

TOWN OF WALLACE
MONTHLY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
May 12, 2022
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:

Jason Wells, Mayor
Council Member/Mayor Pro-Tem Wannetta Carlton
Council Member Jeff Carter
Council Member Jason Davis
Council Member Francisco Rivas-Diaz

The following members of the Governing Body were absent:

Council Member Frank Brinkley

Also Present were:

Larry Bergman, Town Manager	Anna H. Herring, Town Attorney (via Zoom)
Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk	Leonard Fillyaw, Teachey Mayor
Jimmy Crayton, Police Chief	Brian Fleer
Rod Fritz, Planning Director	Jimmy Johnson
Gage King, Airport Manager	Darlene Leysath
Sharon Robison, Library Director	Joseph Merritt
Charles "Twig Rollins, Code Enforcement	Barnabus Pearsall
Rob Taylor, Finance Director	Monte Thorne
Joe Bryant	Curtis West

Mayor Jason Wells called the regular meeting to order with a quorum of the governing body members present and Mayor Pro-tem Wannetta Carlton offered the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Presentations/Proclamations

Dean Butts, Chairman of the Miss Strawberry Pageant presented Baby Miss Strawberry Hollis Cait Cavanaugh, daughter of James and Bailey Cavanaugh; Mini Miss Strawberry Mary Blue Hatcher, daughter of Dustin and Polly Hatcher; Little Miss Strawberry Blakesley Grace Thornton, daughter of Ross and Brook Thornton was absent. Each Miss Strawberry received a certificate of congratulatio from the Mayor.

Jean-Paul "Wyatt" Lanier, Youth Ambassador for the Tourette Association of America received a Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day Proclamation from Mayor Wells.

Mayor Wells recognized Reginald Speight, State Director of the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture). Director Speight introduced himself and spoke briefly about his background. He provided an overview of the programs and services offered by the Department.

(A short recess allowed attendees to speak with Director Speight individually.)

Adoption of the Agenda

Mayor Wells called for adoption of the agenda. Council Member Carlton made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Francisco Rivas-Diaz and approved unanimously.

Public Comment Period

None

Consent Agenda

Mayor Wells called for discussion of the minutes from the April 14, 2022 meeting. Council Member Rivas-Diaz said there was a typo on page 2 under the Consent Agenda. There being no other corrections Council Member Carlton made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and approved by unanimous vote.

Finance Director Rob Taylor presented the tax reports and indicated that he is happy with Duplin County's collection of Town taxes. As of March 31 past due taxes have been reduced by 47.06%

Old Business

PUBLIC HEARING

Rezoning Case #RZ-2022-01

Council Member Jason Davis made a motion to open a public hearing that was seconded by Council Member Jeff Carter and approved by unanimous vote.

Town Manager Larry Bergman stated that the property is 12 acres adjacent to Wallace Elementary School. The applicant wants to rezone the property from RA-20 (residential/agricultural, minimum lot size 20,000 sq.ft.) to RA-20-C (residential/agricultural, minimum lot size 20,000 sq. ft., conditional) with the conditions agreed upon by both the applicant and the Town Council. The Planning Board recommended approval and a "drop in" informational meeting is planned for May 27 from 5 to 6 pm. Manager Bergman added that at the June Council meeting a more updated and detailed diagram will be available. Mayor Wells asked if anyone in the audience had any comments on the proposed rezoning. There were no comments.

Council Member Carter made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Council Member Carlton and unanimously approved.

Phase II Disaster Debris Removal Contract Approval

Manager Bergman said that Johnson Environmental & Disaster Consulting Services has led the Town through the process of getting bids to secure “pre-positioned” contractors for emergency debris removal following a debris generating event for both vegetative and construction/demolition debris. The process has been completed and State Tree Services, Inc. has been recommended as the primary contractor and Custom Tree Care, Inc. as the secondary contractor for 2 years ending June 30, 2024.

Council Member Rivas-Diaz made a motion to approve these contractors which was seconded by Council Member Carlton and approved by unanimous vote.

Amendment to ARPA Grant Project Ordinance

Finance Director Taylor stated that following additional guidance on how these funds could be used, all units receiving less than \$10 million dollars could take a one time standard allowance and consider all funds as “Replacement Revenue” which would allow the grant funds to be used however the unit wanted to use them -with limited restrictions and reporting. Mr. Taylor added that some of the funds have already been expended and committed. He said the funds will be transferred to the general fund and move them to project funds when those projects are identified.

Council Member Davis made a motion to approve Grant Project Ordinance Amendment 22-05 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. The motion was seconded by Council Member Carlton and unanimously approved.

Duplin Street- Powell Property Minimum Housing Demolition

Manager Bergman said the Council has previously approved an order to demolish the structure located at 321 N. Duplin Street due to unresolved minimum housing violations. State law requires testing for asbestos, which was done and none was found. Requests for proposals to demolish and legally dispose of debris, cap utilities, clear, grade and seed the empty lot. Two (2) bids were received and staff recommended accepting the low bid from D&D Construction in the amount of \$17,000. Manager Bergman summarized interactions and communication with the property owner and indicated that he would like to make a final attempt prior to the demolition. Council discussed the matter and since an order to repair, alter, improve, remove or demolish had been approved agreed to approve the contract.

Council Member Carlton made a motion to approve the bid from D&D Construction in the amount of \$17,000 which was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and approved by unanimous vote.

New Business

Library Board Request and Discussion

Manager Bergman shared a request from the Library Board to change the operating hours of the Library to 8 am to 6 pm on Monday through Thursday with an emphasis on serving the most citizens possible. Friday hours would be eliminated which Manager Bergman did not recommend. Library Director Sharon Robison provided some information including hourly tracking of patrons, comparing 2019 and 2022, patron details from May 9, 2022 and staff duties, particularly prior to

opening the doors. Following the discussion Manager Bergman indicated that he felt he had sufficient feedback from the Council and he and Library Director Robison could come up with a schedule that would work.

Wastewater Treatment Plan Evaluation Engineering Services

Manager Bergman stated that a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) to evaluate the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was advertised on the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) website and requested by Highfill Infrastructure Engineering in Wilmington. As there are no minimum respondents required and with Highfill being the only respondent, Manger Bergman said that he and Public Services Director reviewed the document and are satisfied they are qualified. Highfill has experience with SBR (Sequencing Batch Reactors) and have worked locally. The next step is to negotiate a contract and scope of work.

Council Member Davis made a motion to negotiate a scope of work and proposal to do the evaluation with Highfill Infrastructure Engineering, P.C. which was seconded by Council Member Carlton and unanimously approved.

Airport Consultant Selection

Airport Manager Gage King said that the Town currently has a master contract with Talbert & Bright. He and the Airport Commission have gone through the RFQ (Request for Qualifications) process and have selected and recommend the Town Council continue to engage the services of Talbert & Bright with one reason being they are familiar with the ongoing and upcoming projects.

Council Member Carter made a motion to approve Talbert & Bright as the most qualified firm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and approved by unanimous vote.

Council Member Carlton made a motion to approve a Master Contract for Engineering and Related Work at Wallace Henderson Field for the Town of Wallace which was seconded by Council Member Davis and approved unanimously.

Appointment to Depot Commission

Mayor Wells stated that with the death of Davis Carr, Depot Commission Chair, someone needed to be appointed to complete his term. He added that the Depot Commission recommended Michael Blackburn be appointed Chair in that he is the most experienced and qualified member of the Commission.

Council Member Carlton made a motion to appoint Michael Blackburn Chair of the Depot Commission to complete the term of Davis Carr that expires in December 2024. The motion was seconded by Council Member Davis and approved by unanimous vote.

Financial Reports

Finance Director Taylor presented the financial reports through the end of March and said that some fraudulent checks had been discovered. Positive Pay had been implemented to prevent this. Mr. Taylor briefly discussed investing through the North Carolina Capital Management Trust and said he would have more information at the next meeting.

Council Reports

Council Member Rivas-Diaz asked if the pot hole near Prosperity Drive had been patched. Manager Bergman responded that they are working in that area.

Council Member Carter said the Carolina Strawberry Festival was great but a few tasks regarding grease disposal needed to be addressed.

Council Member Carlton expressed her thanks for being able to attend CityVision, the NCLM Annual Conference.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Wells echoed what Council Member Carter said about the Strawberry Festival and agree there was some stuff that needed to be cleaned up. He indicated that the Depot needs to be painted and said he would like to have each Department Head report quarterly to the Council in-person.

Town Manager's Report

Manager Bergman reported that to support the inclusive playground a PARTF grant (Parks and Recreation Trust Fund) application for ADA related projects is being prepared for submittal in June. He has spoken with Beth at Davis Carr's office about what needs to be done on the 830 Project and he would like to present the draf budget to the Council at a second meeting this month.

With there being no other business to discuss at this time, Council Member Carter made a motion to continue the meeting on Thursday, May 26 at 6:00 pm.. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and approved by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Wells., Mayor

Jacqueline Nicholson, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT
22-05
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of Wallace, North Carolina that, pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, which having adopted Grant Project Ordinance 22-05 – Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds on November 8, 2021, does hereby amend section 2 of said project ordinance as follows:

Section 2: The Town elects to take the standard allowance, as authorized by 31 CFR Part 35.6(d)(1) and expend the remaining funds available and previously not allocated elsewhere for the provision of government services. Based on the above election and previous allocations, the expenditure budget amounts are appropriated for the project and authorized for expenditure as follows:

Premium Pay	\$ 122,728.91
Water Infrastructure Facilities	112,500.00
Revenue Replacement - General Fund	<u>995,899.32</u>
Total	\$1,231,128.23

Adopted this the 12^h day of May 2022

Jason Wells, Mayor

Attest:

Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk

{SEAL}