

**TOWN OF WEDDINGTON
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2012 - 5:00 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 January 5, 2012, with Mayor Walker F. Davidson presiding.

Present: Mayor Walker F. Davidson, Mayor Pro Tem Daniel Barry, Councilmembers Werner Thomisser, Pamela Hadley and Barbara Harrison, Town Attorney Anthony Fox, Town Planner Jordan Cook and Town Administrator/Clerk Amy S. McCollum

Absent: None

Visitors: Ginger Edgeworth, Gene Melchior and Michael Smith

Item No. 1. Open the Meeting. Mayor Walker Davidson opened the January 5, 2012 Special Town Council Meeting at 5:01 p.m.

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

Item No. 3. Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) Presentation and Consideration of Direction on How to Proceed. The Town Council received a copy of a FEMA pamphlet dated February 2003 entitled Community Emergency Response Team and the following document entitled – Reactivating a CERT Team in Weddington:

What is CERT?

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event *when professional responders are not immediately available to help*. CERT members can also support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

How does CERT benefit the community?

People who go through CERT training have a better understanding of the potential threats to their home, workplace and community and can take the right steps to lessen the effects of these hazards on themselves, their homes or workplace. *If a disaster happens that overwhelms local response capability, CERT members can apply the training learned in the classroom and during exercises to give critical support to their family, loved ones, neighbors or associates in their immediate area until help arrives.* When help does arrive, CERTs provide useful information to responders and support their efforts, as directed, at the disaster site. CERT members can also assist with non-emergency projects that improve the safety of the community. CERTs have been used to distribute and/or install smoke alarms, replace smoke alarm batteries in the homes of elderly, distribute disaster education material, provide services at special events, such as parades, sporting events, concerts and more.

What liability protection is there for CERT volunteers? North Carolina general statutes (1-539.10 and 1-539.11) pertain to the protection of volunteers, which speaks directly about CERTs and MRCs and is vital to the viability of these programs.

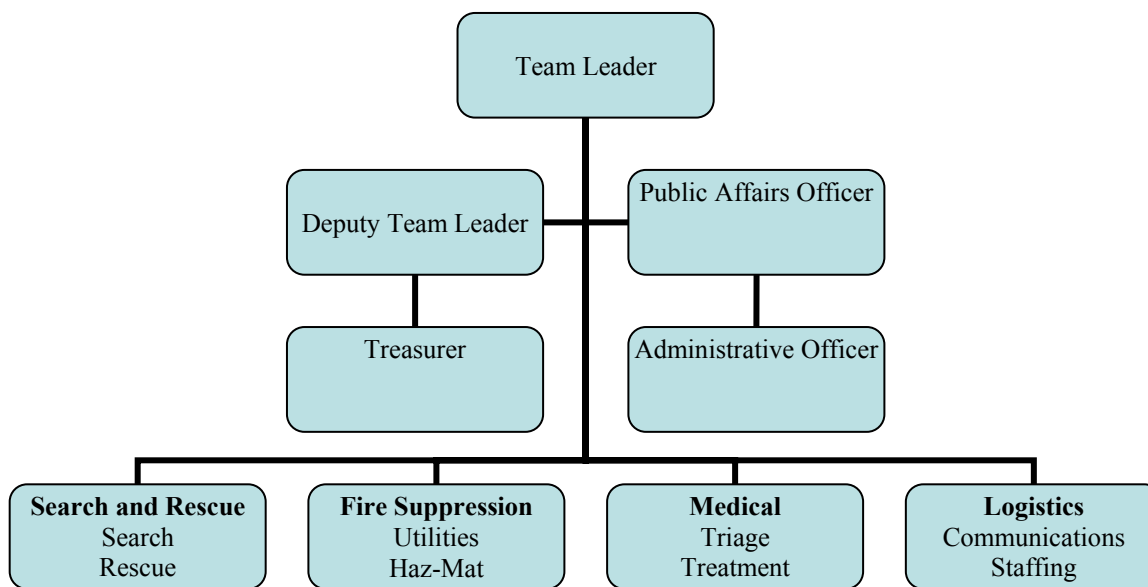
What do we need to do to reactive a CERT Team in Weddington?

- 1) We need a sponsor. This can be a Fire Dept, Sheriff / Police Dept or Town Council. We checked with Patty Moore, NC CERT Program Manager, has replied to my question about a sponsor and she confirmed that the Town Council can be a sponsor.
- 2) Revised and updated Weddington CERT Operations Manual.
- 3) Need to know level of interest of community. We cannot know what a CERT team can support until we know how many people are interested in being in CERT. We also need to know their skill / experience levels.
- 4) Once we know the interest from the community we can work up a training schedule. 21 hours of training are needed. This can be one Saturday a month for 9 months. This could be once a week for 9 weeks to get CERT team active ASAP. Then on we need to have annual training and any supplement training as needed.
- 5) We might want to look into a 3 tier level of interest within the community:
 - a. Tier 1- wants training but not interested in CERT
 - b. Tier 2 – wants training and would help with CERT but only during an emergency
 - c. Tier 3 – wants the total CERT program. These people would be CERT Team Leads, Section Leads, Trainers, etc.
- 6) We need a training facility that has the following: parking, indoor space for medical training, outdoor space for small fire suppression and light search / rescue.
- 7) We need Instructors for each discipline of training.
- 8) Need to retrieve all the CERT backpacks and resupply as needed for redistribution to new CERT team.
- 9) Need to register as a CERT team on the CERT web site.

What would a CERT Team structure look like?

An Emergency Manager, in the case for Weddington, this could be the Public Safety Chairman, would call out the CERT team and notify the Team Leader of the request for aid.

Potential Structure



Depending on the number of volunteers we can recruit, we can have multiple teams or sub teams. Each team could be assigned to a specific area of coverage in Weddington.

Within each Team we would have the structure below. Each Team Lead would be the Incident Commander.

Next Steps

- 1) We would need the full backing and commitment from the Town Council and our Sponsor.
- 2) We had a meeting with the Providence VFD and they would help us with training and would consider being our sponsor. We could also be sponsored by the Town Council if needed.
- 3) We would review and revise the Weddington CERT Operations Manual.
- 4) We would like to put a notice in the next available Weddington newsletter to ask the community if they are interested in being part of a CERT or would like some level of Emergency preparedness training.
- 5) Once we know the level of interest, we should know if Weddington could support a CERT program and what level of support and training we would need.
- 6) As for funding, there is the cost for training manuals and possibly trainers. We would ask that anyone attending the training session would pay for the cost of their own manuals. There is also a grant from Homeland Security where the State has received funding and we can request funding from this grant, either from the County or the State.

*Title of Opportunity: Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
Funding Opportunity Number: DHS-11-GPD-067-000-02
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 97.067*

7) The equipment expenses would depend on the number of members that complete training. The cost for each CERT backpack is around \$40 to \$50. This includes a hard hat, vest, and safety equipment. We already have a trailer and it already has some tools and equipment inside but more equipment might be needed, depending on how many members we get.

Mr. Michael Smith and Mr. Gene Melchior reviewed the CERT material with the Town Council.

Items discussed:

- There are many ways a CERT Team can operate. It depends on the needs of the community.
- The number of people that want to participate will determine what the team will be able to do.
- Training for the CERT Team is vital.
- Possible duties of the CERT Team - assist with Weddington Festival, traffic control, water rehab for firemen, identifying elderly citizens that may have problems getting out in emergency situations, etc.
- Program should be set up so that it can change/adjust to the changing needs of the community.
- First step would be to see if there is community interest.

Mayor Pro Tem Daniel Barry moved to support investigating if there is citizen interest in developing a Weddington CERT Team through the normal means of communication that the Town staff uses (website, newsletter, Constant Contact, etc.). All were in favor, with votes recorded as follows:

AYES:	Councilmembers Thomisser, Hadley, Harrison and Mayor Pro Tem Barry
NAYS:	None

Council thanked Mr. Smith and Mr. Melchior for their work on this project.

Item No. 4. Consideration of Guidelines for Weddington Citizen of the Year. The Town Council received the following memo from Town Administrator/Clerk Amy McCollum:

Earlier this year, I was contacted by a citizen with a request that the Town establish a Weddington Citizen of the Year process. The citizen also had a person in mind to be considered for this designation. The Council asked me in September to develop criteria/guidelines for a Weddington Citizen of the Year. I requested copies of criteria from other communities and I only received information from Cary. I have included their information for your review. Before proceeding, I wanted to get further feedback from the Town Council on how you wish to proceed on this request.

Councilmembers discussed the population differences between Weddington and Cary and felt that the program would be used as a popularity contest and not sure the Town's energy needed to be spent in this direction. Councilmembers also noted that other organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and COG do this type of recognition every year.

Mayor Davidson stated, "Is it our role? I do not think it is our job to do this. We are not going to make people happy. We have other things to do."

Mayor Pro Tem Barry moved to not move forward with the Citizen of the Year Guidelines and to notify the citizen that requested the Town to pursue. All were in favor, with votes recorded as follows:

AYES:	Councilmembers Thomisser, Hadley, Harrison and Mayor Pro Tem Barry
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NAYS: None

Item No. 5. Review and Consideration of Town Hall Landscaping/Pavilion Plan. The Town Council received the following:

- Copy of Diagram showing Community Pavilion and Stage
- Copy of Landscaping Plan
- Worksheet Detailing the Community Park and Events Facility's Function and Statistics
- Worksheet Detailing a Proposed Cost Estimate for the Project
- Information Regarding the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) Grant

Councilmember Thomisser discussed that surrounding communities have parks or are working on developing parks. He advised that he supported certain aspects of the plan. He stated, "We have a lot of things on our plate right now. I would like to move that we defer consideration of this item for six months and revisit at that time."

Mayor Pro Tem Barry - This has been floating around for a year. By deferring it for six months, we can deal with the other issues such as the Fire Department and if those issues come together appropriately then we can make the decision later on this.

Attorney Fox advised that Councilmember Thomisser could defer for 100 days per the Council Rules of Procedures.

Councilmember Barbara Harrison advised that she was not prepared to talk about the pavilion but is interested in the landscaping part of the project and wanted to get citizens to help fund some of the landscaping.

The Council discussed that they could also vote on a different plan in the future.

Councilmember Thomisser - I am not particularly supportive of the total project. We could reduce the project. This project would help with some of our smaller events and indirectly help the shopping center.

Mayor Davidson preferred to vote the project down and start from scratch and have the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board help with this project. He stated, "I am open to working on something else."

Councilmember Thomisser withdrew his motion but mentioned that the Town already has plans that were developed by a landscape architect.

Councilmember Harrison moved to not go forward with the Landscaping/Pavilion Plan as proposed. The vote on the motion is as follows:

AYES: Councilmembers Hadley, Harrison and Mayor Pro Tem Barry
NAYS: Councilmember Thomisser

Item No. 6. Review and Consideration of Possible Amendment to the Weddington Public Safety Advisory Committee Rules of Procedures Eliminating the Non-Voting Member Position. The Town Council received a copy of the proposed amendments to the Public Safety Advisory Committee Rules of Procedures:

Article III Membership

- 3-1 Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Town Council for designated terms. The Committee shall consist of two members of the Weddington Town Council and five additional residents of the Town. The five at-large members shall be referred to herein as at-large members.
- 3-2 Terms of members of the Committee serving elected office shall overlap with their elected terms. Therefore, for those members of the Committee serving terms on the Town Council, their term on the Committee shall correspond with the duration of their term on the Town Council. The at-large members shall serve four-year terms with three at-large members appointed to terms ending in odd numbered years, and two at-large members appointed to terms ending in even numbered years. ~~Non-voting members may be appointed by the Town Council; however, they will not be included in the determination of a quorum and will not have voting privileges. Non-voting members will also serve a four-year term unless determined otherwise by the Town Council.~~ The Secretary of the Committee shall request the Town Council to make appointments in accordance with this section at its regular December meeting.
- 3-3 All vacancies on the Committee shall be filled by Town Council appointment. All members appointed to fill an unexpired term shall serve for the duration of the unexpired term.

Councilmember Hadley moved to amend the Public Safety Advisory Committee Rules of Procedures to eliminate the non-voting member position.

Councilmember Thomisser - I have a hard time understanding why we would not want to draw someone in the community into the committee that can offer their expertise. They cannot vote and they cannot do any damage.

Councilmember Hadley felt that the Committee could call in guest speakers if they needed to and did not agree with a non-voting member especially when that person was not a resident of the Town.

Mayor Davidson - We should not create a position for someone outside of Weddington if there are applications on file for residents who want to serve. The committee could always ask someone to help.

All were in favor of the motion, with votes recorded as follows:

AYES:	Councilmembers Thomisser, Hadley, Harrison and Mayor Pro Tem Barry
NAYS:	None

Item No. 7. Discussion of NCDOT Estimates for Upgrades for the Traffic Circle at Weddington-Matthews Road and Highway 84. The Town Council received a letter dated November 4, 2011 from NCDOT Division Engineer Barry Moose regarding the proposed NC 84 and Matthews-Weddington Road (SR 1344) Roundabout and cost estimates on the following:

- Sidewalks along NC 84
- Irrigation to the center of the roundabout
- Items that can be placed inside the center of the roundabout
- Upgraded crosswalks and sign posts
- Extension of street lighting

Town Planner Jordan Cook updated the Council on this item. He discussed a conversation he had with NCDOT officials today. He stated, "Our conversation was based on the idea of what were to happen if the Town did not want the traffic circle. I was told that NCDOT has already spent \$75,000+ on the design.

NCDOT told me that the Town had previously told them that they wanted the traffic circle. The Congestion Management Team with NCDOT has said that the traffic circle was warranted. The traffic circle is estimated to cost approximately \$825,000. According to NCDOT work on the project will continue because the previous Council has endorsed it, NCDOT has spent money and the studies show that it will help with traffic congestion. It looks like the traffic circle is going to be built.”

Councilmember Harrison referred to a previous meeting where NCDOT officials informed the Town that a traffic circle was not warranted at this location. She discussed other states that she has worked in and advised that in those states they are eliminating the circles because of the death toll occurring on them. She stated, “I get a lot of emails regarding this. I would like to see how the data has changed since that meeting.”

Mayor Pro Tem Barry – There comes a point when a Council moves in a certain direction and NCDOT spends money and the project meets their objective that they cannot turn back.

Councilmember Thomisser – NCDOT - who are the professionals - have decided that this circle is needed. It may help slow down the traffic. I totally support this roundabout. I want us to consider running conduit to the circle to provide irrigation.

Councilmember Hadley - I started researching roundabouts and am warming up to the concept. Public education is very important. It is hard to determine what upgrades are needed if we do not know what is standard. I have read that they reduce accidents by 75%.

Mayor Davidson discussed the upgrades and whether the Town would want to place sidewalks down Weddington-Matthews Road to the access road as well.

Council asked that Town Planner Cook provide the following information at the February Meeting when NCDOT Division 10 Engineer Barry Moose is present to discuss the traffic circle and upgrades:

- Copy of the Feasibility Study and/or Congestion Management Study
- Pictures of the traffic circle and upgrades
- What is considered standard?

Item No. 8. Adjournment. Mayor Pro Tem Barry moved to adjourn the January 5, 2012 Special Town Council Meeting. All were in favor of the motion, with votes recorded as follows:

AYES:	Councilmembers Thomisser, Hadley, Harrison and Mayor Pro Tem Barry
NAYS:	None

The meeting ended at 6:07 p.m.

Walker F. Davidson, Mayor

Amy S. McCollum, Town Clerk