

**TOWN OF WEDDINGTON
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2011 - 4:00 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 April 28, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. with Mayor Nancy D. Anderson presiding.

Present: Mayor Nancy D. Anderson, Mayor Pro Tem Daniel Barry, Councilmembers Werner Thomisser, Robert Gilmartin and Jerry McKee, Finance Officer Leslie Gaylord and Town Administrator/Clerk Amy S. McCollum

Absent: None

Visitors: Richard Propst, Lib Propst and Barbara Harrison

Item No. 1. Open the Meeting. Mayor Nancy D. Anderson called the April 28, 2011 Special Town Council Meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. There was a quorum.

Item No. 2. Review and Discussion of Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. The Town Council received the Preliminary Operating Budget, Potential Non-Operating Expenditures and a copy of the Fund Balance Policy. Finance Officer Leslie Gaylord and the Town Council reviewed the worksheet regarding Potential Non-Operating Expenditures line by line. Finance Officer Gaylord advised that the Net Operating Revenues over Expenditures was \$377,000.

Council questioned whether State Collected Revenues were in jeopardy. Finance Officer Gaylord advised that she had not received information that the State Revenues were at risk but if they were the State usually withholds the last payment which would put the Town at a risk of approximately 25% of the State Revenues or \$150,000.

Providence VFD (Salaries and Training) – Finance Officer Gaylord advised the Council that she had reviewed the monthly statements for Providence and that it shows \$227,000 for salaries plus \$3,000 for training. She stated, “The forecast that they gave us shows \$271,000.”

The Council spoke regarding the possible merger between Wesley Chapel VFD and Providence VFD. Mayor Anderson stated, “The merger is the Town’s preference. Merging does not save money, it just gets the money from a different source. Their next meeting is on May 3rd. They believe they will know by August whether a merger is feasible. Leaders at the fire station were having a meeting today with the Fire Marshal and Building Inspector regarding interim solutions for sleeping quarters in lieu of the facility upgrades at this time. The modular unit that has been discussed will have to be sprinkled.”

The Council spoke that their intention is to support the Fire Department but that more information is needed before the Council helps to bring the fire station up to code.

It was discussed that Providence has not received a proposal from their architect to prepare the specifications and bid drawings for the upgrades to the fire station.

Councilmember Werner Thomisser moved that the Town not include in this year's budget or next year's budget the \$45,000 to Providence VFD for the consultant fees associated with completing the drawings

and specifications relative to the upgrades to the fire station until the Council has more information on the various options that are being explored.

Mayor Pro Tem Barry asked for a friendly amendment to say 2011 and 2012 instead of this year's budget or next year's budget.

Councilmember Thomisser accepted the amendment. The vote on the motion is as follows:

AYES: Councilmembers Thomisser, Gilmartin, McKee and Mayor Pro Tem Barry
NAYS: None

The Council reviewed the requests from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the events that they have planned. Finance Officer Gaylord advised that a budget amendment of \$5,000 may be needed for the Weddington Festival to allow for upfront costs associated with booking bands, etc. but the total for the festival is not to exceed \$20,000. Councilmember McKee asked that an additional \$500 be added for the decorating of an extra tree for the Tree Lighting Event.

Councilmember McKee discussed grounds and maintenance issues and that Daryl Matthews has started mowing the medians and that four feet from the edge of the sidewalk is not going to get to the trees that NCDOT has planted. He questioned if the Town Council wanted him to pursue getting an additional cost from Daryl to mow up to and around the trees planted on Providence Road. Mayor Anderson spoke regarding the program that is available for prisoners to mow the roads for the Town.

Councilmember McKee discussed the following proposal for lawn maintenance along sidewalks and medians on Providence Road and Rea Road and that this proposal would be for approximately 29 mowings a year. He stated, "If the Town Council approves, Daryl will have to purchase additional equipment and has asked for a two year contract. A budget amendment may be needed so that Daryl can mow in May and June of the current year also."

Shoulders

Curb to 10-15 ft past sidewalk

Remove Trash, Mow and Blow	\$11,250.00
Edging will be done every other Mowing	\$1,120.00
Spray Roundup in joints on sidewalk and tree beds	\$2,400.00
Total	\$14,770.00 (\$1,230.00 per Month)

Medians

Remove Trash, Mow and Blow	\$10,800.00
Edging will be done every other Mowing	\$1,050.00
Spray Roundup and pull weeds	\$500.00
Total	\$12,350.00 (\$1,030.00 per Month)

Council was instructed that NCDOT would mow the medians but not behind the curb line. NCDOT mows in four cycles per year and would reimburse the Town per lane mile only for those four cycles.

The Council discussed other areas in the Town where grass was high and asked if the Town's Minimum Housing Standards Ordinance would address that issue and asked that letters be sent out to property owners requesting that they mow their grass.

Councilmember McKee will request additional information on what it would cost to mow around the trees. Councilmember McKee advised the Council that he had requested that \$75,000 be added to the budget for the landscaping of the medians. He stated, "A subcommittee of the Downtown Development

Committee will be working on a recommendation on the plantings of the medians. We do not have a definite number. Anything that is planned has to be approved by NCDOT.”

Town Administrator/Clerk McCollum discussed the technology recommendations for the Town Council and staff and suggested purchasing i-Pads to be used for emails and Council agenda packets. She discussed the savings in staff time, office supplies such as paper and toner and wear and tear on the copier and printers. She discussed the advantages of i-Pads over purchasing laptops.

Councilmembers questioned whether the Town needed to keep helping to fund the Union County Urban Forester position. Town Administrator/Clerk McCollum advised that she would send the Council a copy of the contract listing the services available from the Urban Forester.

Council agreed to only fund at this time the initial \$10,000 for the Moser Group Consulting Contract and would appropriate any additional money approved in the future from Fund Balance.

Finance Officer Gaylord reported that the Sheriff’s Department has advised the Town that there will not be an increase this year.

Mayor Anderson spoke regarding the possibility of funding a Transportation Planner for Union County. She stated, “This idea was discussed at the last Transportation Advisory Board Meeting. Union County is lacking in transportation planning. The idea was floated that municipalities would fund that position much like we do for the Urban Forester. We have no one looking out for the entire County for transportation. We need someone to push NCDOT all the time. We are losing transportation dollars.”

Mayor Anderson expressed concern over the Weddington Festival and how the funding is out of cycle. Finance Officer advised that the Council could do a budget amendment possibly in August or September after the festival is held to see what would be needed for the next festival.

Finance Officer Gaylord reviewed how she had adjusted the proposed budget based on the Council’s comments:

Net Operating Revenues Over Expenditures	\$392,000
PVFD Paid Staff/Training	\$233,000
Easter Egg Hunt	\$500
Weddington Festival	\$15,000
Tree Lighting (Lights and Installation)	\$3,070
Tree Lighting (Foods/Craft/Other)	\$2,430
Litter Sweeps	\$300
Meet and Greet	\$50
Grounds Maintenance	\$27,150
Median Landscaping	\$75,000
Live Trees	\$1,300
Technology for Council	\$7,500
CLC	\$1,000
Urban Forester	\$4,000
The Moser Group	\$10,000
Salary Adjustments	\$11,700

Mayor Anderson discussed her concern that the staff for the Town was getting raises but that Council was not willing to give the Fire Department the full amount that they had requested. Councilmember Gilmartin felt that it was not a good analogy to compare staff to the Fire Department.

Mayor Anderson stated, "Something has to be done for the Fire Department. We are going to have to take some interim steps. The building is out of code and we are asking them to stay."

Council discussed that they were committed to the Fire Department but wanted a commitment from them as well and that they were exploring other options. Council felt that they did not want to write a check for the improvements and then the fire station may be closed in 24 months. Councilmember Thomisser mentioned the number of stations in Union County that actually have someone spending the night.

Item No. 3. Discussion and Consideration of Potential Amendments to the FY 2011 Budget. Mayor Pro Tem Barry moved to amend the FY 2011 Budget to include \$5,000 for the Weddington Festival and \$4,520 for the maintenance of the medians for May and June. The vote on the motion is as follows:

AYES: Councilmembers Thomisser, Gilmartin, McKee and Mayor Pro Tem Barry
NAYS: None

Item No. 4. Adjournment. Councilmember McKee moved to adjourn the April 28, 2011 Special Town Council Meeting. All were in favor, with votes recorded as follows:

AYES: Councilmembers Thomisser, Gilmartin, McKee and Mayor Pro Tem Barry
NAYS: None

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Nancy D. Anderson, Mayor

Attest:

Amy S. McCollum, Town Clerk