

TOWN OF WALLACE
MONTHLY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
April 8, 2021
6:00 pm

The Wallace Town Council held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting in the Council Chambers at the Town Hall.

The following Governing Body members were present:

- Charles C. Farrior, Jr., Mayor
- Council Member/Mayor Pro-Tem Wannetta Carlton
- Council Member Frank Brinkley (via Zoom)
- Council Member Jeff Carter
- Council Member Francisco Rivas-Diaz
- Council Member Jason Wells (via Zoom)

The following members of the Governing Body were absent:

NONE

Also Present were:

Larry Bergman, Town Manager	Anna Heath, Town Attorney
Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk	Rob Taylor, Finance Director
David Bizzell, Parks & Recreation Director (via Zoom)	Marlane Carcopo (via Zoom) WallaceNcWeekly.com
Jimmy Crayton, Police Chief	Ann Henderson
Brent Dean, Public Services Director (via Zoom)	Verna Mansfield, Wallace Chamber of Commerce, President
Rod Fritz, Planning Director	Beverly Troubaugh
Gage King, Airport Manager	Pat Troubaugh
Sharon Robison, Library Director (via Zoom)	Curt Simpson, Duplin Times (via Zoom)

Mayor Charley Farrior called the regular meeting to order with a quorum of the governing body members present and Council Member Frank Brinkley gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Presentations and Proclamations

President of the Wallace Chamber of Commerce, Verna Mansfield spoke to the Council about what is currently going on with the Chamber and plans for the future. Ms. Mansfield asked the Council to consider making a contribution to the Chamber in the next fiscal year. She did not request a specific amount and said any amount would be appreciated.

Adoption of the Agenda

Mayor Farrior called for discussion of the agenda. There being no changes, Council Member Wannetta Carlton made a motion to adopt the agenda as submitted. The motion was seconded by Council Member Francisco Rivas-Diaz and approved by unanimous vote.

Public Comment Period

There were no comments.

Consent agenda

Minutes from the March 11, 2021 monthly meeting, and the March 25, 2021 continued meeting

Mayor Farrior called for discussion of the minutes. There being no additions or corrections, Council Member Jeff Carter made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Council Member Carlton and approved by unanimous vote.

Tax Report

Finance Director Rob Taylor presented the Tax Report for the period ending March 31, 2021. He said that year to date collections were up 2.36% and the 10 year overall rate was up 0.62%. Mr. Taylor added that monies received from payment plans totaled \$16,484.11..

Tax Releases

There were no releases presented.

Old Business

Discussion of Contracting with Duplin County for Tax Collection Services

Finance Director Taylor made a presentation for contracting tax collection services with Duplin County. He talked about the town and county collection rates and provided some collection history of towns for which Duplin County currently collects. Mr. Taylor presented a financial comparison estimating a potential \$77,668.53 savings through increasing collections at a lower cost. He compared both the county and town collection process and provided a sample contract with a one (1) year term. The Council discussed the matter with Council Members Brinkely and Carter against contracting with Duplin County and hiring for the position.

Council Member Brinkley made a motion to keep tax collections in-house that was seconded by Council Member Carter which was voted down 2:3.

Council Member Jason Wells stated that the collection rate has been where it is now as long as he's been in office and since the contract is for one (1) year if it doesn't work the Town can go back to collecting it's own taxes.

Council Member Wells made a motion to contract with Duplin County to collection Town taxes for one year. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and approved by a 3:2 vote with Council Member Brinkely and Council member Carter voting no.

Consideration of Utility System Capacity Fee Schedule Changes

Town Manager Larry Bergman said at the March 25 meeting the Council discussed economic incentive programs and reducing capacity fees. They asked for a comparison of the Town's fees and other municipalities geographically close and about the same size as Wallace. Mr. Bergman said in researching this he found that in August 2017 the Council agreed to lower capacity fees by 50% for two (2) years and they have not been changed. He provided some historical data on capacity fees and the number of connections and it seems the reduced fees didn't have much impact. The Council agreed to keep the fees at the lower rate and recommend being more proactive about getting that capacity fee information to developers and builders.

Adoption of Proposed Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update

Planning Director Rod Fritz briefed Council on the highlights of the updated Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Mr. Fritz said this is a comprehensive plan including all Parks & Recreation properties. The 2021 Plan was developed starting with information from the 2013 Master Plan, additional information was gathered through an on-line survey and a drop-in community meeting. Parks & Recreation Director David Bizzell said that the recommendations made in the 2013 Master Plan have been completed with the update of the Campbell Center the last one.

Council Member Brinkley made a motion to adopt the updated 2021 Parks & Recreation Master Plan which was seconded by Council Member Wells and approved unanimously.

Capital Project Ordinance Budget Amendment

Finance Director Taylor said the Town had received a grant through USDA to clean up Little Rockfish Creek. Once the project got started, it was determined that more work than originally planned would be needed and additional funds were applied for and approved. Mr. Taylor stated the initial project budget would have to be amended to include the additional costs and revenue. He added that the Town's match is increasing from \$2,350.50 to \$54,675.50 and recommended transferring the match funds from the Stormwater Fund.

Council Member Wells made a motion to adopt a Budget Ordinance Amendment to Capital Project Budget "Little Rockfish Creek Channel Clearing and Stabilization" and Stormwater Fund. The motion was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and approved by unanimous vote.

Financial Reports

Finance Director Rob Taylor presented the reports pointing out a list of Budget Amendments was provided including those approved by Council and by the Budget Officer.

Disaster Reports

Mr. Taylor said he is still trying to get up to speed on this report.

Council Reports

Council Member Carlton said that Mr. Calvary Center for Leadership Development is holding a COVID vaccination (J & J) clinic on Saturday from 1-4 pm, call for an appointment. She also said that FEMA has \$9,000 for all families who lost a family member to COVID.

Council Member Wells asked about the American Recovery Plan funds and how that money is going to be spent. Manager Bergman said right now all he has are general guidelines. He has received some input and plans to use budget request information for the Budget Subcommittee to evaluate ideas.

Council Member Carter told Public Services Director Brent Dean that the stormdrain in the Farm Bureau parking lot has caved in. Mr. Carter also asked why the Historic District Commission would

not allow a business owner to buy windows they could afford but it's ok to cover them with plywood? He will discuss further with Planning Director Fritz.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Farris asked when the parking spaces on NW Railroad St. would be repainted? He asked Town Attorney Anna Heath about the former Super 10 building? Ms. Heath responded that the court date to amend the complaint is April 13 and then she will have to serve everyone again. The Mayor asked Planning Director Fritz if the CB (Central Business) housing amendment was going to the Planning Board? Mr. Fritz said he would discuss it at the April 22 meeting.

Mayor Farris asked the Council about scheduling a second meeting this month. They agreed to meet on April 22 at 6 pm.

Department Head Reports

Rod Fritz, Planning Director, briefly reported on Code Enforcement, verbal warnings, code violations resolved, complaints investigated and violation letters sent..

Gage King, Airport Manager, reported that 2021 NPE (Non Primary Entitlement) funds would not require a local match. There are currently \$500,000 of NPE funds available. Preliminary road designs are being reviewed by NCDOT (North Carolina Department of Transportation) and phase I land acquisitions are in progress, surveys are complete and appraisals should begin this month.

Jimmy Crayton , Police Chief, asked if there were any questions about his report? Chief expressed his thanks to the party responsible for more lights at Clement Park and added that conditional offers of employment have been made to two (2) individuals, both who have experience. One vacancy remains.

Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk, said that her next big project is insurance renewal for next fiscal year and a safety walk through with Matt Reid, NCLM (North Carolina League of Municipalities), is scheduled for next week.

Sharon Robison, Library Director, reported that plans for the summer program are continuing with character events, which will be held outside, and a virtual storytime.

Brent Dean, Public Services Director, stated that construction signs have been staged for paving and the project for well 15 is due to start on April 19. Mr. Dean reported that a final walkthrough was done at Brown's lift station and an offer had been made and accepted for the Senior Utility Maintenance Mechanic/Back-up ORC position.

Jason Wells, Fire Department, said they have been busy. Sign-ups for weekend duty has begun and one of the new trucks will be delivered in late May or early June.

Town Manager's Report

Manager Bergman said there was a bill in the General Assembly which would eliminate single family-only zoning statewide and affect other aspects of zoning and land use for local governments. He asked for adoption of a resolution opposing this legislation.

Council Member Carter made a motion to adopt a Resolution Opposing Proposed Zoning Reform. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and approved by unanimous vote.

Manager Bergman added that he had received the packet containing documentation of owner notification on the route from Tommy Herring so the surveyer and engineer can get things scheduled. Refinement of the agreement with Valley Proteins is ongoing.

With there being no other business to discuss at this time, Council Member Rivas-Diaz made a motion to continue the meeting on Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 6:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Carter and approved by unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles C. Farior, Jr., Mayor

Jacqueline Nicholson, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

TOWN OF WALLACE



BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO CAPITAL PROJECT BUDGET “LITTLE ROCKFISH CREEK CHANNEL CLEARING AND STABILIZATION” and STORMWATER FUND

WHEREAS, the Town of Wallace established a capital project ordinance and budget for Little Rockfish Creek Channel Clearing and Stabilization on August 13, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Town requested additional funds from USDA to expand the scope of the project and the funding agency approved the Town’s request; and

WHEREAS, the grant requires a matching local contribution which shall be funded thru a transfer from the Stormwater Fund,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of Wallace that the Little Rockfish Creek Channel Clearing and Stabilization capital project and Stormwater Fund budgets be amended as follows:

STORMWATER CAPITAL PROJECT FUND

	Current	Revision	Revised
Revenue/Other Financing Sources			
Federal, State & Local Grants	\$ 108,139.50	\$ 465,953.25	\$ 574,092.75
Local Contribution	\$ 2,350.50	\$ 52,325.00	\$ 54,675.50
All Other General Fund Revenue and OFS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Estimated Revenues and OFS	<u>\$ 110,490.00</u>	<u>\$ 518,278.25</u>	<u>\$ 628,768.25</u>

	Current	Revision	Revised
Expenditures/Other Financing Uses			
Construction	\$ 102,990.00	\$ 443,765.00	\$ 546,755.00
Engineering	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 43,500.00	\$ 51,000.00
Contingencies	\$ -	\$ 31,013.25	\$ 31,013.25
All Other General Fund Expenditures and OFU	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Estimated Expenditures and OFU	<u>\$ 110,490.00</u>	<u>\$ 518,278.25</u>	<u>\$ 628,768.25</u>

STORMWATER FUND

	Current	Revision	Revised
Revenue/Other Financing Sources			
Fund Balance Appropriation	\$ -	\$ 54,676.00	\$ 54,676.00
All Other Stormwater Fund Revenue and OFS	\$ 268,000.00	\$ -	\$ 268,000.00
Total Estimated Revenues and OFS	<u>\$ 268,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 54,676.00</u>	<u>\$ 322,676.00</u>

	Current	Revision	Revised
Expenditures/Other Financing Uses			
Transfers to Other Funds	\$ -	\$ 54,676.00	\$ 54,676.00
All Other Stormwater Fund Expenditures and OFU	\$ 268,000.00	\$ -	\$ 268,000.00
Total Estimated Expenditures and OFU	<u>\$ 268,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 54,676.00</u>	<u>\$ 322,676.00</u>

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Town Council of Wallace that this ordinance shall become in full force and effective upon adoption.

Adopted this the 8th day of April 2021

Charley Farrior, Mayor

{SEAL}

Attest:

Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk

**A RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN COUNCIL
OF THE TOWN OF WALLACE, NC,
OPPOSING PROPOSED ZONING REFORM**

WHEREAS, the legislation proposed in SB 349/HB 401 is of great concern to the Town of Wallace and other municipalities within North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, provisions within this legislation would severely diminish or even eliminate the ability of local government to determine what is best for its community or even allow community input or involvement in the decision-making process; and

WHEREAS, development would become uncontrolled and reckless with little to no regard for property-owners rights, not to mention the added stress and demand on a municipality's infrastructure which would eventually lead to declining property values; and

WHEREAS, town officials were elected by their citizens for a reason – to protect and preserve the quality of life that they have come to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, residents could not enjoy a safe and secure, clean and well-kept environment with plenty of amenities offered, if it weren't for the efforts put forth by its elected officials and town staff in utilizing effective and proven zoning processes that include community input; and

WHEREAS, a one-size fits all approach to land use is radical, reckless and irrational – a blatant attack on local land-use decision-making; and

WHEREAS, lumping all cities and towns under one statewide zoning mandate would eliminate the single-family zoning designation and allow multi-family housing in every neighborhood with no minimum parking requirements in place to ensure adequate parking for all; and

WHEREAS, increased housing does not guarantee more affordable housing nor does this legislation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that copies of this resolution are sent to our legislative delegation and to the leadership of the North Carolina General Assembly in an effort to stop SB 349/HB 401 from becoming law and to work together to find real ways to advance affordable housing opportunities.

Adopted this the ____ day of _____, 2021.

Charles C. Farris, Jr., Mayor

Jacqueline Nicholson, Town Clerk