

**TOWN OF WEDDINGTON  
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2009 - 6:00 P.M.  
MINUTES**

The Town Council of the Town of Weddington, North Carolina, met in a Special Session at the Weddington Town Hall, 1924 Weddington Road, Weddington, NC 28104 on March 9, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Nancy D. Anderson presiding.

Present: Mayor Nancy D. Anderson, Councilmembers L.A. Smith, Tommy Price and Jerry McKee, Town Attorney Anthony Fox, Finance Officer Leslie Gaylord and Town Administrator/Clerk Amy S. McCollum.

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Robert Gilmartin

Visitors: Miriam Lowery, Billy Ball, Werner Thomisser, Walton Staton, Ken Dowd.

**Item No. 1. Open the Meeting.** Mayor Nancy D. Anderson called the March 9, 2009 Special Town Council Meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

**Item No. 2. Determination of Quorum.** There was a quorum.

Mayor Anderson welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the purpose of this meeting is to have a joint meeting with the Union County Commissioners. The Commissioners did not have a quorum at the beginning of the meeting. Commissioner Tracy Kuehler and Vice-Chairwoman Kim Rogers were able to attend and advised that they would forward the information received at tonight's meeting to the rest of the Commission. Mayor Anderson presented the Commissioners with a packet of information which included contact information for the Council and staff, History of Weddington and a Welcome Magazine.

**Item No. 3. Presentation of Weddington Municipal Goals and Short-Term Plans.**

**A. Development of Local Area Regional Transportation Plan (LARTP).** Mayor Anderson – We are working with Waxhaw, Marvin and Wesley Chapel on a Local Area Regional Transportation Plan. We are on track to finish that plan by July. Weddington thought that this was so important that we actually imposed a moratorium until we have our transportation plan in place. Our purpose is the protection of right-of-way. Weddington is not going to be in the road building business. We do need to tell people where the roads need to be. Most of our main thoroughfares are already in place. We hope to improve upon our collector streets. Our moratorium should be lifted in July. The Town did incorporate the text changes that were developed by Union County Public Schools to have the same standards of school development throughout Union County. I am going to put you on notice about one item relative to this subject. Do not let the School Board build a school on Cox Road unless they include in that plan how they are going to improve the traffic flow there. I think it has been shown that you cannot rely on NCDOT to get those changes made. Weddington's goal is to maximize efficiency and minimize cost to the taxpayers. We partner when we do that and it has been very successful. We contract with the Union County Sheriff's Department for public safety, we subsidize the Providence VFD, we actually bought the ambulance that sits at the Wesley Chapel VFD, the Optimist Park and Weddington Swim and Racquet provide parks and recreation to the Town and volunteers assist the Town with roadside cleanup. Our schools are supported by parent volunteers. We do not have Library services. We are hoping that is something we can partner with the County. We do a lot and we do it efficiently and at a low cost to the taxpayers. There are opportunities to keep that partnership going.

Councilmember Jerry McKee asked what was the purpose of forming a Union County Transportation Committee.

Commissioner Kuehler – This originated from MUMPO members coming and saying we understand how important it is for us to represent Union County as a whole at MUMPO and DOT meetings. What we attempted to do was to get involvement from the people that live and drive the roads whether it is a citizen or the MUMPO representative. This is a grassroots effort to see what the concerns are, where are the biggest traffic issues and where are the traffic issues going to be based on future growth. Get that information together, work with the Technical Coordinating Committee on the technical issues and then give recommendations of where the biggest problems are, what needs to be done now and in the future and come before the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) with that. At that point, the BOCC can turn around and meet with the MUMPO and RPO representatives to see where the County stands in the big picture so we are all asking for the same thing.

Vice-Chairwoman Rogers - We needed to be on the same page and have a stronger united voice.

Councilmember McKee - What kind of influence will this committee have?

Commissioner Kuehler - The TCC and MUMPO can help say that this is a project that will have a good chance of being funded. Once you have the list of what you want, you can weed it down to what is feasible and to what will get a look at in Raleigh. Once that is put together, you need to prioritize by the BOCC and then in turn that list will go to the MUMPO representatives so that when they go up they are saying that these are our projects. It is going to require work. MUMPO includes Charlotte and Union County. Obviously Mecklenburg's votes outnumber us and that is the way it is. The louder Mecklenburg gets the better for us because we are included in that group. When Mecklenburg County sees that we are serious about our own transportation issues and we are on the same page, then I believe they are going to advocate for us.

**B. Development of Downtown Core with Library as the Anchor.** Councilmember Smith - We have had a Downtown Committee for quite a while. We recently restructured it to include quite a few of our residents. They are bringing excellent ideas, insight and expertise to the table. A lot of legwork has been done in looking at where we want our downtown to be. There has been a lot of discussion about the location but in every discussion it has been agreed upon that the library is crucial to having a successful downtown. I know that we have had some discussions about this in the past. We have had talks with Waxhaw about their own desire for a library and they also want it to be a part of their downtown core. I think there is a case to be made for both. Our shopping center right now is our only commercial area and our land use plan defines that as our only place that we will have commercial. This shopping center is in trouble. Not necessarily of its own making. With the construction along Providence Road and Highway 84, people are going to have a hard time getting out of there once they get in if they bother to go in. The construction has kept people away.

Mayor Anderson - We are looking to see how we might enhance what we have. We are surrounded by commercial at our borders. We do not feel that we need to add a whole lot of retail. We may want some restaurants and couple of offices but we are not looking for another CVS.

Commissioner Parker Mills arrived at 6:32 p.m. so the BOCC had a quorum and opened their meeting.

Councilmember Smith discussed a possible connection road from Providence Road to Weddington-Matthews Road.

Mayor Anderson discussed the need for water and sewer and the Town's desire for a library.

Commissioners Mills discussed briefly that the County is pursuing a Conditional Use Permit with the Town in the near future for a possible water tower.

Councilmember Smith - The biggest way that the County can help us is through a library.

Mayor Anderson – We want to build what we can afford.

**C. Maintain Residential Character.** Councilmember Price explained that the Town has worked very hard to maintain its residential rural character and the set aside of open space. The biggest draws to Weddington are low taxes, rural character and good schools.

**Item No. 4. How Union County Can Better Serve the Town of Weddington.**

**A. Fire Districts.** Mayor Anderson – The issue of fire districts comes up every year for us. I know there have been starts and stops on the fire districts.

The County advised that they have commissioned an RFP for a fire study that should address what the best course of action should be and hope for June of next year for implementation. The County has asked that the study evaluate adequate service, appropriate funding and adequate fire lines.

Councilmember Price discussed that a lot of residents are paying twice for fire service.

Mayor Anderson - Our goal is to provide the best possible fire service and for the volunteer fire departments to cooperate rather than to compete.

**B. Water and Sewer.** Mayor Anderson - I do hope that the County is looking at water conservation issues such as the purple pipe technology and the use of reclaimed water. The technology is out there. Also, when the sewer allocation policy was formed and the capacity at Six Mile Creek was taken from Weddington and sent elsewhere in the County, what is now going to happen with that allocation since that property is not going to be developed and is in foreclosure? Does it stay with the property?

County officials advised that this matter was being looked at.

**Item No. 5. Suggestions for County Process Improvements That Will Assist the Town of Weddington.**

Mayor Anderson - When we call the County staff, we get excellent response - always professional, courteous and on time. We find the Mayors Commissioners Issues Conference to be extremely helpful. The one issue that could be improved upon is that we would like to be notified when County utilities are being run through the Town.

**Item No. 6. Adjournment.** Councilmember McKee moved to adjourn the March 9, 2009 Special Town Council Meeting. All were in favor, with votes recorded as follows:

AYES:	Councilmembers Smith, Price and McKee
NAYS:	None

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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Nancy D. Anderson, Mayor

Attest:

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Amy S. McCollum, Town Clerk