

**MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL**  
**October 13, 2020**  
**Whitsett Town Hall Building**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at the Whitsett Town Hall. The following members of the Town Council were present: Mayor Richard Fennell, Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice, and Council Members Cindy Wheeler and Lee Greeson. Absent was Council Member Jamie King.

Also present were Town Administrator Ken Jacobs, *The Alamance News* reporter Tomas Murawski, and two Town residents. Absent was Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia.

Mayor Fennell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., noted that a quorum was present; and asked Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice to offer the invocation.

**SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR**

Mayor Fennell asked for any speakers from the floor, and no one asked to be acknowledged.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Adoption of the Minutes**

Mayor Fennell asked for any changes to the minutes from the September 8, 2020 regular monthly meeting; and hearing none, asked for a motion to adopt the minutes. A motion to adopt the minutes as written was made by Council Member Cindy Wheeler; motion seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson. The motion to adopt the September minutes passed by unanimous vote of those present.

**2. Any Other Old Business**

Mayor Fennell asked if there were any other old business; and there was none.

## **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **1. Planning Board**

With the cancellation of last week's Planning Board meeting, there was nothing to report.

### **2. Enforcement Officer**

Enforcement Officer Ken Jacobs reported that there had been no enforcement activity since last month's Council meeting, and no development clearance certificates had been issued.

### **3. Town Administrator**

Town Administrator Jacobs reported that he had been contacted by Evans Engineering who is the contractor hired by local builder Keystone Group for the Hudson Way senior community. Evans approached the Town with respect to the roadways within the residential development. Rather than the public roads being deeded to the state, would the Town consider the streets being private, so Evans could run water and sewer lines under the routes.

In addition and most notable, this move would place the onus for street maintenance in the lap of Whitsett. The Town has no desire, means, or manpower to take on roadway maintenance; and this reckoning caused Jacobs to deliver to Evans a flat "No"! Afterwards, however, Jacobs called Gibsonville Town Manager Ben Baxley for his take, who unequivocally corroborated the Town's stance.

Jacobs fears this may be only the beginning of Keystone and Evans attempts at trying for concessions or alterations to the original conditions set forth with developer Paul Milam almost two years ago. Jacobs emphatically stated that "a deal is a deal," and that no changes should be made to the executed agreement with Milam and subsequent meetings with Milam and Keystone on understanding conditions before the absolute sell-out to Keystone was finalized.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Intergovernmental Agreement for Coronavirus Relief Funding**

Town Administrator Jacobs stated that the Town is still hoping to apply for its full COVID-19 relief funds allotment of \$10,180 out of \$97 million available to Guilford County. With the eligibility requirements for reimbursement being so stringent, the Town is reaching out to local churches, schools, civic organizations, non-profits, charities, etc., for direct coronavirus expenditure needs that the Town could assist with.

Although Jacobs wants to consider all requests, particularly from units within corporate limits, he is inclined to omit requests from the one school in Town— Greater Vision Academy [a new private Christian school] on Brightwood Church Road—because it has ignored Town notifications first in October 2019 and again in January 2020 citing violation of its entrance sign. To date, no attempt to even contact the Town has been made; and no corrective action to bring the sign up to code has been exhibited.

Mayor Fennell asked for a motion to authorize Town Administrator Jacobs to proceed with canvassing organizations. Jacobs will then assemble invoices for Council Members to review and approve before submitting the claim to Guilford County in accordance with the executed interlocal agreement. A motion to this effect, was made by Council Member Lee Greeson; motion seconded by Mayor Fennell. The motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

**2. Any Items from Council Members**

Mayor Fennell asked for any items from Council Members; and no one offered comment.

**3. Announcements**

Mayor Fennell asked for any announcements; and there were none.

**4. Speakers from the Floor**

Mayor Fennell asked for any speakers from the floor, and no one asked to be recognized.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Council, Mayor Fennell invited a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice made the motion to adjourn; motion seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson. The motion carried; and the October 13, 2020 Town Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at the Whitsett Town Hall.

/s/

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Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

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Richard Fennell, Mayor

**APPROVED:** November 10, 2020