

TOWN OF WEDDINGTON
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.
WEDDINGTON TOWN HALL
1924 WEDDINGTON ROAD WEDDINGTON, NC 28104
AGENDA

Prayer – Haven O. Anderson, Pastor, Marvin AME Zion Church

1. Open the Meeting
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Determination of Quorum
4. Additions, Deletions and/or Adoption of the Agenda
5. Mayor/Councilmember Reports
6. Public Comments
7. Public Safety Report
8. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approve Proclamation 2021-04 In Recognition of Union EMS and National EMS Week
 - B. Appoint Leamon Brice as Interim Zoning Administrator
 - C. Appoint Janet Peirano as Interim Stormwater Administrator
9. Approval of Minutes
 - A. March 22, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes
 - B. March 30, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes
 - C. April 12, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
 - D. April 13, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes
 - E. April 23, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes
10. Fire Service Budget Presentation
11. Old Business
 - A. Discussion of Preliminary FY2021-2022 Budget
12. New Business
 - A. Update from Bonnie Fisher on Park Green
 - B. Discussion and Consideration of Contract for Plaza
 - C. Discussion and Consideration of Landscaping Proposal from Lambeth Marshall for Park Property
 - D. Discussion and Consideration of Personnel Handbook Changes
13. Update from Town Planner
14. Code Enforcement Report
15. Update from Finance Officer and Tax Collector
16. Transportation Report
17. Council Comments
18. Adjournment

**TOWN OF WEDDINGTON
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.
WEDDINGTON TOWN HALL
MINUTES
PAGE 1 OF 6**

Prayer – Haven O. Anderson, Pastor, Marvin AME Zion Church

1. Open the Meeting

Mayor Callis called the May 10, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Council led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Determination of Quorum

Quorum was determined with all Councilmembers present: Mayor Elizabeth Callis, Mayor Pro Tem Janice Propst, Councilmembers Jeff Perryman, Anne Pruitt, and Mike Smith.

Staff: Town Clerk/Interim Administrator Karen Dewey, Finance Officer Leslie Gaylord, Town Attorney Jennifer Nancarrow, Sheriff's Deputy Joe Kropp

Visitors: Janet Peirano, Bonnie Fisher, Steven McLendon,

4. Additions, Deletions and/or Adoption of the Agenda

Mayor Callis requested to move all of item 9. Approval of Minutes to item 8. Consent Agenda and to switch items 12.A. Update from Bonnie Fisher on Park Green and 12.B. Discussion and Consideration of Contract for Plaza.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Janice Propst made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended.

Vote: The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

5. Mayor/Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Pruitt reported that at the bid opening for the Solid Waste RFP at Marvin Village Hall on Friday, 3 companies presented bids. The bids came out less than \$20 for combined weekly trash and recycling pick-up.

Councilmember Perryman reported that at the April WUMA meeting in Marvin the delegates discussed alternate funding for roads with an NCDOT representative. They plan to carry the discussion over to the May meeting and address the cost overruns with delayed projects. He gave an update on HB 496, a bill that rescinds all local tree ordinances and requires that any future ordinances be approved only by legislative act of the General Assembly. He urged that residents reach out to the Union County representatives and ask them to oppose this bill. Councilmember Perryman also reported that SB 349, the bill that would eliminate single-family only zoning, has stalled in committee.

6. Public Comments

No Public Comments

7. Public Safety Report

Deputy Kropp reported that Weddington Elementary School is planning to modify the driveway when school is out to help with the traffic back-up at release time. He stated that they are still receiving speeding complaints and the Deputies are writing tickets. He reminded residents that may be going out of town to sign up for the residential check on the town website.

8. Consent Agenda

- A. Approve Proclamation 2021-04 In Recognition of Union EMS and National EMS Week
- B. Appoint Leamon Brice as Interim Zoning Administrator
- C. Appoint Janet Peirano as Interim Stormwater Administrator
- D. *March 22, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes*
- E. *March 30, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes*
- F. *April 12, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes*
- G. *April 13, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes*
- H. *April 23, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes*

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Propst made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

Vote: The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

9. Fire Service Budget Presentation

Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Chief Steven McLendon discussed the proposed enhanced fire services and the different budget options for services.

Councilmember Pruitt thanked Chief McLendon and asked if a Weddington resident is in an accident, would they be denied care if the Town chooses not to participate in the Enhanced Services. Fire Chief McLendon apologized for the misstatement in his presentation and clarified that the Enhanced Services would not answer calls in the municipal limits of Weddington, if Weddington chose not to participate in the Enhanced Services. He stated that budget requirements limit one municipality funding for services in another municipality. His budget pro-rates the cost sharing. If Weddington doesn't want to fund the Enhanced Services, they cannot receive the services.

Councilmember Perryman asked if the County currently has plans to increase EMS services county wide in response to the increase in medical calls. Chief McLendon responded that Union County is discussing that with EMS. They are struggling with staffing on ambulances. Councilmember Perryman also asked about the examples of sharing expenses in the presentation. Chief McLendon explained that the entire Wesley Chapel Fire District includes part of Indian Trail, a small portion of unincorporated Union County, the Village of Marvin, and Wesley Chapel, and that is 66.5% of his budget. The Weddington Municipal Fire District makes up the remaining 33.5% of his budget.

Ms. Gaylord asked how the rest of the District's cost is being paid for and if there would be an increase in fire tax. Chief McLendon responded that it would increase and the County Commissioners would set the rate.

Council discussed the service areas for the proposed enhanced services with Chief McLendon. Councilmember Smith asked about the difference in capabilities between EMT and advanced EMT. Chief McLendon responded that EMT basic is what the stations currently have. The difference is in the various treatments each can administer. EMT basic can use epinephrine, Narcan, oxygen, and glucose and they can only treat conscious victims and perform other basic first aid. Advanced EMTs may start IVs, give medications for strokes, cardiac events, and give other on scene patient care to conscious or unconscious patients. WCVFD has 5 Firefighters that are trained paramedics in other agencies. They are not permitted to use the paramedic skills when working as firefighters. They need authorization from the Medical Director for Union County and Union EMS to enhance the capabilities of the WCVFD. Councilmember Smith asked Chief McLendon to send a detailed email describing the differences in the levels of EMT training.

Councilmember Smith asked how this program will be scheduled. Chief McLendon responded that it would be 12-hour shifts with employees submitting availability a month in advance and fill in the open spots. Councilmember Smith asked what will happen if nobody signs up for a shift. Chief McLendon responded that the WCVFD is responsible for having adequate personnel on duty. They have to provide a 24/7 service, or the department will lose credentials.

Councilmember Pruitt asked how many trained personnel this service will take. Chief McLendon responded that it would be about 15 personnel, some are current employees, and some will need to be hired and trained.

Councilmember Smith asked if the units will be available to offer mutual aid to other districts. Chief McLendon responded that they will under certain circumstances. For example, if there is a major fire in Waxhaw tying up the fire trucks and at the same time there is a medical emergency somewhere in Waxhaw, and this is the closest available unit, the unit will respond. This is not structured as a supplement to or enhancement of ambulance service. Those responsibilities are different. This is an enhancement to the fire district. Councilmember Smith asked if there is a charge for mutual aid. Since this is an additional service that Weddington is asked to pay for, would WCVFD charge the town/individual given mutual aid. Chief McLendon responded that WCVFD doesn't do billing. It isn't something that happens often. Councilmember Pruitt asked what the difference between offering mutual aid to Waxhaw, who doesn't pay for the proposed enhanced service, and servicing Weddington residents who don't pay is.

Councilmember Perryman stated that any enhancement and better service for the citizens is great. He asked why the county hasn't done more to increase EMS service. Chief McLendon responded that based on discussions he's had, there are plans to work on that. Option 3 of the enhanced service options helps WCVFD address overlapping calls and response times while the County gets rolling on improving their service.

Mayor Callis asked Chief McLendon to review the service options. She asked Chief McLendon what the County was opting for. Chief McLendon responded that in order for the advanced level of service to work, both County and Town of Weddington have to buy in. He presented 3 options for budgeting:

- Option 1 offers 2 advanced units with the advanced service model.
- Option 2 offers 2 units, but only one EMT basic level.
- Option 3 offers 1 unit with 2 EMTs, a non-advanced level of care. It will provide additional EMTs in the field and will help with overlapping calls. The next phase would add a 2nd unit and would transition to an advanced unit.

Councilmember Pruitt asked the difference between option 1 and the plan that was originally presented. Chief McLendon responded that the timeline for option 1 shifted to a 6 month budget rather than the entire year.

Councilmember Pruitt asked when the Rea Road Station construction would begin. Chief McLendon responded that it has started and is expected to be completed in January 2022.

Ms. Gaylord asked when protocols would be in place to provide all the services the department will be capable of doing. Chief McLendon responded that protocols have already started and can be complete within a couple of months. All protocols would be synched before January.

Councilmember Perryman asked, referring to the options presented, if the cost includes vehicles or outfitting the vehicles. Chief McLendon answered that the plan is to use existing pickup trucks that will be retrofitted with the medical supplies and equipment. There will be an initial charge for consumable supplies. Councilmember Perryman asked how the cost of continuation training is factored in. Chief McLendon responded that it is 100% covered by the community college system.

Mayor Callis asked how this would fit in the budget. Ms. Gaylord stated that based on the scenarios presented, all show a budget deficit, but it is from pre-saved money. There is room to have additional expenditures. Councilmember Perryman asked how much extra will be added to Weddington expenses. Ms. Gaylord responded that it would add \$176,000 for a year in addition to the \$800,000 normal budget.

Councilmember Pruitt asked Chief McLendon what kind of increase WCVFD anticipates. He responded that historically, increases have been between 1% and 2%. The only drastic increase would be at a point where WCVFD transitions from a part time employer to a full-time employer. They are the only fire department in Union County that doesn't have full time employees. They are able to successfully staff positions with volunteers and part time employees.

Ms. Gaylord asked if the enhanced service was a pilot program. Chief McLendon stated that it was being called that initially. The WCVFD wants to be sure the program will be justified.

Chief McLendon stated that implementing Option 3 will get the process of enhanced services rolling. It will allow the department to see how impactful adding the one unit is. There will be metrics in place to see how it is working.

Mayor Callis urged the Council to review the options presented by Chief McLendon.

10. Old Business

A. Discussion of Preliminary FY2021-2022 Budget

Ms. Gaylord presented the preliminary budget and different tax rate scenarios. The Council agreed to tentatively set the 2021-2022 tax rate at 4.8%. There is an increase in the UCSO budget, and the fire budget does not include the enhanced service. There is funding for an additional radar trailer.

11. New Business

A. Discussion and Consideration of Contract for Plaza and B. Update from Bonnie Fisher on Park Green

Bonnie Fisher, Town Engineer presented the single bid the Town received from WD Smith Grading for the grading and plaza improvements. She recommended awarding the project to WD Smith. She explained that options are to go with this bid or wait and bid with the park green in the fall or approach this contractor to give an estimate to expand their contract to include the park green. By bidding two phases together, it will be more efficient.

Ms. Gaylord asked about the timing of the work starting. Ms. Fisher responded that it would be about 2-3 weeks, it will be started before June 30. Council directed Ms. Fisher to get pricing on both projects together and move forward with the plaza grading.

B. Discussion and Consideration of Landscaping Proposal from Lambeth Marshall for Park Property

Staff received a quote for a landscape plan from Lambeth Marshall for work done on either side of the driveway behind town hall and around the plaza and open lawn area.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Propst made a motion to authorize Staff to enter in to contract with Lambeth Marshall for a Landscape Plan for the Park Plaza for an amount not to exceed \$600.00

Vote: The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

C. Discussion and Consideration of Personnel Handbook Changes

Council was presented a revised Employee Handbook at the February Regular Meeting. Staff recommends adopting the revised handbook to include amended language in the health insurance and retirement benefit section to read “*permanent* full-time employees and *permanent* employees that work at least 30 hours per week...”. Council discussed health insurance options for staff. With the adoption of the revised handbook, 401K eligibility is added for full-time permanent employees with over 30 hours/week.

Motion: Councilmember Perryman made a motion to adopt the Personnel Handbook revisions with the amended language to include “*permanent* full-time employees and *permanent* employees that work at least 30 hours per week” in Section G. Retirement and Section E. Health Insurance Benefits sections.

Vote: The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

12. Update from Town Planner

Ms. Dewey gave an update. Staff has received 5 resumes for the Town Administrator/Planner position. The payment for moving the utility poles has been sent and staff will get a timeline on the work.

13. Code Enforcement Report

14. Update from Finance Officer and Tax Collector

Ms. Gaylord presented the update: Staff has received proposals from different banks and will bring a recommendation to the Council at the next meeting. Council will also be presented with a 2020-2021 Budget Amendment that will include the funding for the interim planner, the interim administrator, a radar trailer, and the grading for the park plaza.

15. Transportation Report

Nothing to report.

16. Council Comments

Mayor Pro Tem Propst: Thank you staff for stepping into the new roles and all you do for our town.

Councilmember Perryman: Thanks again to everybody and let's look forward to an improving year as we move along.

Mayor Callis: Thank you staff for all your expert work.

17. Adjournment

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Propst made a motion to adjourn the May 10, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Vote: The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Approved: June 14, 2021

Karen Dewey
Karen Dewey, Town Clerk

Elizabeth Callis
Elizabeth Callis, Mayor



**TOWN OF WEDDINGTON
PROCLAMATION
P-2021-04**

WHEREAS, Union EMS was founded in 1985 and has grown to include nearly 150 Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians providing full Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support services to the nearly 250,000 residents of Union County; and,

WHEREAS, Union EMS has for more than 35 years continuously served the citizens of Union County and,

WHEREAS, Union EMS offers additional healthcare services through programs such as the Community Paramedicine Program, S.R.T. Paramedics, who serve alongside the Union County Sheriff's Office, and other specialty service areas; and,

WHEREAS, Union County EMS responds to more than 22,000 calls per year; and,

WHEREAS, Union EMS is meeting the challenges of modern healthcare working to be a progressive and evidence-based healthcare provider; and,

WHEREAS, 2020 was an extraordinary year for EMS and first responders nationwide; and,

WHEREAS, the COVID 19 pandemic has caused a tremendous strain on Paramedics and EMTs who have seen increased call volume, increased strain on resources, and increased stress from dealing with a large number of sick patients; and,


WHEREAS, while the COVID-19 pandemic is a national healthcare crisis, the paramedics and EMTs of Union EMS have reported to duty day in and day out under these tough circumstances to continue to provide the highest quality of care to the citizens of Union County; and,

WHEREAS, the Covid-19 pandemic was met head on by Union EMS professionals who rose to the challenge and served our county well throughout the worst of the virus.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Elizabeth Callis, on behalf of the Town Council and Citizens of the Town of Weddington, in recognition of National EMS Week, hereby issue this Proclamation in recognition of the service and dedication of Union EMS personnel, and we extend our gratitude and appreciation to all Union EMS personnel. We congratulate Union EMS for a job well done.


Elizabeth Callis, Mayor

Attest:


Karen Dewey, Town Clerk

