

TOWN OF WALLACE
MONTHLY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
January 12, 2023
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 Frank Brinkley
Council Member Jeff Carter
Council Member Jason Davis
Council Member Francisco Rivas-Diaz

The following members of the Governing Body were absent:

None

Also Present were:

Rob Taylor, Interim Town Manager	Anna H. Herring, Town Attorney (via Zoom)
Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk	Sandy Forehand (via Zoom)
Lisa Cottle, WWTP ORC	Stephanie Gonzales
Jimmy Crayton, Police Chief	Jimmy Johnson
Rod Fritz, Planning Director	Tyler Jones
Marlane Carcopo (via Zoom)	Joseph Merritt
Austin Eubanks, Thompson·Price·Scott·Adams & Co. (via Zoom)	Jennifer Raynor (via Zoom)

Mayor Jason Wells called the regular meeting to order with a quorum of the governing body members present and gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Presentations

Mayor Wells administered the Oath of Office to Police Officer Michael Murphy.

Austin Eubanks, Thompson·Price·Scott·Adams & Co. presented the Audit for FY 2021-2022. Mr. Eubanks reported on the required communications and assurance of compliance with the law, discussed the implementation of GASB 87 regarding leases (long term leases become long term debt), tax collection and a budget violation (which was addressed by Interim Town Manager Rob Taylor a little later in the meeting). He went into a little bit of detail with the different funds, grants and fund balance.

Lisa Cottle, Wastewater Treatment Plant ORC (Operator in Responsible Charge) provided a report on the Town's WWTP. Ms. Cottle reported on employees, permits and said that she had met with and answered questions for the independent engineering assessment of the WWTP.

Adoption of the Agenda

Mayor Wells asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Interim Manager Taylor said an item for closing the Jim Russ alley needed to be added. Council Member Jeff Carter made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended which was seconded by Council Member Wannetta Carlton and approved by unanimous vote.

Public Comment Period

Stephanie Gonzales said that keeping the youth in town will help it grow and she presented some of her ideas for how to make that happen. Ms. Gonzales mentioned a wider selection of entertainment and food options.

Tyler Jones, TYKO Home Solutions, said he recently moved back to the area and is buying homes to fix up and resell at affordable prices.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Wells called for discussion of the minutes from the December 8, 2022 meeting. There being no additions or corrections Council Member Frank Brinkley made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Council Member Carlton and unanimously approved.

Interim Manager Taylor presented the tax report for the period ending 11/30/2022 and noted the decrease in past due amounts.

Old Business

Amended Audit Contract -Date Extension

Interim Manager Taylor said that the Audit was completed but it was past the original due date asked that the contract be amended to extend the due date.

Council Member Francisco Rivas-Diaz made a motion to approve the amended contract which was seconded by Council Member Carter and unanimously approved.

Major Budget Amendment

Interim Manager Taylor stated that the over budget violation noted in the audit related to costs associated with Hurricane Florence and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). Mr. Taylor asked the Council to approve a budget amendment in Major Grant Fund 91.

Council Member Brinkley made a motion to approve that was seconded by Council Member Carlton and approved by unanimous vote.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions and Councils of Government

Town Clerk Jackie Nicholson stated that there were some vacancies on the appointed Boards and Commissions and the Eastern Carolina Council of Governments and Cape Fear Council of Governments asked for delegates to be appointed. Ms. Nicholson added that a member of the Planning Board was moving out-of-town next month and his seat would need to be filled. Planning Director Rod Fritz said that Warren Hepler had been attending the Planning Board meetings and was interested in filling that vacancy.

Council Member Brinkley made a motion to appoint Warren Hepler to the Planning Board to complete the term of Gage King which expires at the end of the year. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and approved unanimously.

Town Clerk Nicholson said with the departure of Larry Bergman the Town does not have a representative on the ECC (Eastern Carolina Council). Council Member Brinkley expressed interest but asked for more information.

Council Member Carlton made a motion to reappoint Jimmy Johnson and Glenda Mobley to the Board of Adjustment for terms of 3 years to expire in 2025. The motion was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and unanimously approved.

Council Member Carlton made a motion to reappoint Mayor Wells as the delegate and Council Member Rivas-Diaz as the alternate to the Cape Fear Council of Governments which was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and approved by unanimous vote.

Discussion of NCLM (North Carolina League of Municipalities) Legislative Goals and Appointment of Voting Delegate

Town Clerk Nicholson said that the NCLM Board of Directors had approved 16 advocacy goals submitted by the Legislative Policy Committee for consideration by the membership. Each municipality should elect a voting delegate and cast a single vote for 10 of the proposed goals in order to have a focused state and federal advocacy agenda for the 2023-24 legislative biennium.

Council Member Carter made a motion to appoint Council Member Rivas-Diaz as the Town's voting delegate. The motion was seconded by Council Member Carlton and approved unanimously.

New Business

Approve Construction Contract for PARTF (Parks & Recreation Trust Fund) Grant Project-Farrior Park at Boney Mill

Planning Director Fritz stated that request for proposals were sent out for work related to the PARTF Grant project at Farrior Park and only one bid was received and the second time only one bid was received from DPH Construction. Upon negotiation, the project was scaled down but still includes the a parking lot, restroom, 2 picnic shelters, playground, disc golf, horseshoes, cornhole and water, sewer and electric infrastructure. Town Attorney Anna Herring is still reviewing some of the legal aspects of the contract but the dollar amount will not change. Mr. Taylor asked the Council to approve the contract subject to any changes made by the Attorney.

Council Member Carloltn made a motion to apporve the contract subject to changes by the Town Attorney of which was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and approved by unanimous vote.

Sale of Surplus Property-Airport Rental Houses

Interim Manager Taylor said that the Town has three houses at the Airport that will be demolished with the expansion. Due to an interested party wanting to purchase one of them and move it, staff recommended listing the homes on govdeals for sale to the highest bidder. Town Attorney Herring indicated that houses are real property and not personal property so they cannot be sold in this manner.

Resolution of Intent to Close Alley-Jim Russ Building

Interim Manager Taylor stated that this alley appears to be a public right-of-way and can be closed by the Town. He recommended closing the entire alley while maintaining a utility easement and allow adjacent property owners to access their property from the alley, if necessary.

Council Member Brinkley made a motion to adopt a Resolution of Intent. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and unanimously approved.

Financial Reports

Finance Director Taylor commented that overall revenues and expenditures are where they should be, sales tax is up slightly and the water/sewer revenues are starting to creep up as expected with the new meter system.

Council Reports

Council Member Carlton said she was really glad to see that someone is interested in helping generate affordable housing and she was ready to help.

Council Member Carter asked if any paving was getting done or was it wrong time of year? He said the street by the Methodist Church is in bad shape and the storm drain at the SW corner of College and Main does not drain.

Council Member Brinkley said the paving on Harrell Street has still not been done. He also expressed his dissatisfaction with a virtual presentation by the auditor.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Wells asked the Council if they would like to continue the meeting in a week or so to discuss the Town Manager applications and decide who to interview. They agreed to continue the meeting on January 26.

Town Manager's Report

Interim Manager Taylor said that a hearing was scheduled with Ms. Powell about her house on N. Duplin St. and she was a no show. The Sheriff's Department will be delivering a letter to her directing her to demolish the house within 30 days.

With there being no other business to discuss at this time, Council Member Carter made a motion to continue the meeting on Thursday, January 26 at 6:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Carlton and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Wells, Mayor

Jacqueline Nicholson, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

TOWN OF WALLACE
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Wallace, North Carolina the following amendments be made to the budget for the fisca year ending June 30, 2023			
Section I:	GENERAL FUND		
Account Number	Account Description	Debit	Credit
91-8200-150	Storm Expenditures	\$2,000,000.00	
91-3098-000	FEMA Reimbursements		\$2,000,000.00
	General Fund Totals	\$2,000,000.00	\$2,000,000.00

Increase budget for additional costs related to Hurricane Florence and increased reimbursements from FEMA in Major Grant Fund 91

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 January 12, 2023

Attest:

Jackie Nicholson
Town Clerk

Jason Wells
Mayor

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WALLACE TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY ALLEY PARALLELED TO WEST BONEY STREET BETWEEN THE BUILDINGS ON THE CORNER OF WEST BONEY AND SOUTH COLLEGE STREET, WALLACE, NC.

THAT WHEREAS, G.S. 160A-299 authorized the Wallace Town Council to close streets and public alleys;

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Town Council for the Town of Wallace to close the public right-of-way alley parallel to West Boney Street between the buildings on the corner of West Boney and South College Street, Wallace, NC;

WHEREAS, a public hearing shall be conducted for the purpose of considering closing the public right-of-way alley parallel to West Boney Street between the buildings on the corner of West Boney and South College Street, Wallace, NC;

WHEREAS, a public hearing to discuss the closing of the public right-of-way alley parallel to West Boney and South College Street, Wallace, NC will be held after 6:00 pm on Thursday, March 9, 2023 in the Council Chambers at the Wallace Town Hall, 316 E. Murray St., Wallace, NC 28466.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Wallace that:

1. A public hearing to discuss closing the public right-of-way alley parallel to West Boney Street between the buildings on the corner of West Boney and South College Street, Wallace, NC will be held after 6 pm on Thursday, March 9, 2023 in the Council Chambers at the Town Hall, 316 E. Murray St., Wallace, NC 28466.
2. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to publish the Resolution of Intent once a week for four consecutive weeks in the *Duplin Times*.
3. The Planning Director is hereby directed to transmit by registered or certified mail to all owners of property adjoining the alley as shown on the county tax records.
4. The Planning Director is further directed to prominently post in at least two (2) places along the alley, a notice of the closing and the public hearing in accordance with G.S. 160A-299.

Adopted this 12th day of January, 2023.

Adopted by motion of Council Member Brinkley, seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and approved by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 against.

Jason Wells, Mayor

Jacqueline Nicholson, Town Clerk