



**TOWN OF WADESBORO
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WADESBORO TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING ROOM
205 EAST MORGAN STREET, WADESBORO, NC 28170**

Monday

January 6, 2025,

5:00 P.M.

OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor Fred Davis called the meeting to order at 5pm and presided.

Councilmembers in attendance are as follows: Jo Ann Bennett, Lawrence Parsons, Ida Cason, Garrett Snuggs, Chipper Long and Town Attorney Aaron Bates.

Department Heads in attendance are as follows: Fire Chief Scott Martain, Public Work Director Hugh James, Finance Officer Maureen Mason, and Lt. Jason Eschert from the WPD.

INVOCATION

Councilmember Jo Ann Bennett

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Chipper Long made a motion and Councilmember Lawrence Parsons seconded the approval of the agenda Motion approved by a vote of 5 for and 0 against.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Lawrence Parsons made a motion and Councilmember Garrett Snuggs seconded the approval of minutes from December 2, 2024, approval of Street Closure Resolution for MLK Memorial Walk on 1/18/2025, and approval to appoint Gilbert Hatcher III to Anson County ABC Board. Motion approved by a vote 5 for 0 against.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tami Newell from 408 W. Wade Street gave an update on the Christmas parade in December which was a good turnout with a total of 74 entries this year, more than last year. Things were found that need to be addressed to make better things, things that are being done that we may not need, we found some things that we have gotten recommendations from the community this year and hoping to improve on for next. The next project is in the spring we are going to be having a campaign to sales brick papers, to be put out and ones that are currently waiting to be completed and put in.

Cardelia Martin from 306 E Morgan Street expressed concerns to councilmembers on putting speed bumps on Morgan Street to combat the speeding issues.

Brenda Calliste from Shannon Drive addressed councilmembers on her water bill rate increase.

PUBLIC HEARING

Councilmember Chipper Long made a motion and Councilmember Lawrence Parsons seconded to go into public hearing. Motion approved by a vote 5 for 0 against.

The purpose of the public hearing is a proposed zoning request to rezone property from R-20 to R-6 located on Solomon St. near intersection of Harley St and Sturdivant St.

There were no public comments for the public hearing.

Councilmember Chipper Long made a motion and Councilmember Garrett Snuggs seconded to come out of public hearing. Motion approved by a vote 5 for 0 against.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilmembers were given an update on the upcoming budget and retreat calendar which consisted of changing the date of when the public hearing notice for the proposed budget will be placed in the newspaper and on Towns website which will be April 23, and May 21, 2025.

Town Manager Wiley Ross updated councilmembers on the CAD system for police cars and explained how beneficial it will be in assisting officers on call. The funding of this system will come from the police federal asset account and not from the General Fund for the Town.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Chipper Long made a motion and Councilmember Lawrence Parsons seconded the approval to rezone property from R-20 to R-6 located on Solomon St. near intersection of Harley St. and Sturdivant St. Motion approved by a vote 5 for 0 against.

Town Manager Wiley Ross began the discussion on bringing People Fest back to Wadesboro. Councilmember Chipper Long concern was how much of a financial stake the Town would have in bringing this event back.

Tami Newell will present a presentation to council members at the February 3rd meeting.

TOWN STAFF REPORT

FIRE CHIEF SCOTT MARTIN – No Comment

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR HUGH JAMES – No comment

POLICE LT. JASON ESCHERT- Introduced himself to councilmembers by stating he has been here since the middle of October as has enjoyed it so far and the important thing for him is relationships and community. With the help of his K9, three years prior Lt. Eschert stated he raised \$24,000 for Toys for Tots for Stanley County and coming to Anson County he made the decision to continue and was able to raise \$7500. Lt. Eschert also addressed the staffing issue by stating we have nine officers that are either hired or they are in the process of being sworn in and feel we are doing an excellent job rebuilding the department.

FINANCE OFFICER MAUREEN MASON – Everyone received the financial report in the packet, and I believe that as of November 30th we were 42.3% through fiscal year we have collected 21.4% of our revenue which is above last year. Last year we collected 15.2% that will increase this year in January when the bulk of the taxes come in. We are 42.1% in our revenue collections for water and sewer and only 29.0% and 31.1% in our expenditures for water and sewer We are at a balance of approximately \$7,000,000 in our investments and the breakdown of those investments can be found on the page three of the summary that was given to everybody and were the money can be found.

Councilmember Chipper Long requested a breakdown of professional services and that a copy be sent to all council members.

TOWN MANAGER WILEY ROSS JR. – Reported to councilmembers that the Town received \$1,438,382 million for the CDBG Grant to assist citizens that qualify for the program. The initial award was 950,000. Mr. Ross also stated to councilmembers that by February the WPD should be at 20 officers or close to that number and that the giveaway for the turkey and hams was a success during the holiday time. This was a way of giving back to the community which was paid for by Mr. Ross.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS- Mayor Fred Davis spoke on soon getting a K9 unit back in Wadesboro.

CLOSED SESSION – Councilmember Jo Ann Bennett made a motion and Councilmember Chipper Long seconded to go into closed session to discuss the following - NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, condition of appointment of a public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee and NC General Statue 143-318.11(a)(5) to establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease. Motion approved by a vote 5 for 0 against.

Councilmember Garrett Snuggs made a motion and Councilmember Chipper Long second to come out of closed session. Motion approved by a vote 5 for 0 against.

ADJOURNMENT – Councilmember Lawrence Parsons made a motion and Councilmember Garrett Snuggs seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:23pm. Motion approved by a vote 5 for 0 against.

