

**TOWN OF WEDDINGTON
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2014 - 7:00 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 27, 2014, with Mayor Bill Deter presiding.

Present: Mayor Bill Deter, Mayor Pro Tem Don Titherington, Councilmembers Michael Smith, Pamela Hadley and Barbara Harrison, Finance Officer Leslie Gaylord and Town Administrator Amy McCollum

Absent: None

Visitors: Bill Price, Andy Stallings and Elton Hardy

Item No. 1. Open the Meeting. Mayor Bill Deter opened the March 27, 2014 Special Town Council Meeting at 7:01 p.m. There was a quorum.

Item No. 2. Review and Discussion of Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. Finance Officer Leslie Gaylord reviewed the proposed budget with the Town Council and advised that the items in yellow/shaded have changed. Ms. Gaylord updated the Council on estimated subdivisions fees which were provided by Jordan Cook and advised that without the purchase of the fire department, the Town probably would be in the plus by \$100,000 mainly due to subdivision fees and the increase in the sales tax revenues.

Items discussed:

- Two different tax rate scenarios (5 cents and 6 cents) were provided to the Town Council.
- After March 28, Town should know actuals for the fire department.
- Budget Amendment will be done either in May or June.
- Council discussed in detail the non-operating expenditures.
- Majority of Council agree that the Fire Department budgets should hold flat. Councilwoman Barbara Harrison requested that the Town meet with Providence VFD to review their budget line item by line item to see if this request will cause them to be unable to do something in the Town. Finance Officer Gaylord will communicate with the fire department that the Council would like for them to stay flat.
- What effects the Union County Revaluation will cause on the Town's budget in the future.
- Recent Fund Balance change of \$450,000 from Rea Road and the Library goes to the purchase of the Providence VFD.
- Cost to run the Town is approximately 1.5 cents.
- Should have estimates regarding the deputies by April 1 to determine if there is an increase.
- Council asked that the line item for Wesley Chapel Satellite station be removed from the budget along with \$3,500 for a radar sign.
- Council agreed to keep the \$1,500 for CERT Training and \$500.00 for miscellaneous items under the Public Safety budget.
- Mediation for the water tower is scheduled for April 10 and possible trial in May.
- Council was in agreement with amounts placed in the budget for events and the Historic Committee and thanked Councilwoman Harrison for her work to help bring community spirit and involvement.

- Councilwoman Hadley gave a brief update on items regarding Town Hall upgrades and maintenance that she plans to finalize this budget year and that she was still receiving prices on possible items that need to be considered for next year's budget such as painting of the Town Hall, etc. Councilwoman Harrison expressed concern over the condition of the paint on Town Hall.
- Council agreed to leave in the budget the purchase of a copier, upgraded telephone system, laptop for Amy McCollum, and Ipad for Leslie Gaylord. Ms. Gaylord advised that some of these items may be able to be purchased out of this year's budget.
- Staff and Council may pursue grants options for future landscaping needs for the medians and left funding in the budget in case a matching amount was needed from the Town.
- Councilwoman Hadley updated the Council that the pipe was in the roundabout for future electricity and water and would get pricing on what it would cost to be able to hook up water and electricity.
- Town Administrator McCollum will get further information regarding new Town banners such as what type of material is used, is installation included, lifespan of the banner, etc.
- Mayor Deter advised that he had spoken with everyone on the Planning Board except Jeff Perryman regarding the possible reduction in salaries for the Board. Mayor Deter recommended \$50.00 for the members and \$125.00 for the Chairman. These amounts would still be based on attendance at the meeting. Council was in agreement with the new amounts and asked that Mayor Deter again reach out to the Board letting them know the new amounts.
- Council discussed possible renovations to the garage for use by the Town deputies. Mayor Deter presented an idea of adding a wall in their current location to help with privacy. Councilmembers Hadley and Smith will work on this item and bring back a proposal to the Council.
- Town Administrator McCollum will provide further information regarding the need for a new website for the Town and whether there are any other functionality advantages to upgrading.
- Mayor Deter discussed the idea of taking the current Town newsletter which costs approximately \$10,000 per year and send out electronically. Council discussed their concerns that some people in Weddington are not on the computer like other areas and the older generation that does not use computers at all. Council at this time was not in favor of getting rid of the hard copy of the newsletter.
- Councilwoman Harrison discussed the idea of a Town historian that would be a volunteer but the Town would include a budget line item to cover their expenses. Councilwoman Harrison advised that if she could not get a volunteer position she would like to separate the Historic Preservation Commission from the Planning Board and have a new Committee.
- Town Administrator McCollum informed the Council of a proposal she received from COG for Code Enforcement Services. Council asked that approval of this proposal be placed on the April Town Council Agenda.
- Finance Officer Gaylord questioned whether the Town needed to increase the fund balance allocation for the purchase of the fire truck for Providence VFD since it appeared that it may be needed one year earlier than originally discussed. Councilwoman Hadley advised that she did not feel that the Council needed to increase the fund balance allocation. The Council also discussed would the Town own the fire truck once purchased and lease back to the fire department.
- Councilmember Smith questioned if the Council was going to give the requested increase to Wesley Chapel VFD for the area they are covering in the Town that they are not being compensated for. Councilwoman Hadley gave an update/history on this item. Councilmembers Smith and Hadley will meet with Leslie to discuss this item and will review contracts and maps to receive further clarification.
- Finance Officer Gaylord advised that the League usually does a bulletin on details regarding sales tax projections and would supply that to the Council once she receives.

Council asked that Finance Officer Gaylord make the changes to the budget and provide the Council with an update at their April Meeting and advised that she could take off the 6 cents budget scenario.

Item No. 3. Review and Consider Proposal from US Infrastructure and Authorize Staff to Approve Bids for Road Maintenance Items for the Williamsburg Subdivision. This item was not discussed and will be added to the April 14 Regular Town Council Agenda.

Item No. 4. Adjournment. Mayor Titherington moved to adjourn the March 27, 2014 Special Town Council Meeting. All were in favor, with votes recorded as follows:

AYES:	Councilmembers Smith, Hadley, Harrison and Mayor Pro Tem Titherington
NAYS:	None

Bill Deter, Mayor

Attest:

Amy S. McCollum, Town Clerk