

Town of Walnut Cove
Board of Commissioner Meeting
December 10, 2019
Walnut Cove Senior Center

Members Present:

Charles Mitchell – Mayor
Danny Hairston – Commissioner
Elwood Mabe – Commissioner
Thomas Mitchell – Commissioner
Kim Greenwood – Town Manager
Amanda Bryant – Town Clerk
Ann Rowe – Town Attorney

Members Absent:

Charles Byron

Meeting Call to Order: Mayor Mitchell called the meeting to order @ 7:03pm.

Pledge of Allegiance: Wesley Durrell

Invocation: Wesley Durrell

Announcements:

Walnut Cove Christmas Parade, December 14, 2019 @ 2 Pm

Walnut Cove Board of Commissioners Meeting, January 14, 2020 @ 7PM – Walnut Cove Senior Center.

Walnut Cove Volunteer Fire Department, Monthly Meeting. Thursday, January 2, 2020 @ 7PM.

The Cove Group. January 6, 2020 at 6:30PM – Walnut Cove Library.

Town Recycling, Dec. 27, 2019, Jan. 10, 2020 and Jan. 24, 2020.

League of Municipalities Dinner hosted by the Town of Walnut Cove. Jan. 16, 2020 @ 6:30PM.

Town Office and LPA Office closed, December 25-26, 2019 and January 1, 2020 for Holidays.

Adjustments to Agenda

No adjustments or corrections

Public Comments – 1

Tony Prysock, 1046 Middlefork Drive, Walnut Cove, NC 27052- Mr. Prysock has been a resident of Walnut Cove since April 12, 1979. His reason for addressing the Board today is regarding the traffic and speeding problem on Martin Luther King Jr. Road. Mr. Prysock stated this is a constant issue there are many people who use the road to pass through but the speeding is the main issue. There have been two known accidents of people speeding and caused an accident, one accident a man was turning into his driveway and was rear ended by a speeder who then fled the scene. There are numerous children who play in the area and the concern they may get hurt by people speeding. In the past Officer Scribbins would park at Old Hwy 65 and MLK road and would write tickets which slowed people down for a while, now the officer who patrols the area only patrols the backside of the area. This needs to stop.

1. Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes November 12, 2019

A motion was made by Commissioner Hairston to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2019 meeting and seconded by Commissioner Mabe. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Old Business

No items

3. Organizational Meeting

Mayoral Oath of Office – Administered by District Court Judge Thomas Langan to Nellie Brown. Mayor Brown was accompanied by her sister Geraldine Mitchell, who held the Bible for her.

Commissioner Oath of Office for Commissioner Danny Hairston administered by Judge Thomas Langan earlier in the day.

Remembrance of Commissioner Elect Danielle Bailey Lash – Mayor Nellie Brown introduced assistant District Attorney for Forsyth County Jennifer Martin. Ms. Martin was the best friend of Danielle Bailey Lash and came forward with some remarks about Danielle Bailey Lash.

Ms. Martin spoke of a celebration of the life of Danielle Bailey Lash, we hurt because she is no longer here with us but we rejoice in the life of a woman who stood for faith, God and this Town. She met Danielle Bailey Lash when she was 12 years old when they moved here from California. Danielle Bailey Lash was a friend to all and believed in second chances. She has two children and one grandchild who is 18 months old and was anticipating the birth of her second grandchild. Danielle Bailey Lash graduated from South Stokes High School in 1992, and tonight we celebrate her life. Danielle Bailey Lash was a firm believer in being invested people's life. She did not let her illness define who she was. She has served this community for many years serving in different roles including treasurer of the Walnut Cove Wild Cats. She had her certificate in early childhood education. She loved children and loved working with them in all aspects. She often volunteered at the Little Folks festival, participated in the Christmas parade and many community events. She helped those who couldn't read, those who were sick and even sat with me through my grandmothers' sickness and death. We were blessed with unification of our families and they were intertwined. She excelled at every job she held but always stayed close to family. In the last year she cast all of her cares on the Lord. Over the years our friendship flourished, so today we weep for our loss but we will see her again. Danielle Bailey Lash's most beloved accomplishments were the true love of family and friends, her mom, children and grandchildren. She campaigned for Judge Langan and help to register voters. She felt very blessed to be elected as Commissioner by the people she loved in the Town that she loved. We will miss her forever and will treasure the memories of her so on behalf of myself and her family thank you!

Brown presented Ms. Sandra Thomas, Danielle Bailey Lash's mother with her commissioner name plate.

Recognition of Outgoing Members by Mayor Brown

Brown presented former Mayor Charles Mitchell with a plaque of appreciation for his hard work and dedication to the Town and for his service. Mr. Mitchell wanted to Thank everyone for there love and support especially during his illness as well as wanted to thank his wife Geraldine. Mr. Mitchell stated he started as a Commissioner then later became Mayor. Mr. Mitchell stated it was by the grace of God he could serve. Brown also presented Mr. Mitchell with the North Carolina State Flag by Kyle Hall.

Election of Mayor Pro Tempore.

Commissioner Hairston made a motion to select Elwood Mabe as Mayor Pro Tempore. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Piedmont Triad Regional Council of Government

Town Manager Greenwood stated former Commissioner Charles Byron served in this position. Commissioner Hairston made a motion to table this decision until next meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Commissioner and Planning/Zoning Board Calendar.

Commissioner Hairston made a motion to approve the Board of Commissioners and made a motion to approve the Planning/Zoning Calendar for 2020. Commissioner Mabe seconded the motion to approve the Planning/Zoning Calendar. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion to approve the Board of Commissioners calendar. The motions carried unanimously.

Appointment of Town Attorney

Commissioner Hariston made a motion to allow Ann Rowe to continue in the position of Town Attorney. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mabe. Motion carried unanimously.

4. New Business

The Lilies Project Proposal, Caroline Armijo

Mrs. Armijo thanked the Board for the opportunity and wanted to mention Danielle Bailey Lash was a good friend and the inspiration behind the Lilies Project. Danielle Bailey Lash helped with a lot of the planning and was seeking the labyrinth because she was a woman of faith and to encourage people to walk to improve their health. She wanted to present the Board with new ideas she has been working on as her deadline is fast approaching. She explained she had come in June to discuss the possibility of placing a labyrinth beside the library but due to the land it would become very expensive. She met with Nathan Wiles who builds a smaller 24' labyrinth that could be placed at the library which would only be a \$7000.00 project. She presented an image an image and discussing the possibility of creating a walking tour from the labyrinth which would also use the basketball court at London elementary. She would need to have it resurfaced and other things completed to hopefully make it a future park. She is also looking into placing the hexagon post at the East Walnut cove park as well. She is also looking into other projects such as murals throughout Town. Town Manager Greenwood how quickly do you need a decision on the park? Mrs. Armijo stated she has already completed a survey as a gift to the Town. Commissioner Mabe can you provide us some definite numbers and plans at the meeting next month? Mrs. Armijo stated she would.

Solid Waste Collection Contract

Town Manager Greenwood presented the contract for Foothills Waste Solution. The new contract would expire June 30, 2025. Commissioner Mabe asked if the price was still the same? Town Manager Greenwood stated he would have Ann Rowe review the contract. Commissioner Hairston asked how long Ms. Rowe would need to review it. Ms. Rowe stated she would have it ready by next meeting. Commissioner Hariston made a motion to table the approval of the Solid Waste Collection Contract until the January meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mabe. Motion carried unanimously.

Departmental Reports

Administration

Financial Report given by Town Clerk Amanda Bryant, who presented the Board with two handouts. The first handout provided information regarding the Town's cash balances for each cash and investment accounts. The second handout compared the investment account from the 2018-2019 to the 2019-2020 fiscal years. Each investment account continues to grow apart from the Sewer Capital account. Mrs. Bryant explained she is looking into various ways to help this account grow but be available if the Town was to need the funds. Town Manager Greenwood continued with his department report stating the Town anticipates the conclusion of the mandated state audit of the Town this week. The new phone system has been partially installed and await the completion by Riverstreet. The continued search for potential locations for a new Town hall. Considering the possibility of a park on Town property at London school. The new webpage will be fully operational in the coming days.

License Plate Office

The License plate office continues to stay very busy. I have interviewed for part-time personnel to assist. Normally, this is a slower time of year, however our office reported the following profits.

LPA transactions:	\$11,344.72
Notary:	\$ 1979.00
Total Profits:	\$14,304.40

We have not been advised a possible date as when or if the Rural Hall branch will re-open.

Public Works

We have completed the placement of all Christmas lights on Main Street.

We continue to work on our leaf and yard debris pick up during spare times

We have completed several water and sewer taps for residential and commercial structures recently.

All winter equipment has been winterized and ready in the event of bad weather.

All Public Works will be on staff for the Walnut Cove Christmas Parade along with the Stokes Sheriff's office and Walnut Cove Fire Department.

Thanks for the Public Works staff for their extra effort. Special events such as the tree lighting and parade adds additional duties along with our regular duties. I know they will continue to make us proud.

Fire Department

Brian Booe, Fire Chief for the Walnut Cove Fire Department wanted to Thank the Town and the Board for the nice tribute to Danielle Bailey Lash. He also graduated with her from South Stokes. He presented the Board with a with the statics of the call volume from the last quarter. The call volume continues to increase. They are in the process of fire hydrant maintenance which is required twice a year. They are also trying to work on some of the fire hydrants. All hydrants have been numbered, with 28 needing to be repaired. Their goal is to complete 5-8 hydrants per year. On the positive side the Fire Department held their first blood drive and had a total of 33 people donate blood and their goal was 20 people.

Employee Christmas Bonus

Town Manager Greenwood reminded the Board each year the employees receive a Christmas bonus as a gift from the Board. This year he has asked for a \$500.00 Christmas bonus for all full-time employees and a \$250.00 Christmas bonus for part time employees. He stated he is very proud of the employees and reminded the Board this has been a very difficult year losing Bobby, Thomas and Sydney as well as having Kaye out for medical issues. He is proud of what the staff has been able to accomplish. They are a dedicated staff.

Commissioner Hairston made a motion to approve a \$500.00 Christmas bonus for full time employees and a \$250.00 for part time employees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell. Motion carried unanimously.

Legal Opinion, Board Vacancy Appointment, Ann Rowe, Town Attorney

Town Manager Greenwood directed the Board to Ann Rowe Town Attorney regarding the appointment of a new Commissioner with the passing of Commissioner Elect Danielle Bailey Lash. Ms. Rowe stated she hated to address this issue after the moving words that have been spoken tonight. She outlined the steps needed for the current Board to appoint a Commissioner for the fourth seat. The steps are as follows: declare the seat vacant, the current Board appoints a person to the vacant seat, there is no time frame just a reasonable time frame, the only requirement to be discussed in an open meeting will be the person appointed will serve until the next election. Commissioner Mabe asked with the appointment to serve until the next election, it will through off our classes? Ms. Rowe stated she would investigate the statutes to verify.

5. Items of General Concern

No general concerns of the Board

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

6. Meeting adjourned at 8:17PM

Nellie Brown, Mayor

Amanda Bryant, Town Clerk

Date

Date