

Town of Walnut Cove

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2019

Mayor Charles Mitchell-absent

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 7:04 PM at the Walnut Cove Senior Center by Mayor Pro Tem Mabe. Commissioner Byron gave the invocation following which Mayor Pro Tem Mabe led in pledging allegiance to the American flag.

ANNOUNCEMENTS-

- a. The Cove Group. 1st Tuesday each month. Oma's Coffee Shop @ 6:30 PM. (4/20/19).
- b. Walnut Cove Volunteer Fire Dept. Regular Meeting. Tuesday, April 4, 2019 at 7:00PM, Walnut Cove Fire Department.
- c. Walnut Cove Board of Commissioners; Regular Meeting. Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at Walnut Cove Senior Center.
- d. Town Recycling. March 22, 2019 and April 5, 2019.
- e. Springfest. May 18, 2019 Times TBA. Walnut Cove Downtown, sponsored by The Cove Group.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – 1

1. Mitzi Britt

- a. Wanted to inform the Board she is the new Coordinator for the Stokes County Special Olympics. She wanted to provide the Board to get involved. The Special Olympics will be starting over in Stokes County. They are in need of coaches and volunteers. Currently there are 5 athletes from North Carolina who are in the World Games that will take place April 4, 2019. They will also start a bowling league as well. They will sponsor the Cruise in on April 26, 2019.

ADJUSTMENTS/CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA-

1. Commissioner Byron asked for Bradley from the Town Zoning and Planning to give an update. Town Manager Greenwood stated he had it included in his report.

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 February 2019 minutes
 - a. The following corrections to the minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Byron to approve and accept the February 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hairston. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS-

a. Tower Lease Update

1. This update is for the AT&T water tower lease who contracts with Black Dot a 3rd party vendor regarding the water tower lease. Black Dot stated if we do not except a proposal AT&T will be forced to remove their equipment and find another water tower location.
2. Ms. Rowe explained the current lease does not expire until 2023. She has been discussing the lease with our third party consultant Jamie Hicks. Ms. Hicks recommended to not agree with the lease because of the long expiration date.
3. Ms. Hicks completed an analysis of the proposed lease agreement and states it is not in the best interest of the town. It can cause a rental reduction. The proposal also stated AT&T could update their equipment etc., with no cost to them. The proposed lease does not give the opportunity to renegotiate.
4. Commissioner Hairston asked should we agree with the proposals from AT&T or Ms. Hicks recommendation to decline both proposals. Ms. Rowe stated it is in the best interest of the Town to go with Ms. Hickers recommendation to decline both proposals.

A motion to decline both proposals presented by AT&T based on the recommendation of both Town Attorney Rowe and the consultant Jamie Hicks was made by Commissioner Byron. Commissioner Hairston seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

a. Walnut Cove Fire Dept. Update

- a. Brian Booe provided an update on the Walnut Cove Fire Department. Mr. Booe became the Fire Chief in January 2019. Mr. Booe explained that volunteers are a big part of the program.
- b. Mr. Booe provided graphs to show the call volume for the town. He wants the Board to be informed upfront. He stated approximately 85% of there calls are medical related. They ran 90 calls a month with half of those calls inside the town limits.
- c. To provide some statistics for the Board Mr. Booe provided statistics from the City of King. WCFD had 1550 calls within our district. The city of King had 2600 calls. If the call volume continues to increase the need for additional personal will need to increase as well. Commissioner Byron asked compared to King staffing verses volunteers do you have those numbers? Mr. Booe provided the Board the following only a daily basis the City of King has 1 Fire Marshall, 1 Fire Chief, 6 Fire personnel and 3 administrative positions.
- d. Commissioner Byron asked how many volunteers do we currently have and the amount of hours they spend each week volunteering. Mr. Booe state they have 9 part time employees with 38 volunteers. Each volunteer provides approximately 20-30 hours per week running calls or in training.
- e. Commissioner Byron asked if the WCFD will be asking for money to hire additional personal this year at the Budget Retreat. Mr. Booe replied not this year but they are hoping to in the next year if they can get the state retirement plan.

b. Walnut Cove ABC Board Update

- a. Brian Booe from the ABC Board presented the Board members with various charts regarding the growth of the ABC store as well as information on the state ABC growth.
- b. Brian gave a brief history of the ABC store stating there have been 2 general managers. The store was originally a counter store but then became an open store. The store functions under the General Statute NC 18b.
- c. Commissioner Byron asked how the rules were established for the ABC store and Mr. Booe informed him it was by the statutes.
- d. Mr. Booe continued explaining the ABC store is in partnership under age drinking campaign.
- e. Mr. Booe explained North Carolina is a controlled state.
- f. He explained the sales graphs throughout the years we are close to the million dollar mark. All the money goes back into the community.
- g. Commissioner Byron asked who determines the pricing and how it is distributed and what effect has El Cabo had on the ABC store. Mr. Booe explained the pricing is statewide. Mr. Booe continued the graph only shows the sales for half a year so next year there will be a full year to give a better idea of the growth of the store.
- h. Commissioner Byron asked if the privatization was getting any traction. Mr. Booe explained not yet due to lack of Sunday sales.

c. Ordinance for Road Closure for Springfest

- a. Town Manager Greenwood stated Springfest will be May 18th and we will need to shut down Main Street from 3rd street to 6th street from 8am-4pm.

Commissioner Byron made a motion to close Main Street from 3rd Street – 6th Street on May 18th from 8am-4pm for Springfest. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Reschedule Budget Retreat

- a. It was proposed to hold the Annual Budget Retreat on April 12th at 9am at the Walnut Cove Public Library.

e. Yard Waste Pickup Policy

- a. Town Manager Greenwood provided an update on the Yard Waste Pickup which was offered to the citizens of Walnut Cove. He explained when we filed the paperwork for FEMA to get some money caused by the damage caused by the hurricanes it was brought to his attention the Town does not have a Solid Waste Permit. Per the State the Town cannot continue to pick up leaves and debris until one of the two listed below has been completed.
 - i. Our dump truck does not have the cover to haul leaves or debris over the highways or roads. It is state law every dump truck must have this covering. The cost to cover our dump truck will be \$900 for a spring loaded cover or \$700 for a hand crank. If we install the cover on the dump truck then we can contract with the Forsyth County Landfill off of Hanes Mill Road. The cost is \$32/ton.
 - ii. If we choose the second option which will be to have 2 acres of land dedicated for leaves and debris only. There are many additional guidelines that must be followed in order to have our own solid waste site.
- b. Commissioner Mabe wanted to know if it was our big dump truck, which Town Manager Greenwood confirmed it was.
- c. Commissioner Byron asked what is the work capacity and what are our next steps. Town Manager Greenwood stated the work capacity would be our drive from Town to Hanes Mill Road. As for the next steps we are waiting to hear from the DEQ. Commissioner Byron if we have a number of tons it would be and if this would be paid for out of the general fund? Town Manager Greenwood stated we do not have any idea of the amount of tons as of yet but he doesn't think it will be a big expense. He also stated this would be paid for out of the general fund.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hairston to have a spring loaded cover installed on the big dump truck at the cost of \$990.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byron. Motion carried unanimously.

Town Managers Report

- a. I have been contacted by the NC Division of Waste Management concerning our disposal of yard waste. The Town does not currently hold a yard waste permit. The state will aid in the completion of the composting and land application. The facility should be less than 2 acres, and composts, processes, or store less than 6,000 cubic yards of waste and or clean wood waste per quarter. The state has suggested we contract with Forsyth County which has a permitted yard waste facility.
- b. The March 2019 Public Works schedule is attached.
- c. The LPA had a much better numbers last month. The net profit for the month was \$9,313.58.

General Concerns of the Board

- a. Commissioner Byron has three concerns.
 1. This is our 1 year anniversary for the code enforcement and we have not sent out 1 code violation. We have things in process and citizens are expressing their frustration. We need to encourage Bradley and PTRC to proceed and use the current protocol that is in place. We have nuisances and hazards all through downtown and it needs to be fixed.
 2. Last meeting it was suggested a cost benefit analysis for purchasing our water from Stokes County do we have an update. Town Manager Greenwood stated he spoke with Fred Summers from Rural Water, they are currently working on the numbers and are working on 3 different plans to contract with Stokes County.
 3. Statgeic Infrasture Investments regarding the check valves etc. Commissioner Byron stated he would like to see something done before we have another issue and nothing is

done. Isolation valves would help localize issues. He would like to discuss this more at the Budget Retreat. Town Manager Greenwood wanted to remind the Board with the new round about going in we will be receiving free isolation valves for those properties. Commissioner Mabe stated we need to exercise the valves.

4. Commissioner Byron also recognized David Hairston from the Walnut Tree area. He wanted Mr. Hairston's feedback since the annexation. Mr. Hairston stated since the release of the lawsuit has been signed everything is going smoothly. They have established a committee so if a citizen has a problem they will come to the committee and the committee will present it to Town Hall or to the Board. Mr. Hairston thinks the Town has done a great job and they will begin to participate in activities. Commissioner Byron stated the Cove Group would love to have their input and for them to join them.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.

Elwood Mabe
Mayor Pro Tem

Amanda Bryant
Town Clerk

Date

Date