

Town of Walnut Cove

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2015

Mayor Lynn Lewis presiding,

Commissioners Present:

Elwood Mabe,
Kim Lewis, Sharon Conaway
Interim Town Manager Monty Stevens
Town Clerk Leslie A. Falstreau

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. at the Walnut Cove Senior Center. Commissioner Elwood Mabe gave the invocation following which Mayor Lewis led in pledging allegiance to the American flag.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Mayor Lewis went over the announcements in the agenda packet.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Buddy Timm, 708 Summit St., Walnut Cove, NC - Mr. Timm spoke to the Board regarding "just or legitimate government and what is our duty to uphold it". Mr. Timm requested that the Board individually or collectively request the Governor and governmental leadership to reject that which is not true - he cited homosexual marriage. He talked about Biblical Law and the Law of Nature and of Nature's God which helped frame our Constitutional Republic and he supported that thought. He then tied the idea of Moral Law and a Moral Law Giver back to rejecting false law. Mr. Timm said we should refuse to support homosexual marriages.

Bernie Sands, 113 Kingswood Place, Walnut Cove, NC - Mr. Sands questioned who had authority over the Planning Board and related an incident to the Board of Commissioners where he was "cut off" while talking at his appointed time in a Planning Board Meeting. Mr. Sands said he felt that the Chairman had shunned him at the last meeting of the Planning Board. He continued by saying that the Planning Board Chairman acted like everyone in the meeting was a second class citizen. He said that the matter at hand for that evening should have been voted on but was continued to another time.

Ramona Timm, 708 Summit St., Walnut Cove, NC - Ms. Timm talked in support for the proposal for "In God We Trust" to be put on the Town of Walnut Cove building. She said she feels that it is proper because that motto is part of our heritage, and if we are not willing to acknowledge it what would it say about our community. She ended by saying that she thinks that we should not be ashamed to acknowledge God in public, and she added that she would hate to think that someday He would be ashamed to acknowledge us.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA - There were no adjustments to the agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Conaway and seconded by Commissioner Mabe to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA - The consent agenda contained the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 11, 2015 and the Special Meeting of August 18, 2015. It was mentioned that on page four (4), paragraph nine (9), sentence two (2) the time of 6:00 p.m. needs to be changed to 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Conaway and seconded by Commissioner Lewis to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 11, 2015 with the correction of the meeting time of the Small Town Main Street Meeting to reflect 6:30 p.m. versus 6:00 p.m. and the minutes of the Special Meeting of August 18, 2015. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

LICENSE PLATE AGENCY - At the beginning of this meeting, Manager Stevens had given the Board members the following information on collections from the first full week of the License Plate Agency (LPA) business: \$56,279.25 in total revenue of which the Town's part is \$1518.00 and Notary fees of \$439 making the total for the Town \$1957.00. This information had been provided by LPA Manager Kim Greenwood, and Mr. Stevens said that on the last page of the material Manager Greenwood talked about a list of car dealers that the agency will be contacting in hopes of serving. It was mentioned that there have been many positive comments, including that of a polite and professional staff and the thought is that as word spreads the business will build – word of mouth is “key”. Manager Stevens said that the Town can advertise for the LPA within a 25 mile radius of the Town Hall, and said that is something that the Board might want to do. It was suggested that advertising be looked into if business doesn't pick up as expected. A word of “thanks” was given to Manager Greenwood for a great job.

NEW BUSINESS

US MOTTO ACTION COMMITTEE - Reverend Mark Smith was running late this evening and this item came before the Board later in the evening when he arrived.

Reverend Mark Smith addressed the Board making a presentation for the US Motto Action Committee. He explained that the Committee was asking that the Board and Town join this action and display the National Motto. He gave brief facts about this Motto and its history saying that these words have provided profound trust and guidance for many. He mentioned that the cost of having this Motto provided is no charge to the Town and announced some of the Counties and Towns that have already joined in displaying this Motto on their governmental building. Reverend Smith added that any action that the Town would take in regards to the US Motto would be protected by the First Amendment.

ATM SERVICES FOR THE LPA - Manager Stevens said he was approached by Todd Gentry to put an ATM machine inside the LPA Agency. The Town would be charged nothing and would get a commission, and could have a one, two or three year contract or no contract at all. The Town would not be responsible for restocking the bills, and if help was needed there would be a help number that customers would call. Discussion followed but it was thought that it could be useful if it could be secured without a contract.

A motion was made by Commissioner Conaway and seconded by Commissioner Lewis that the Town engage an ATM with the LPA office agreement with Todd Gentry on a no contract basis. The motion passed unanimously.

NOVELTY SERVICES FOR LPA - James Griffin approached the Town regarding the sale of novelty items at the LPA. There is a large assortment of items to choose from and the Town would make a small amount on each item sold. The Board members looked at the list of available items and commented on items that might be useful to sell like handicapped placard holders and screws. Manager Greenwood has said that he would be happy to contact Mr. Griffin and get more information. Since there was no set amounts of items that needed to be bought, it was thought that it was a good idea because the LPA would only have to buy what they thought they could sell.

A motion was made by Commissioner Conaway and seconded by Commissioner Lewis to approve the LPA to offer novelty sales. The motion passed unanimously.

LAND GIFTING - Town Manager Stevens has been asked by Mr. Greg Hardie if the Town would be interested in a piece of property he owns between the old DeHart dentist office building and Main Street Diner. He will give it to the Town if the Board will accept it. The property is long and narrow going back as far as the DeHart building, and discussion followed regarding various positive and negative factors in the Town receiving this property, possible contamination of dry cleaning fluid (which did not seem likely) and possible uses for this property. Manager Stevens said that it might be good for a farmer's market, and if the Town does receive it there was the suggestion that Rhonda Jones, Stokes County Board of Commissioners Chairman, be made aware since she is working with the non-profit Stokes Future, Inc.

A motion was passed by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Commissioner Conaway to accept the proposed land offer from Greg Hardie of Clemmons, NC of the lot between the DeHart office building and Main Street Diner which is 66' x 208' in length. The motion passed unanimously.

FOWLER PARK WELL DISCUSSION - In looking over the last two months of large water purchases, recent water line leaks and larger amount of water used by the Parkdale Plant, Manager Stevens wondered about getting some information about the feasibility of starting operating the Fowler Park well again. Manager Stevens found out from Rural Water that the well had ceased operation in 2000, but was still permitted and can be used "in case of emergency". It is not clear what that means, but Manager Stevens thinks that it is worth investigating to find out for sure whether it is feasible, financially and otherwise, to fix and use that well. If not, then efforts could go toward the thought of a new well. Brief discussion regarding recent work done at the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) followed because it had been thought that the work done there would provide extra water for the Town instead of drilling a new well. It was explained that it has provided extra water, but a need is still present.

There was discussion regarding why the Fowler Park Well was originally closed, and although ideas were shared it was suggested that Manager Stevens have a conversation with DENR to find out what their files show and then move forward from there. It was also suggested that the previous Well Head Protection Plan of several year ago again be reviewed, and any information that the Town was supposed to obtain from the presenter be requested.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION MINTUES NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(1)

A motion was made by Commissioner Conaway and seconded by Commissioner Lewis to go into Executive Session for Approval of Closed Session Minutes NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1).

The meeting adjourned into Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 8:35 p.m. when it was announced that no action was taken in the Executive Session except the approval of the Closed Session Minutes of 12-9-2014, 1-13-2015, 4-14-2015, 6-9-2015, 7-14-2015 and 7-22-2015.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

Manager Stevens announced that Mark Allred resigned his position as Code Enforcement Officer for the Town and his position will be filled by Jessie Day until the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments finds a full time replacement.

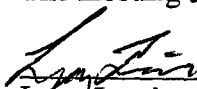
Manager Stevens reviewed with the Board a paving request from the DOT which has a September 30 deadline. The request is for areas of need within the state road system going through Walnut Cove. The Commissioners suggested the following roads and areas: the hole on Main Street near Edwards Jones, the area on 89 N just past Wilco Hess where the road has been patched and a spot in front of Town Fork Produce. There was also discussion about an area on Spring Street where the DOT had done some recent work.

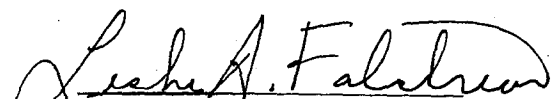
Commissioner Conaway showed the Board members a brochure that featured road improvements that have been done in West Jefferson. Although Commissioner Conaway said that she wouldn't have believed this report without the documentation, she was presenting it to the Board because it showed some good improvements that can be coordinated with the DOT. Slanted parking is a big part of this improvement. Manager Stevens said that he would show the brochure to Eric Woolridge from Destinations by Design, and he further said that Mr. Woolridge planned on attending the next Board Meeting, presenting his plan, getting comments, making appropriate changes in order to get Board approval, setting a Public Hearing and then getting dates for public input in the community.

At this point in the meeting, Wesley Durrell asked about getting a speed bump installed on McAlster Street. He said there was one in the past, and at present big trucks are coming down that street. He said that street also needs to be repaved. Mayor Lewis said that new Manager Bobby Miller will handle that. Mr. Durrell did thank the Board for cutting the trees down that were near the Ingles driveway.

A motion was made by Commissioner Conaway and seconded by Commissioner Lewis to adjourn. The motion was unanimously passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.


Lynn Lewis
Mayor


Leslie A. Falstreau
Town Clerk