCILMEMBER DAVID McGOWAN – Police Department Report:

Councilmember David McGowan deferred to Chief Williams. Chief Williams referenced his report in Council's packets. He asked if there were any questions and there were none.

Discussion of Vehicle #12 Rotation/Repair

Chief Williams said that vehicle #12 is a 2014 Dodge Charger that currently has around 80,000 miles on it. The vehicle currently has severe engine damage and said the options are to replace the engine outright or repair it. He said he has received estimates for both options. Chief also said that vehicle #11 is in poor condition and wanted to know how to move forward.

Councilmember David McGowan said that he would prefer not to have the engine replaced but would rather have it repaired. He recommended to repair vehicle 12 with the lesser bid as long as there is a 90 warranty on parts and labor. He agreed that #11 is in bad condition and recommended replacing #11 immediately with a new vehicle.

Mayor Wright asked if there was a possibility of other damage t vehicle 12. Chief said that the shops he received estimates from think it is just the crank shaft.

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett said he would rather see vehicle 12 replaced. Councilmember David McGowan said he is okay with that but expressed concerns about the cost. Chief Williams said that if a new vehicle is purchased then vehicle 12 would become a backup vehicle only used for part-time officers or if another vehicle is out for maintenance. He said there are no other issues with vehicle 12 at this time. Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett said that he is okay with replacing the shaft after hearing more about the condition of the vehicle.

Chief Williams said that vehicle 11 has 129,000 miles and is not expected to last much longer. Councilmember David McGowan asked what vehicle would be purchased if vehicle 11 were to be replaced. Chief Williams said based on past discussions with Council an SUV would be considered.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to give authority to Town Administrator Leighanna Worley to start bids for new a new vehicle as well as repair vehicle 12. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT – Sherry Hudson:

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

Review of Financial Statements – February 2021:

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

Councilmember David McGowan stated that he noticed in the report that revenues are up and asked what attributed to that. Finance Officer Sherry Hudson said that ad valorum taxes have been paid on time which has helped elevate revenues but there are other areas that have helped make revenue higher overall.

ORDIANCE to Correct Budget Amendment #2

Finance Officer Sherry Hudson explained that the ordinance in Council's packets is to correct the ordinance from last month. She stated that last month she accidentally omitted part of the tables so that ordinance was not complete. She also stated that this is amendment #2 rather than #1 as it was labeled last month.

Councilmember David McGowan asked if the omission effected the overall budget as a whole and Finance Officer Sherry Hudson said it did not.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Randy Jernigan to accept the Ordinance to Correct Budget Amendment #2. Motion carried unanimously.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Leighanna Worley:

Town Administrator Leighanna Worley referenced her report in Council's packets. She stated that she has an update on the maintenance building that is to be built at town hall. She stated the building kit from Premier Builders has been ordered and will arrive in 16-20 weeks. Ms. Worley said that she has spoken with Johnston County Building Inspections and according to North Carolina General Statutes any structure costing over $30,000 requires a general contractor. Johnston County Building Inspections also requires the general contractor to turn in several plans. Originally the town planned to put out separate bids for plumbing, electrical, etc. but now we are required to put out one bid for a general contractor and the general contractor will work on each individual requirement. Ms. Worley said she is trying to figure out if an architectural design is also required. If it is required, that would also fall under the general contractor. She said that she is planning to get recommendations from the inspections office.

Councilmember David McGowan asked about the requirement of a brick façade. Town Administrator Leighanna Worley said that Development Compliance Officer Wendy Oldham as well as Chad Sary have reviewed the town ordinances and a facade is required because of where the building is going to be located.

Councilmember David McGowan asked when the building is set to be finished and Ms. Worley said the kit will arrive by August so hopefully the building will be up by the end of the fall.

Approval of Grant Agreement

Town Administrator Leighanna Worley referenced information in Council's packets about a grant received from the general assembly. She said that the grant is administered by the Department of Commerce and is for downtown revitalization. She said that the funds can be used for signage in town and suggested replacing the

3 existing welcome signs that are currently in town. She said that if there are any funds left over, she would like to see a sign at the park as well. Councilmember David McGowan asked that the signs would be made of. Ms. Worley said they would be monument signs made of stone or masonry. She is hoping to get signs that can be changed in the future when a logo and branding is decided on.

A motion was made by Councilmember Randy Jernigan and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to accept the grant from the Department of Commerce. Motion carried unanimously.

2nd OPEN FORUM: Mayor Wright opened the 2nd Public Forum at 8:05pm.

With no one wishing to speak, Mayor Uzzle closed the 2nd Open Forum at 8:06pm.

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.

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PHILLIP WRIGHT, Mayor

ATTEST:

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