

TOWN OF WALLACE
MONTHLY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
July 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. Farris, Jr., Mayor
Council Member/Mayor Pro-Tem Wannetta Carlton
Council Member Jeff Carter
Council Member Frank Brinkley
Council Member Francisco Rivas-Diaz
Council Member Jason Wells

The following member of the Governing Body was 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	Jason Davis
Jimmy Crayton, Police Chief	Marlane Carcopo (via Zoom) WallaceNcWeekly.com
Rod Fritz, Planning Director	Tasha Redd
Gage King, Airport Manager	Jim Stumbo (via Zoom) Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects, P.A.
Sharon Robison, Library Director	

Mayor Charley Farris called the regular meeting to order with a quorum of the governing body members present and Council Member Wannetta Carlton gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Adoption of the Agenda

Mayor Farris called for discussion of the agenda and asked to add a budget amendment. There being no other changes or additions Council Member Frank Brinkley made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Carlton and approved by unanimous vote.

Public Comment Period

None

Consent agenda

Minutes from the June 4, 2021 continued meeting, June 10, 2021 monthly meeting and the June 24, 2021 continued meeting

Mayor Farrior called for discussion of the minutes. Town Clerk Jackie Nicholson said that she saw an error in the footer on the later pages of the June 10 meeting. There being no other corrections or additions Council Member Jason Wells made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Council Member Franciso Rivas-Diaz and approved by unanimous vote.

Council Member Wells made a motion to approve the following tax releases:

Account #	Name	Reason	Amount
2909	Robert Hankins, Jr.	Not in Town limits	\$41.13
2317	Kenneth O. Roberts & wife	Property sold	\$518.58

The motion was seconded by Council Member Carlton and approved unanimously.

Council Member Wells made a motion that was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz to approve budget amendment #39 to close out Fund 90 from Hurricane Matthew and cover expenditures not allowed or covered by FEMA reimbursements. The motion was unanimously approved.

Tax Report

Finance Director Rob Taylor reported that the current collection rate is 94.22%. with \$293,777.16 in past due accounts including interest and penalties. Six (6) accounts were sent to start foreclosure. Wage garnishments and bank garnishments were initiated and pre-paid taxes sent to Duplin County. Mr. Taylor said that Pender County will collect Town taxes for the Airport at no charge.

Old Business

Award Bid for Lease of Farmland at Airport

Town Manager Larry Bergman said that in May the Council approved a Resolution Authorizing Advertisement for Sealed Bids for Lease of Airport Property. The bids were opened on July 5, 2021 at 3 pm as advertised, one (1) bid was received in the amount of \$30/acre.

Council Member Wells made a motion accept the bid from the responsive, responsible bidder, 3 Pig Farms, Inc. which was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and approved by unanimous vote.

Approval of Architect Contract for Public Safety Facility

Manager Bergman said the contract for initial planning and evaluation services in the amount of \$63,965 had been negotiated and Town Attorney Anna Heath pointed out to the Council a few sections that she questioned. Mr. Jim Stumbo, Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects, P.A., responded to Attorney Heath and Ms. Heath agreed that section 10.10 was the only section that needed to be amended or deleted, it was deleted.

Council Member Wells made a motion to approve the proposed contract with section 10.10 deleted. The motion was seconded by Council Member Carlton and approved unanimously.

New Business

Appointment to Eastern Carolina Council of Governments (ECC)

Manager Bergman stated that the ECC request annually for a representative to be appointed to serve on their General Membership Board. Planning Director Rod Fritz was the Town's representative but Mr. Bergman said he can represent the Town as he has been attending some of their manager's meetings.

Council Member Rivas-Diaz made a motion to appoint Town Manager Larry Bergman to represent the Town on the ECC which was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and approved unanimously.

Financial Reports

Finance Director Rob Taylor presented the financial reports through May. He said both revenues and expenditures were doing well.

Council Reports

Council Member Carlton said that a large quantity of masks were going to be housed at the armory and if anyone needed some they could call Darlene Leysath. Ms. Carlton said a vaccination drive is scheduled for Adoram Baptist Church and volunteers are needed.

Council Member Wells asked about the inmate labor returning, again mentioned the condition of the DOT right-of-way at Boney Mill Pond. He also said that some recognition of former Council Member/Mayor Pro-tem David Jordan needed to be done.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Farior said he appreciated the detailed report from Zoning and Code Enforcement adding that it will probably be necessary to push hard to get results. Mayor also asked the Council to

consider who should be appointed to the Women's Club Advisory Committee and recommended that there be eleven (11) members. He would like to try and complete this at the August meeting.

Department Head Reports

Rod Fritz, Planning Director, reported that he has issued fifty-one (51) zoning permits so far this year, a final notice has been sent for the burned house on Duplin St. and two (2) bids have been received to clean up the vegetative growth, nothing structural. He said that April Brown, Housekeeping/Custodial Worker, will be taking Certified Custodial cleaning courses.

Sharon Robison, Library Director, said that circulation numbers and traffic are both up while computer use is down but the Library's wireless internet is getting a lot of use. Ms. Robison added they are still doing curb service and home deliveries, the summer program has begun and a new module with online news service has been added to the website.

Gage King, Airport Manager, said a lot is going on at the Airport with design work, land acquisition, road design and a scope meeting with NCDOT for a taxiway.

Jimmy Crayton , Police Chief, reported that several overdose cases resulting in death has led to 5-7 cases of second degree murder and arrests have been made in the Tin City armed robbery. Chief Crayton said the vacant telecommunicator position has been filled and the employee is starting on Friday night.

David Bizzell, Parks & Recreation Director, stated that program participation is higher than pre-COVID. He said that adult kickball and youth volleyball are starting, adult cornhole signups open soon and a special needs basketball program will be held in August.

Rob Taylor, Finance Director, said the new Accounting Clerk I, Renee Walker starts on July 21 and the closing on the fire truck is scheduled for July 19.

Jason Wells reported that the new truck should be delivered by the end of next week and summer weekend duty is on going.

Town Manager's Report

Manager Bergman reported that the survey data is being compiled, drilling is complete on the new water wells and the testing will provide the information needed to design the second phase, including pumps and well houses. ARP (American Rescue Plan) funds haven't been received yet and Mr. Bergman presented some ideas for how the money could be spent. Manager Bergman said that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board will discuss smoking restriction at Town parks at their next meeting and the parking changes on NW and SE Railroad St. are progressing.

With there being no other business to discuss at this time, Council Member Wells made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and approved by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles C. Farrior, Jr., Mayor

Jacqueline Nicholson, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF WALLACE
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #39
FOR BUDGET 2020-2021**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Wallace, North Carolina the following amendments be made to the budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021:

Section I:	Water & Sewer		
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Account Number	Account Description	Increase	Decrease
30-3990-050	Fund Balance Appropriation	\$15,000.00	
30-6600-920	Transfers to Other Funds-FEMA Matthew		\$15,000.00
	Grand Total	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00

To close out Fund 90- FEMA Matthew and cover expenditures not allowed or covered by FEMA reimbursements.

Section II: Copy to Finance Director:

Copies of this budget amendment shall be delivered to the Finance Director for their direction in the disbursement of funds:

Adopted this the 8th day of July, 2021

Attest: _____

Jacqueline Nicholson, Town Clerk

Charles C. Farrior, Jr., Mayor