

**TOWN OF WALLACE  
MONTHLY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
December 9, 2021  
6:00 pm**

The Wallace Town Council held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting at the Wallace Women’s Club.

The following Governing Body members were present:

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

The following members of the Governing Body were absent:  
None

Also Present were:

Larry Bergman, Town Manager	Anna H. Herring, Town Attorney
Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk	Rob Taylor, Finance Director
David Bizzell, Parks & Recreation Director	Judge Henry Stevens, IV
Jimmy Crayton, Police Chief	Lee & Carolyn Dail
Brent Dean, Public Services Director	Ethylen Powell
Rod Fritz, Planning Director	Martin Tadeo
Gage King, Airport Manager	Bishop Curtis West
Sharon Robison, Library Director	Curt Simpson, <i>Duplin Times</i>
Charles “Twig” Rollins, Zoning/Code Enforcement	

Mayor Charley Farrior called the regular meeting to order with a quorum of the governing body members present and Council Member Francisco Rivas-Diaz offered the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Administration of Oaths of Office

Judge Henry L. Stevens, IV administered the oaths of office to Mayor Jason Wells, Council Member Wannetta Carlton and Council Member Jason Davis.

Election of Mayor Pro-tem

Council Member Rivas-Diaz made a motion to elect Council Member Carlton Mayor Pro-tem. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jeff Carter and approved unanimously.

#### Appointment to Vacant Seat on Town Council

Council Member Jason Davis made a motion to appoint Frank Brinkley to the Council seat vacated by Jason Wells upon his election as Mayor. The motion was seconded by Council Member Carlton and unanimously approved.

Judge Stevens administered the oath of office to Council Member Frank Brinkley.

*The meeting recessed for refreshments.*

#### Election of Town Treasurer

Council Member Carlton made a motion to elect Council Member Jeff Carter as Town Treasurer which was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and approved by unanimous vote.

#### Presentation of FY 2020-2021 Audit

Finance Director Rob Taylor made some preliminary comments regarding audit changes that were made including the separation of funds that have previously been reported included in the General Fund. The Stormwater, Airport and Airport Capital Reserve were reported separately moving just under a million dollars out of the General Fund. This provides better reporting on restrictions and sources of funds. Austin Eubanks of Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co., P.A. provided additional details including the required communications, the separation of funds commenting that the Water/Sewer fund had a good year and he provided an analysis of the fund balance. Mr. Eubanks added that the Audit has not yet been approved by the Local Government Commission (LGC) and was submitted on time.

#### Adoption of the Agenda

Mayor Wells called for discussion of the agenda. Council Member Carter made a motion to adopt the agenda as submitted. The motion was seconded by Council Member Carlton and approved unanimously.

#### Public Comment Period

None

#### **Consent agenda**

Mayor Wells called for discussion of the minutes from the November 9, 2021 meeting, closed session minutes from October 14 and October 26 and November 9 that were distributed before the meeting. Mayor Wells said that he found a typo on page 3 in the November 9 minutes where there needed to be a space. There being no other corrections or additions Council Member Carter

made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Council Member Carlton and approved by unanimous vote.

Finance Director Rob Taylor said that tax collections for this year were 62.26% and briefly discussed the properties in foreclosure.

Mr. Taylor presented for approval a Capital Project Budget Amendment for the AWOS (Automated Weather Observing System) project increasing the budget with additional grant funds. Council Member Carter made a motion to approve this Budget Amendment which was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and approved unanimously.

## **Old Business**

### **AMI (Automated Metering Infrastructure) Discussion and Direction**

Town Manager Larry Bergman reminded the Council of a presentation by MeterSys back in October and recommended requesting a proposal for Metering as a Service. It would include the meters, managing the network and technology support. Since MeterSys is vendor neutral they can advise on the best metering solution for the Town. The consensus of the Council is to work on an agreement with MeterSys.

### **Inclusive Playground**

Parks and Recreation Director David Bizzell discussed an Inclusive Playground project at Clement Park to expand and renovate the current playground. Mr. Bizzell said there is a great deal of community interest in this and there would be nothing else like it in Duplin County. There is an effort to involve and coordinate with a variety of local businesses and nonprofits. A commitment by the Town with the creation of a Park Capital Reserve fund in the amount of \$75,000 was proposed for consideration.

Council Member Brinkley made a motion to draft a project budget for this. The motion was seconded by Council Member Carlton and unanimously approved.

### **Sign Easement Hwy 117 North**

Manager Bergman explained how he calculated an amount for an easement for the "Welcome to Wallace" sign on the north end of Town. He used land values of similar parcels in the immediate area and future saving of maintenance costs. The proposed amount is \$5,500. Bishop Curtis West said he used a method based on the cost of a billboard and lease and the easement was worth \$10,000 to Empact Ministries.

Council Member Carlton made a motion to pay Empact Ministries \$10,000 for the easement which was seconded by Council Member Carter and approved by unanimous vote.

## **New Business**

### **Adoption of 2022 Regular Meeting Schedule**

Manager Bergman stated that NCGS requires the Council to establish a regular meeting schedule including time and place. The proposed 2022 schedule is to meet the second Thursday at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers at the Town Hall.

Council Member Carlton made a motion to adopt the 2022 Regular Meeting Schedule. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and approved unanimously.

#### Appointments to Boards and Commissions and Cape Fear Council of Governemnts

A list of proposed appointments was provided to the Council.

Council Member Rivas-Diaz made a motion to appoint Chad Wilson to the ABC Board for a three (3) year term to expire in 2024 that was seconded by Council Member Jason Davis and approved by unanimous vote.

Council Member Carter made a motion to re-appoint Larry DeBose, Alvin DeBose and Norwood Blanchard to the Airport Commission for three (3) year terms expiring in 2024. The motion was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and unanimously approved.

Council Member Carlton made a motion to re-appoint Ann Davis Weaver, Kevin Smith and Dwight Hall to the Historic District Commission for four (4) year terms to expire in 2025 that was seconded by Council Member Carter and approved by unanimous vote.

Council Member Rivas-Diaz mde a motion to appoint Tony Horne (In-town) and re-appoint Duane Blanton and Walter James to the Planning Board for three (3) years to expire in 2024. The motion was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and approved unanimously.

Council Member Carter made a motion to re-appoint Bill Carone and Archie Carter to the Board of Adjustment for three (3) year terms expiring in 2024 which was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Wells said that he was the Town's representative on the Cape Fear Council of Governments (CFCOG) and is willing to continue. Council Member Carlton made a motion for Mayor Wells to represent the Town on the CFCOG that was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and unanimously approved.

#### Approval of Work Authorization of AWOS (Automated Weather Observation System)

Airport Manager Gage King said that this is an amendment that includes additional design and incorporating bid documents to include the installation of equipment. It will be funded with grant funds.

Council Member Brinkley made a motion to approve the Work Authorization amendment which was seconded by Council Member Carter and approved unanimously.

#### Designate Parking of Raleigh Street

Manager Bergman asked the Council to consider designating parking spaces on N. Raleigh Sreet right off Main Street. The discussion centered on how much and what type of parking would work best (one or both sides of the street, parallel or angled). The consensus of the Council favors

adding that parking. Manager Bergman will prepare a resolution to amend th parking ordinance for approval.

### Appoint Fire Chief

Manager Bergman said that the members of the Fire Department nominated Chuck Farris to continue as Fire Chief another two (2) years and requested he be formally appointed.

Council Member Carter made a motion to appoint Chuck Farris as Fire Chief for the 2022-2023 term. Council Member Brinkley seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

### Financial Reports

Finance Director Taylor asked if there were any questions regarding his report? Council Member Carter wanted to know how much the Town pays in interest during the year.

### Council Reports

Council Member Carlton congratulated the othe newly elected and appointed members of the governing body and thanked everyone for voting for her.

Council Member Brinkley said he appreciated the vote of confidence shown to him by appointing him to the vacant Council seat.

Council Member Carter mentioned pot holes and the burned house on Boney St.,and asked how many acres the Town owned off Railroad Street?

Council Member Davis inquired about the condition of Wells Trailer Park, the old Jim Russ building and the old Walmart. Planning Director Rod Fritz responded that all those properties are being worked for code enforcement.

Council Member Rivas-Diaz congratulated those recently elected.

### Mayor's Report

Mayor Wells asked about changing the speed limit on Southerland Street. Manager Bergman said he would have a resolution for that request at the January meeting. He said the ABC Board reported an 18% increase in sales and are planning a soft opening in February and grand opening in March. Mayor Wells added that there has been some interest in acquiring the old Walmart shopping center property.

### Department Head Reports

Sharon Robison, Library Director, reported that the Friends of the Library is doing their annual membership drive and a book signing is being planned with Mary Ann Russ and Daniel Norris, "Home Sweet Home".

David Bizzell, Parks & Recreation Director, said they had 196 participants in the basketball program, up 50 from last year and that new Program Supervisor Barrett Lovette was settling well into the position.

Rod Fritz, Planning Director, reported that he has received inquiries from a couple of developers and the bid opening for the trail at Boney Mill Pond is Friday at 2 pm.

Brent Dean, Public Services Director, said that DPH General Contractors, LLC was seeking permits for the Armory renovation project.

Jimmy Crayton, Police Chief, announced that David Morgan was selected employee of the year and Mike Carney received the Chief's Award at the department Christmas party. Chief said that in January they will be short three 3 officers, again. He stated the golf cart was delivered and alcohol education was scheduled for January. Chief added that Capt. Weston Padgett was recognized for his service by the House of Raeford FLOCK Cares program.

Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk, reported that the NC Division of History and Archives updated the General Records and Program Records Retention Schedules for the Council's information. They previously voted all Retention Schedule updates be automatically updated upon publication.

#### Town Manager's Report

Manager Bergman said the State had adopted a budget and the Valley Protein project funding was included in that budget; the 830 project is close to the permitting stage.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Jason Wells., Mayor

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Jacqueline Nicholson, MMC, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF WALLACE  
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT  
AIRPORT CAPITAL PROJECT  
BUDGET AMENDMENT FY 22-8**

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, 2022:			
<b>Section I:</b>	<b>AIRPORT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND</b>		
<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Increase</b>	<b>Decrease</b>
63-3025-100	Town of Wallace Match		\$661.50
63-3025-125	Pender County Match		\$661.50
63-3025-350	NPE Grant		\$11,907.00
63-7525-103	Land and Right of Ways	\$13,230.00	
	<b>Fund Totals</b>		

Increase Right of Way land Acquisition Costs. 90% funded by grant

**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 December 9, 2021**

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jacqueline Nicholson, Town Clerk

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Jason Wells, Mayor