

Town of Walnut Cove

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING MINUTES

April 9, 2019

Mayor Charles Mitchell

Commissioners Present:

Elwood Mabe-Mayor Pro Tem

Danny Hairston

Thomas Mitchell

Charles Byron

Staff present:

Town Manager Kim Greenwood

Town Clerk Amanda Bryant

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM at the Walnut Cove Senior Center by Mayor Mitchell. Leslie Bray Brewer gave the invocation following which Town Manager Greenwood led in pledging allegiance to the American flag.

ANNOUNCEMENTS-

- a. The Cove Group. 1st Tuesday each month. Oma's Coffee Shop @ 6:30 PM. (5/7/19).
- b. Walnut Cove Volunteer Fire Dept. Regular Meeting. Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 7:00PM, Walnut Cove Fire Department.
- c. Walnut Cove Board of Commissioners; Regular Meeting. Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at Walnut Cove Senior Center.
- d. Springfest. May 18, 2019 Times 10-2. Walnut Cove, sponsored by The Cove Group.
- e. Town Recycling. 4/19/2019 and 5/3/2019
- f. Budget Retreat; Special Meeting. 9:00am, Walnut Cove Library 4/12/19.
- g. League of Municipalities. Hosted by the Town of Danbury 4/18/19, at 6:30pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – 1

1. Leslie Bray Brewer-108 Meadow Rd. Danbury, NC
 - a. The Walnut Cove Ministerial will be participating in the National Day of Prayer on May 2nd. The Well will be opened from 7am-10pm with a special service at noon and 7pm. I wanted to invite everyone to the special service at noon.
2. Naomi Guis 203 Millbrook Lane Walnut Cove, NC
 - a. She wanted to speak to the Board regarding a neighbor who she feels keeps harassing her and filing complaints to Town Hall about her. She stated she moved here 2 years ago and feel in love with the town.
 - b. About a month ago a neighbor who doesn't live on her street began harassing the neighborhood.
 - i. She has received 2 notices from the Town Manager.
 - ii. She has 2 garage sales a month which the neighbor states is causing too much traffic.
 - iii. She is in the process of installing a storage container building which she has a permit for by the Town. She also states what items she doesn't sale she donates to ESOM.
 - iv. Ms. Guis states she doesn't feel she is bringing any extra traffic into the neighborhood and she has talked to additional neighbors who told her they aren't bothered by the traffic. She also stated she had to install a privacy fence, the same neighbor is stalking her Facebook page and taking pictures and videos of the people coming to her home. She isn't sure what to do in the situation.
 - v. Commissioner Byron stated that the Board cannot comment on anything she has stated but he will have Mr. Greenwood reach out to her.
 - vi. Town Manager Greenwood stated the ordinance only allows for 2 garage/yard sales a year. Ms. Guis stated she was not aware of the ordinance or that she had to have a permit for a garage sale.

ADJUSTMENTS/CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA-

1. Commissioner Hairston asked for town employee Thomas Mitchell to come up to the Commissioner table. Commissioner Hairston stated at the last board meeting it was approved for Mr. Mitchell to become the new street maintenance supervisor and was promised 3 part time employees. He continued by stating Mr. Mitchell wants to quit the Town because he feels no one is doing what was voted on. Commissioner Hairston stated Mr. Mitchell was a good man and a hard worker and he didn't want to lose him as an employee.
 - a. Commissioner Byron stated he would go by the recommendation of Commissioner Hairston.
 - b. Commissioner Hairston stated that Mr. Mitchell was to only answer to Town Manager Greenwood, stating the tension behind Mr. Mitchell's job that he was putting a stop to it and Commissioner Hairston told Mr. Mitchell to put the street supervisor stickers back on his truck.
 - c. Commissioner Mabe stated he thought that new position has not been voted on and he understood it was to be put on the agenda for the Budget Retreat.
 - d. Commissioner Hairston stated there was no need for all the tension that has been going on and he hopes this is not a racial thing because he would not tolerate racial tension.
 - e. Commissioner Mabe stated this was not the appropriate time to discuss this and we need to wait until the budget retreat. Commissioner Hairston stated there was no need to wait because the position has been voted on. Commissioner Mabe asked when it was voted on. Commissioner Hairston stated he made the motion himself.
 - f. Mayor Mitchell stated Mr. Mitchell was a faithful employee is very dedicated. Town Manager Greenwood stated he was an excellent employee. Commissioner Mabe stated he was not taking anything away from Mr. Mitchell but stated Mr. Mitchell had the stickers on the truck prior to the vote being passed. Also he needs to go to his direct supervisor and not a Commissioner. Commissioner Hairston stated that was in the past and he was proud to keep Mr. Mitchell on at the Town.

- g. Mr. Mitchell spoke up and stated he put supervisor on his truck as a symbol and he didn't want to offend any of his co-workers and he would like to apologize for that. Commissioner Hairston stated apology accepted.

A motion was made by Commissioner Byron to accept the adjustments/corrections to the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hairston. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

- a. Review and approve March 12, 2019 and April 2, 2019 minutes
 - a. The following corrections to the minutes:
 - i. March 12, 2019 Public Comments Mitzi Britt 5 state cruise in on April 6th for the Stokes County Spring Games Special Olympics on April 26th at West Stokes High School starting at 9am.

A motion was made by Commissioner Byron to approve and accept the March 12, 2019 and the April 2, 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hairston. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS-

- a. Water Report Analysis (Attachment B)
 - 1. The water report analysis is to compare the cost to purchase water from Stokes County verses our current hybrid system.
 - 2. In summary we produce ~87 million gallons of water at a cost of \$2110 Million gallons. The cost to purchase water from Stokes County currently is ~\$60 thousand per month.
 - 3. At the current price it is not feasible to buy water from Stokes County water authority. It will cause the Town to triple the cost of the cost of the water process.
 - 4. I had previously spoken to Commissioner Byron regarding the cost of installing a new well. The down side to this would be it would take approximately 1-2 years to put this

well on line. I also spoke to Fred Summer about adding a new well would make us sufficient. Commissioner Byron stated maybe it is time to start another well in order to become self-sufficient sooner rather than later. It would be the responsible conclusion to start another well.

New Business

a. Quarterly Budget Report (Attachment C)

- a. Town Manager Greenwood directed the Board to Town Clerk Amanda Bryant to given the quarterly expense reports.
- b. Mrs. Bryant presented each board member two documents the first was the Monthly Breakdown of Cash Balance and the second Yearly Comparisons.
- c. Mrs. Bryant thanked the Board for allowing herself and Brandi Bowman the opportunity to attend the FMS Conference in March. The conference provided vital information to help them use the FMS system more efficiently.
- d. Mrs. Bryant began by explaining for the investment accounts 1728 & 5334 have not been moved to the new investments with NC Capital management as the others have due to the fact she is not an authorized signer. She has Commissioner Mabe and Town Manager Greenwood in charge of closing those two investment accounts so the funds can be reinvested with NC Capital Management. She referred the Board to the investment accounts for the Escrow, Library and Debt Set off stating these accounts are already starting to grow and they were just invested in March 2019. She also noted the line item Bill Pay has no money listed because the Bill Pay and LPA accounts have been combined.
- e. Lastly she stated for the month of March those balances are incorrect because she is still in the process of balancing all of those accounts.
- f. Commissioner Byron asked what was the purpose of the Sewer Capital project account, which was explained it was to be used for any capital improvements.

b. Special Olympics Proclamation Consideration (Attachment D)

- a. Commissioner Byron with the permission of the Mayor, presented Steve and Mitzi Britt with a Proclamation declaring April 22 through April 26, 2019 Special Olympics Week.
- b. Commissioner Byron also made a motion to present the Stokes County Special Olympics with a \$500 donation.

Commissioner Byron made a motion to donate \$500 to the Stokes County Special Olympics. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hairston. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Revision of Yard Waste Rules (Attachment E)

- a. Due to the State guidelines we have to haul all of our yard waste such as limbs, leaves and debris to Forsyth County.
- b. We would like to print a postcard explaining the regulations set up by Forsyth County and mail to all of our citizens within the town limits.
- c. Commissioner Byron asked are there any limits? Mr. Greenwood explained not to his knowledge there wasn't.

Commissioner Byron made a motion to approve mailing out post cards with the revisions to yard waste rules. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Code Enforcement Update (Attachment G)

- a. Included in the agenda packet is a copy of the notice of violations which have been sent out since our last meeting.

Town Managers Report

- a.** The Department of Labor will begin their “health” and “safety” audit on June 26, 2019. They will begin with the Town Hall and Public Works area. Only July 15, 2019, they have the audit for the WWTP.
- b.** We anticipate the work to begin on April 22, 2019 at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The NC State grant was approved and we are in the process of de-watering pond two. Dr. Burchell anticipates the work will take about one full week to 10 days to complete.
- c.** The town has continued with yard waste collection. The truck has been equipped and we are in compliance with state law regarding yard waste collection. It is a slower process, with the additional drive time. The addition of part time help will be of benefit in the near future.
- d.** Mark Bowman, Public Works has reached out to our paving folks. There are several areas for patching and paving to be done. We are preparing a list of priorities to be addressed.
- e.** Thomas Mitchell, Public Works has completed the “Catch Basin” for our fuel oil container bringing us in compliance with the Fire Marshall Code.
- f.** The Board of Adjustments did approve the Conditional Use Permit for the O’Reilly proposed site on April 3, 2019.
- g.** The town has received applications for a bakery and rental business of events. The Zoning officer is working closely with the business to have everything in compliance and welcome new business to town.
- h.** The Public Works On-Call sheet is attached. I am proud of our folks. I know they are heavy hearted and Thomas and Will have to rotate weekends with Bobby’s absence and recovery. We will continue to provide the best service to the town that we can.
- i.** The License Plate Office continues to have good months. The March profit sheet is attached.
- j.** I continue to receive and approve engineering plans for R5768 and R5858 (round a –bout and the 65/311 intersection). We will

continue to work with DOT in making this a smooth process with as little interruption to services as possible.

- k. I have instructed PTRC to provide me with a copy of the minutes of P/Z Board meetings to provide you on a monthly basis with your packet. Commissioner Mabe made a good point to know what they are working on to be informed of questions by the citizens.

General Concerns of the Board

- a. Commissioner Byron stated the Cove Group is trying to make a positive change in the community. Recently they repaired the welcome signs.
 - 1. Grading on The Cove Square plans to bring in top soil and planting trees, bushes and sod to be laid. The informal goal will be to host performances this summer. As well as making Cove square available to churches and community groups.
- b. Mayor Mitchell wanted to tell everyone how much he appreciated the prayer and patience during his illness.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hairston to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byron.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

Charles Mitchell
Mayor

Amanda Bryant
Town Clerk

Date

Date