

**Town of Walnut Cove  
Board of Commissioner Meeting  
February 20, 2020  
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present:

Nellie Brown – Mayor  
Danny Hairston – Commissioner  
Elwood Mabe – Commissioner  
Kim Greenwood – Town Manager  
Amanda Bryant – Town Clerk

Members Absent:

Thomas Mitchell – Commissioner  
Joe Bennett – Commissioner  
Ann Rowe – Town Attorney

---

**Meeting Call to Order:** Mayor Brown called the meeting to order @ 7:00pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Brown

**Invocation:** Wesley Durrell

**Announcements:**

Walnut Cove Board of Commissioners Meeting, March 10, 2020 @ 7PM – Walnut Cove Senior Center.  
Walnut Cove Volunteer Fire Department, Monthly Meeting. Thursday, March 5, 2020 @ 7PM.  
The Cove Group. March 2, 2020 at 6:30PM – Walnut Cove Library.  
Town Recycling: February 21, 2020 and March 6, 2020

**Adjustments to Agenda**

New Business: Alex LaRoche, Eagle Scout Project

**Public Comments – 3**

Erwin Timm – 708 Summit Street, Walnut Cove, NC 27052

Mr. Timm provided a copy of the Second Amendment Resolution recently passed by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners. He provided a copy of his public comments.

He is here tonight to endorse the Second Amendment Protection resolution. Mr. Timm stated I am for the Town of Walnut Cove endorsing the Stokes County Second Amendment Constitutional Rights Protection Resolution. I believe that there are elected officials that will compromise the Constitution; especially the Second Amendment's "...right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." They speak up for more gun control every chance they get and say nothing when one speaks up for gun confiscation. They need to be warned there is a hot place in Hell-forever, for those that violate their oaths. The eternal judge over all the earth our Creator has spoken: "Thou shall not bear false witness" = Exodus 20:16 "...and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire..." – Revelation 21:8. I lived just south of Miami and commuted to Miami when the Liberty City riots of 1980 were going on. Hourly the police chief announced on the radio: The police can no longer protect you, get a gun and protect yourself. When I, a Vietnam Vet, spoke with my Vietnamese friend, a former Vietnamese Officer who perilously escaped to the United States once the South fell, he told me: If you

sign an agreement to help us- don't betray us. I agreed, our government did wrong, besides our word should have been trustworthy enough. I have family and friends that lived in other countries that had their countries taken over by communists pretending to be for the people. Sadly, when guns are in the hands of the government alone, the people are at the mercy of communist principled thugs and suffer hardships, if not torture, or death. Whatever happens to "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. – That to secure these rights Governments are instituted among Men..." To secure the right to Life, "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms" should be protected from infringement. You have taken an oath to the Constitution, and so have I. Almighty God will hold us accountable. Why? Not only because it is an oath before God, but because of all the people that will suffer, or lose their lives, once they are disarmed.

Brandon Hooker Lawsonville, NC

Mr. Hooker current Register of Deeds for Stokes County wanted to make the citizens of Walnut Cove aware of the projects that have taken place. They have now started the Get Certificate Now program which allows citizens to obtain birth certificates, death certificates and other registered documents. These documents can be ordered and paid for online or you can come into the office to obtain them. The other project is called Property Notification; this program allows citizens to create an online account and will alert citizens of any document submitted in the citizens name or their property. The program will alert the citizen by email. This is to help prevent the fraudulent documents that have been seen in the State. The program is free.

Mary Ann Gilliam- 1107 Martin Luther King Jr. Road, Walnut Cove, NC 27052

Ms. Gilliam presented the Board with two dishpans, and two wash cloths both stained by the iron in her water. She feels the Town could make this better. She bought the new pans on April 20, 2019. Ms. Gilliam stated she can not drink her water. There is a fire hydrant on her property as well as a sewage line that runs beside of the fire hydrant. Duke Power was there before and tore up the yard and the lines, she had been to Town Hall many times and the only way she was able to get it fixed was to call Commissioner Hairston before anyone fixed it. She needs answers, she stated she took off work just to come tonight. She has been living in Walnut Cove for 30 years and feels the Town needs to fix the problem. She needs answers, she was a single parent and has worked hard. Town Manager Greenwood stated he wasn't sure when the Walnut Tree area was originally adopted in the Town, maybe 20 years ago. The Town has spot tested at different residents' homes and the way the water system works throughout Town is all the water is run through a well then dispersed. We must meet the requirements of the State which is tested each week. The Town pays Pace Analytical a lot of money for this testing. Ms. Gilliam asked if the pipes are tested because Clorox will not kill this. Greenwood suggested she possibly has iron in her water and is the cause. Have you looked into a home filtration system of which Ms. Gilliam stated she had but can not afford the system. Town Manager Greenwood stated the Town tests for 56 chemicals in the water. Mayor Brown understands the problem and appreciates Ms. Gilliam for bringing it to the attention of the Board. She stated the Town would investigate getting this issue resolved.

Town Manager Greenwood recognized Sonya Cox running for Stokes County Commissioner, Brandon Hooker who is running for re-election for Register of Deeds and Stokes County Economic Director Will Carter.

## **1. Consent Agenda**

### **Approval of Minutes from January 14, 2020**

Correction page 5 item F had the incorrect item listed for the motion and approval.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Hairston to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2019 meeting with the correction of page 5 item F and seconded by Commissioner Mabe.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

## **2. Old Business**

### **A. Financial Report**

Town Manager Greenwood directed the Board's attention to Town Clerk and Finance Director Amanda Bryant. Mrs. Bryant was unable to provide the Town audit books, we are awaiting the books to be printed from the auditing company and will provide those to the Board as soon as possible. Mrs. Bryant summarized the audit stating every penny within the Town was accounted for and the Town has a fund balance of 128% at the end of the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year.

## **3. New Business**

### **a. Alex LaRoche, Eagle Scout Project**

Boy Scout Alex LaRoche, from Boy Scout troop 444 is raising money for his Eagle Scout project. He wants to install a brick planter and flagpole at Southeastern Middle School beside of the score board. Each brick will be engraved for each \$100 donation. He needs a total of \$3800.00. Commissioner Hairston asked if he had any donations so far, which Mr. LaRoche stated he did. Town Manager Greenwood stated we have only used ~30% of the Town's Economic Development line item. We do have the funds. Mayor Brown stated she thought it would be really nice for the Town to support Mr. LaRoche.

**Commissioner Hairston made a motion to donate \$1500.00 to Mr. Alex LaRoche for his Boy Scout Eagle Scout project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mabe. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **b. London Park Update**

Town Manager Greenwood stated we are waiting on the fencing quote from Nickelston Fence Company, we do have bids for the basketball court to be resurfaced. We have also received a letter from Jake Oakley stating the county will donate the property to the Town if the Town will develop it into a park. We have also spoken to Richard Brim and the tax breaks the Town may receive. Commissioner Hairston asked if we could pursue the property, of which Town Manager Greenwood stated yes, we can. Mayor Brown stated she thought it was a great thing. Town Manager Greenwood stated we do need a community group to come together to come up with a plan to develop a nice park with lights and equipment as well as provide a safe place for the children.

### **c. Approval of Façade Grant (Attachment B)**

The Palmetto Group has previously dropped off a file at Town Hall asking for the \$2500 façade grant. The file contained pictures, invoices and check copies of the work they had completed as well as receipts of items purchased for their work. Don Richardson and Kim Ferrell were present to represent the Palmetto Group. Commissioner Mabe stated that all façade grants require 2 bids for the work that is to be done, Ms. Ferrell asked if the two bids were required even though they were doing the work themselves? Commissioner Mabe stated yes, only see the receipts where they had purchased items and

paid for them. Ms. Ferrell stated they have the bids on the tile for around the ticket booth and she stated she didn't think because they were doing the labor, there was a need for two bids. Commissioner Hairston asked if all the work that was completed did the Palmetto Group do the work? Ms. Ferrell stated they did the majority of it and purchased many of the items locally at places like Hedgecock. They did buy the glass in Winston Salem because it was special made. She was hoping to be reasonable on this, she had called Town Manager Greenwood twice and he stated he was satisfied with what they had turned in. The tile was \$800 and the installation was \$1200.00. Commissioner Hairston stated he wanted to table this until the next meeting if that was ok.

#### **4. Departmental Reports**

##### **Administration**

The Town is still in search of potential property for a new Town Hall. I have attached information shared with me from the USDA regarding the interest rates and amount of money available for grants. We did receive some damage to the Town Hall building during the flooding. Water did damage some of the ceiling tiles in the administration side and walls of the tag office side.

Received a letter from Jake Oakley, County Manager for supporting the .25 cent sales tax referendum.

##### **License Plate Office**

Our tag office continues to report outstanding results. Sandra Rogers and her staff continue to provide excellent customer service and very good profits.

DMV Transactions:	\$15,120.43
Notary:	<u>\$ 2,086.00</u>
Net Profit:	\$17, 406.43

In 2015, the town applied for the license office contract and also spent \$80,000 to renovate the old police dept. side. Last year, the tag office made approximately \$12,000 in profit (after paying expenses and payroll). This year I estimate the net profit (after expenses and payroll) will be approximately \$80,000. I have attached the DMV records showing the number of transactions our tag office does. I am very proud of the service they provide for us.

##### **Public Works**

We are still in the process of evaluating damage to the Town and our WWTP due to last weeks storm. We will test all equipment and hopefully everything will work as usual. It could have been much worse. There was no damage to the WWTP but we will have to get some more gravel. On our dry days, we have continued with leaf and brush pick up. A lot of pruning is done this year increasing the demand for brush pick up. Withers Ravenel advised they expect a decision of grants awarded to be announced following their February 13 meeting. I will advise as soon as I hear any new information. Town Manager Greenwood stated he did not have the information at the time the agendas were prepared but he did get word the Merger Grant had been approved for \$200k but the water mapping grant had been denied.

#### **5. Items of General Concern**

Town Manager Greenwood stated the Budget Retreat had originally been planned for February 23<sup>rd</sup>, but we have not received all the items from the different departments and will need to postpone the meeting. Possibly consider the end of March or beginning of April. Commissioner Mabe suggested we wait until the March meeting when Commissioner Mitchell was present to determine a date.

Commissioner Hairston commented regarding the Façade grant, they would work it into the budget. Commissioner Mabe stated everyone must follow procedure. Mayor Brown stated she believes there was a confusion between the old application and the new façade grant application.

Commissioner Hairston asked how often are commissioners paid, Town Manager Greenwood responded every quarter.

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

**6. Meeting adjourned at 7:55PM**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nellie Brown, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda Bryant, Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date