

# Town of Walnut Cove

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2017

**Mayor Lynn Lewis presiding:**

**Commissioners Present:**

**Sharon Conaway, Danny Hairston,  
Charles E. Mitchell, Elwood Mabe,  
Town Clerk Leslie Falstreau, Town Attorney  
Ann Rowe, KG Greenwood, Town Manager**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Walnut Cove Senior Center. Wesley Durrell delivered the invocation and Mayor Lewis led the pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The announcements were read by Mayor Lewis.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Lesley Bray Brewer of 108 Meadow Road Danbury NC spoke tonight on behalf of the Ministerial Association. The community is invited every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday night at differ churches. There will be a Thanksgiving service 11/21/17 at Rosebud Christian Church and will have a lay person to speak. The community choir practice will begin at 6:00 p.m. Brewer also added that the town's webpage was down.

Charles Byron, 1159 N. Main St. Walnut Cove spoke to congratulate Commissioner Mitchell on his election as Mayor for the town. Byron offered his help. He wanted to bring to the Commissioners attention the process for filling a Commissioner vacancy. Byron stated there was no time frame relating to the appointment and no specific rules about how they must be appointed. Discussion must be done in the public body. Byron also said the Mayor can vote on a nominee if the Commissioners tie. He wanted the town to take into consideration the laws when considering the matter before them.

### **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

Commissioner Conaway suggested to adjust the agenda by adding the Public Hearing for the text amendment to allow a wellness/fitness center/gym in zoning area B-1 and the consideration of approving the text amendment to allow a wellness/fitness center/gym in zoning area B-1 under old business.

A motion was made by Commissioner Conaway and seconded by Commissioner Mabe for adjustment to the agenda and was approved unanimously.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

No minutes were available for approval.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion for public hearing regarding the consideration of a text amendment and was seconded by Commissioner Conaway which carried unanimously.

Regarding the text amendment for a wellness center, Lesley Bray Brewer, 108 Meadow Dr Danbury NC stated she is one of those who wants to put in a wellness center. She said that she walked the street and saw how many vacant businesses and she knows it will not be a big money maker for the town but from 1<sup>st</sup> Street to 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 32 homes are occupied out of 50. There are 11 vacant buildings and she says there are plenty of places for people to come in for the potential of revenue for the town. The wellness center would bring business in and she thinks a wellness center would be beneficial, regardless of who opens it.

Meagan Evans, 1198 Friendship Rd, King spoke and she thought a wellness center would be of great benefit to Walnut Cove. When she was younger, there was nothing to do and she remembers that therefore a wellness center would be good for the youth. She said that is an opportunity that would really benefit the town and not everything could be counted in dollars, sometimes it's the benefit that counts.

Reginal Fenner, 163 Lakeside Dr, Walnut Cove stated he suffered from a stroke two years ago and needed rehabilitation and had to go to King for treatment for the lack of a facility in Walnut Cove. He thought it was a good idea for a wellness center in Walnut Cove. He sees a lot of people walking around for exercise during good weather but cannot during bad weather. He said he pays enough taxes and he doesn't mind but he thinks it would be good reward for the people and the community and to help the young. A lot of young people play in the evenings and it would keep them out of the grocery store parking lots.

Angie Baily, 3280 Friendship Rd, Germanton NC stated that a wellness center would benefit for exactly the same reason. Walnut Cove doesn't have any type of available transportation for transport to recovery facilities. After surgery, strokes or any some injuries, it is necessary to complete fitness programs to recover. A walking track, dance, and nutrition assistance would also be a huge benefit to the community.

Jesse Day with PTRC wanted to point to some procedural items. He placed a memo at the commissioner's places. It referenced about consistency and he talked about Stokes County 2035 and how a wellness center tied in with that plan. He said in the vision center, it would fit in to "Improving infrastructure where infrastructure exists" and if the ordinance goes forward he just wanted to show the areas of consistency.

A motion was made by Commissioner Conaway to close the public hearing and seconded by Commissioner Mabe which and carried unanimously.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Conaway and seconded by Commissioner Hairston to approve a text amendment which includes a wellness center/fitness center/gym as a conditional use in zoning district B-1 which is consistent with Stokes County land development plan. The motion carried unanimously.

Completion of closing East Wellington Ln was tabled for the letter was not received from the Department of Transportation.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Small Town Main Street Committee Information: The Board was provided information made available from Kim Ferrell of the Small Town Main Street Committee. The Mayor and Board expressed their appreciation for all she and the group does for town. Their next event will be the Christmas lighting December 1, 2017. Ferrell stated that Angie Baily had done a great job in getting vendors for the lighting and the Byron's provided hot chocolate for the visitors. Connie Derrenbacher had been in charge of the smores and having Mr. and Mrs. Santa for the event. The honorary tree lighter had not been named. Town Manager Greenwood addressed the timing of tree decoration to ensure the ground was not too wet to get the trucks in the park.

Wilkes Communication: The original plan required Wilkes communication to have two rows of ornamental shrubs in front of the Riverstreet Network building. After Completion, Engineer Neal with Wilkes communication stated the rows of shrubs would block the turnaround area for the service vehicles. He shared current pictures to the Board. Commissioner Conaway indicated the huge area on the street side of the turnaround which looked free for shrubs. Discussion followed on how planting could be arranged. Commissioner Mabe asked whether they had considered a buffer when constructed and Neal said that type of building had never required a buffer in other areas. The Mayor suggested landscaping, such as junipers may be considered that did not get very tall. Commissioner Mabe and Conaway questioned why this was not considered when the plans were drawn. Neal said he would try some nandinas or something similar along the bank. The Board and Neal agreed the dwarf size ornamentals would be

sufficient. A motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell and seconded by Commissioner Hairston to use dwarf nandinas along the bank. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution for Approving Local Water Supply Plan: The information regarding the Walnut Cove Water Supply Plan was reviewed by the Board. Commissioner Conaway made a motion to accept the plan and was seconded by Commissioner Mabe. The motion carried unanimously.

At the close of New Business, Commissioner Conaway made a motion to adjourn into closed session referencing attorney-client privilege NCGS 143.318.11 (a)(3) *Walnut Tree Community Association, David Webster, Ada Linster, Anthony Prysock, and Lydia Prysock, vs. Town of Walnut Cove* and Personnel NCGS 143-318.(a)(6). Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting reconvened in Open session at 8:30 p.m. at which time it was announced that no action was taken during the closed session. Commissioner Conaway made a motion to appoint the vacant Town Manager position to the interim Town Manager Kim Greenwood at an annual salary of \$40,000 per year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mabe and carried unanimously. Greenwood thanked the Board for their support and looked forward to serving them. He also announced Leslie Falstreau's retirement and stated it would be big shoes to fill. Commissioner Conaway suggested to reach out to Matt Reece at PTRC for help in the interim of filling the position. The Board directed the Manager to fill vacancies: the LPA Manager position and the Town Clerk position.

#### **TOWN MANAGERS REPORT:**

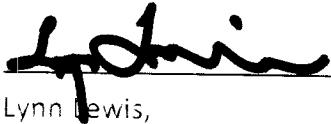
In the Town Managers report, Kim Greenwood advised the company to complete the sidewalks had been ill; however he is ready to start the project after the Christmas Parade. The Plant Street water tank was drained for its required inspection. There were no problems with the inspection and the tank is being refilled. Greenwood advised that the License Plate office no longer can accept billing payments as the company; Global Express had been purchased by PayPal. PayPal has not continued its services. Greenwood indicated an inventory system was now in place for public works. Commissioner Mitchell ask about snow removal and Greenwood advised Thomas Mitchell, Public Works had serviced all equipment and was ready for winter operations.

#### **CONERNS OF THE BOARD:**

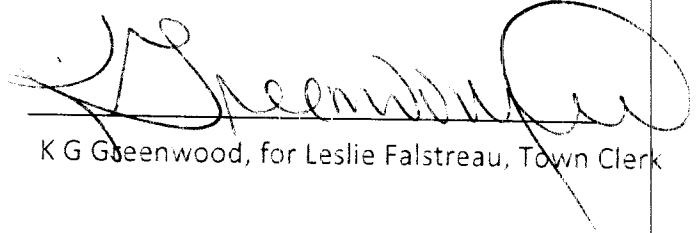
Commissioner Mitchell ask about any water leaks and if the leaks were being recorded in order to track them. Commissioner Mitchell also ask about snow removal and Greenwood advised Thomas Mitchell. Public Works had serviced all equipment and was ready for winter operations. Commissioner Conaway stated she had been approached from landowners concerned with kudzu encroaching onto their property. She ask the manager to check zoning regulations to

assist landowners. Commissioner Hairston ask about a school sign placed near the Senior Center. It was determined that DOT had placed the sign at that location.

**Commissioner Hairston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. followed by a second by Commissioner Mitchell. The motion carried unanimously.**



Lynn Lewis,  
Mayor



K G Greenwood, for Leslie Falstreau, Town Clerk