

# Town of Walnut Cove

## **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**July 10, 2018**

**Mayor Charles Mitchell**

**Commissioners Present:**

Elwood Mabe

Danny Hairston

Thomas Mitchell

Charles Byron

**Staff present:**

Town Manager Kim Greenwood

Town Clerk Amanda Bryant

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM at the Walnut Cove Senior Center by Mayor Charles Mitchell. Commissioner Danny Hairston gave the invocation following which Mr. Jacob Collins led in pledging allegiance to the American flag.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS-**

- a. Small Town Main Street Committee; Thursday July 19, 2018. Walnut Cove Public Library. (Regular Meeting)
- b. Walnut Cove Volunteer Fire Dept.; Regular Meeting. 7:00 PM Thursday, August 2, 2018, Walnut Cove Vol. Fire Dept.
- c. Walnut Cove Board of Commissioners; Regular Meeting. Tuesday, August 14, 2018. Walnut Cove Senior Center.
- d. Town Recycling; July 12, July 26 and August 9
- e. Planning/Zoning Board Meeting. Thursday July 19, 2018 at 6:30pm Walnut Cove Public Library.
- f. County League Dinner (hosted by City of King) July 19, 2018 (details provided)

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS – 3**

### **1. Steven Evans-Cypress Creek Renewables**

- a. Came to formally introduce himself to the Town Board.
- b. Cypress Creek Renewables is a solar power company
- c. They are in the very early stages of beginning to study and research the possibility of placing a solar farm in Walnut Cove.
  - i. If they do install a solar farm in Walnut Cove it would bring economic benefits to the Town.
  - ii. It will be no cost to the citizens and the Town
- d. Presented the Board members with information regarding their company and what they do.

### **2. Will Carter- Stokes County Economic Development Director**

- a. Wanted to Thank the Town for the service to the community.
- b. Will work hard to grow not only the County but the Municipalities as well.
- c. Believes we will succeed if we keep Jesus Christ at the center of our work.
- d. Believes each citizen is gifted and each should use their gift to help make the County better than it already is.
- e. Asking for everyone to continue to pray for the growth of the County and the Town.

### **3. Jake Oakley-County Manager of Stokes County**

- a. Wanted to remind everyone that we are united with one goal in mind.
- b. He will help the Board in any way he can.

### **4. Tom Langan-Current Assistant DA for Stokes County**

- a. Assistant District Attorney for 18 years and it has been an honor.
- b. Currently running for District Court judge.
- c. As part of his job as DA he gets to meet and understand the needs of the citizens.
- d. He hopes by being more present in the County it will make him a better judge and prosecutor.

### **5. Kyle Hall**

- a. Wanted to stop by and tell everyone hello.
- b. Also wanted to see what is happening in the Town.

## **ADJUSTMENTS/CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA-**

No adjustments or corrections to the agenda were made.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Hairston that there were no adjustments to the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **Consent Agenda**

No corrections were made to the minutes from the June 12, 2018 meeting.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Mabe to accept and approve the minutes from the June 12, 2018. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hairston. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

No Old Business to discuss.

## **NEW BUSINESS-**

### **a. Recognition of Outgoing Fire Marshall-Anthony Stewart**

- i. Town Manager Greenwood praised Anthony for his dedication to the town as well as his helpfulness to keep the town on track.
- ii. Mayor Mitchell presented Anthony Stewart with a plaque for his years of dedication to the Town. Mayor Mitchell also expressed his thanks to Anthony for all he has done for the Town.
- iii. Anthony wanted to give Town Manager a gift so he returned his key.

- i. He expressed his thanks to the Board and Town Hall for the support he has had over the years and that it was nothing he did on his own, it was a team effort.

**b. Recognition of Jacob Collins-Boy Scout Troop #412**

- i. He is the son of Pastor Tracey & Joyce Collins
- ii. He is working on his Citizenship merit badge.
- iii. He is a member of Boy Scout Troop #412.
- iv. Mayor Mitchell expressed his appreciation for coming tonight and for doing a good job of leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

**c. Consideration for Extending Moratorium on Oil and Gas Development-Attachment B**

- i. The current moratorium does allow for an extension as noted in Section 11.
- ii. Town Manager Greenwood suggests after consulting with the Town Attorney Anne Rowe, we hold a Public Hearing to take place at the Board meeting in August.
- iii. The vote may also take place at the August 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.
- iv. Town Manager Greenwood has an extension already prepared that will give a 3 year extension.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Byron to hold a Public Meeting at the August 14<sup>th</sup> Board of Commissioners meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hairston. Motion carried unanimously.**

**d. Consideration of Appointment of Citizen Panel for Community Improvement.**

- i. Town Manager Greenwood explained there are a couple of citizens in the town who wish is to start a Citizen Panel
  - i. This group will have no power to make any changes but their purpose is to come up with ideas to improve the town and then present it to the Board.
  - ii. They also suggested researching grants and things of that nature as a way to improve the town.

**ii. Questions and Answers of the Board**

- i. Commissioner Hairston asked how many people will be on the panel?
  - 1. Town Manager Greenwood stated he thought 5 to 6 people but it will depend on the number of applications received.
- ii. Mayor Mitchell stated he is all for the panel because anyone who is willing to enhance the town he is all for it. He also stated it didn't matter the number of people on the panel. Let whoever wants to be on the panel be on it.
- iii. Commissioner Byron stated everyone has talents and skills and this would be fantastic. His only concern is that it does not overlap other groups such as Small Town Main Street. He does not want there to be competition between the panel and any other town organizations they are after the same goal. He would also like to have a liaison between the two groups.
- iv. Town Manager Greenwood stated he would post the application announcement on the Town website. Also the Town will work on setting up perimeters for the Panel to ensure the concerns of the Board are met.

**Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to accept applications for the Appointment of a Citizen Panel for Community Improvement. The**

**motion was seconded Commissioner Byron. The motion carried unanimously.**

**e. Grant Request Consideration – East Stokes Outreach Ministry**

- i. Angie Bailey serves on the Board for ESOM and is their fundraising chair. Angie explained last year the Board had given them \$8000 to make building improvements. They used the money to brick the front side of the building which ended up having a total cost of \$15,970.00. She is here today to ask if the Board would provide the remaining amount of \$7,970.00.
  - i. Angie explained currently this is their hardest time of the year due to low donations as well as the children of the community out of school. Many of the families they serve do not have the money for food, so the demand for food is high.
  - ii. They previously had turned the back pack program over to the Backyard Bible program so they can use those resources to purchase more food for those who need it.
- ii. Additionally they will be using the money to help with fixing the sign out front that has rotted to the ground. Along with some landscaping in order to have more curb appeal to attract more customers.
- iii. Questions of the Board
  - i. Commissioner Hairston asked if she could get an estimate for the cost of the sign and landscaping.
    1. Angie stated they have had a man who would do the landscaping for just the cost of materials which would be approximately \$600.
    2. They had no formal estimate for the sign at this time but she would be happy to provide one at the next Board meeting.
  - ii. Mayor Mitchell asked how much money do you need?
    1. Angie stated the full invoice for the brick work of \$7970. This is part of the grant that was discussed last year.

- iii. Commissioner Byron stated East Stokes Outreach Ministry serves a lot of citizens and takes care of those in the community. He feels that it is the job of the Town to take care of them because they take care of the needs of the citizens.

**Commissioner Hairston made a motion to approve the grant request for \$7970.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Town Managers Report-Attachment C**

- i. The Independence Day celebration held July 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Lion's Park was very successful. It was estimated we had the largest attendance in years. My thanks to the Town staff, Commissioners, Sheriff's office, Fire Department and the Lion's Club for making it a special and successful event.
- ii. The Dept. of Transportation may be having another meeting regarding the new intersection and round-a-bout in the month of July. I have not been advised by DOT, however some of the affected property owners have advised of a possible upcoming meeting.
- iii. I have had numerous complaints concerning speeding on some of the town streets. I have arranged to meet with the Sheriff concerning more attention to speed detection and the consideration of speed bumps in problem areas.
- iv. I have completed the proper documentation with DOT for our Powell Bill money and hope to plan for next year's paving.
- v. Public works is assessing our streets concerning the condition of pavement, overgrowth, signage, etc. for the upcoming fiscal year. We hope to begin trimming tree growth over some of the streets.
- vi. We have re-negotiated the tank maintenance with Suez, saving us approximately \$8000 over the next three years.

- vii. The on-call list, LPA profit and recycling calendar is attached.
- viii. Additionally because of the torrential rain fall of last Friday (July 6<sup>th</sup>) we have had many issues at Town Hall including the roof leaking, flooding in the Public Works area and the back room in Town Hall. I have filed a claim with our insurance company and they will be coming by Thursday to make their assessment.

### **General Concerns of the Board**

- i. Commissioner Hairston wanted to see how the overtime was going with the new policy.
  - a. Town Manager Greenwood explained so far we have had no need to use the overtime policy. The Public Works department splits their time so we only have to use the overtime when it is absolutely necessary.
- ii. Commissioner Mitchell stated on the Town website it still lists the former Commissioners and the new Commissioners are not listed on the webpage.
  - a. Town Manager Greenwood explained we have had severe trouble with the website and the email system we currently use. We have had a security breach and are in the process of trying to fix it. He explained the antivirus system changed causing an issue but Southdata was in the office today and will be there in the morning to fix the issue.
  - b. Commissioner Byron asked about Facebook or other social media outlets. Town Clerk Amanda Bryant explained we do have a town Facebook account but it is not being utilized as it should. She also stated this is something we can certainly do in the future. Angie Bailey stated she could help with anything we needed regarding the social media outlets to make them more secure.
  - c. Commissioner Byron told of his walk down main street and noticing we neglected to enforce the zoning codes. There

were numerous cars without registration, unusable buildings which are dangerous to anyone around them. He suggested what we need to do in the future is enforce all codes and be consistent with enforcing the codes. We have got to send a message to everyone we enforce the codes but we are trying to be fair and consistent.

- i. Town Clerk Amanda Bryant explained the Town staff are currently working on a new system in the office and are working on a list of violations to present to the Board as well as our Town Attorney Anne Rowe. They are hoping to present the list of violators to the Board at the August meeting.
- d. Mayor Mitchell stated he appreciated Commissioner Byron for mentioning the code enforcement. This is something that needs to be done. He also stated he wants growth of the Town and he is tired of hearing about King growth. Mayor Mitchell stated he wants a new Town building; we are doing nothing but throwing money into a hole. He is tired of putting money into that building.

**Commissioner Hairston made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Mitchell  
Mayor

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Amanda Bryant  
Town Clerk

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Date

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Date