

**TOWN OF WELDON BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 12, 2018  
6:00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Julia M. Meacham, Mayor  
Charlotte Moss, Mayor Pro-Tem

Commissioner Larry Brunson  
Commissioner Walter Clark, Jr.  
Commissioner Reilyn T. Stanback

**ABSENT:** Commissioner John Smith

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Susie Adams, Michael Scott, Candace Brown, Tifani Brown, Meta Rawls, Alberta Green, Helen Vincent, Sandra Vincent, Willie Vincent, Willie Peebles, Jeremiah Webb, Bernice Harding, Hugh Crodle

**MEDIA PRESENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mitchell Robinson, Town Administrator; Thomas Wellman, Town Attorney; Faith McDuffie, Town Clerk; Chief James Avens, Police Chief; Chief Bolt, Fire Chief; Antonio Williams, Street Department Supervisor; Richard Brown, Code Enforcement Officer

**VOTING KEY:** Aye – Nay – Abstain - Absent

**ITEM ONE: CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Meacham called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Town of Weldon Board of Commissioners to order at 6:00 pm this date.

**ITEM TWO: INVOCATION**

Chief James Avens gave the invocation.

**ITEM THREE: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The assembly was led in the pledge of allegiance by Zinia Brown. Miss Brown is in the first grade at Weldon Global Academy.

**ITEM FOUR: ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA**

Town Administrator Mitchell Robinson requested that agenda item 11a be moved to closed session (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3)).

Mayor Pro-Tem Charlotte Moss requested the addition of Vision or Strategic Plan for the Town of Weldon which was subsequently given the designation of agenda item 7c.

Mayor Pro-Tem Charlotte Moss made a motion to accept the agenda with the above additions and revisions. Commissioner Stanbeck seconded the motion. The motion carried. 4-0-0-1

#### **ITEM FIVE: SWEARING IN OF INTERIM TOWN CLERK – FAITH MCDUFFIE**

Mayor Meacham swore in Faith McDuffie as Interim Town Clerk for the Town of Weldon. Oath of Office on file in Clerk’s Office.

#### **ITEM SIX: OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A. Sale of two lots on Chestnut St. – Resolution Authorizing Upset Bid**

Town Administrator Mitchell Robinson explained the methods allowed towns for the selling of town property. Mr. Robinson explained the upset bid process. Mr. Robinson advised that the two lots in question (Parcel No. 12-00640 and 12-00641) have been with the town since 1988 and are currently vacant. Mr. Robinson advised that an offer of \$6,400 has been made and the buyer has paid the required five percent deposit.

Mayor Pro-Tem Charlotte Moss made a motion to approve the resolution entitled Resolution Authorizing Upset Bid Process. Commissioner Stanbeck seconded the motion. The motion carried. 4-0-0-1

#### **ITEM SEVEN: NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. NCDOT – US 158 at I-95 Turn Lanes – Resolution In Support**

Town Administrator Mitchell Robinson advised that the North Carolina Department of Transportation is considering a project to construct back to back left turn lanes along US 158 at I-95. Mr. Robinson advised that the resolution before the Board of Commissioners would demonstrate their support for this project.

Mayor Pro-Tem Charlotte Moss made a motion to adopt the resolution entitled Resolution in Support of North Carolina Department of Transportation and Improvements at US 158 at I-95 (Resolution No. 2018-02-12). Commission Clark seconded the motion. The motion carried. 4-0-0-1.

##### **B. Northampton County Contract – Service Agreement**

Town Administrator Mitchell Robinson advised that the services of the Code Enforcement Officer, Richard Brown, are in high demand in the area. Mr. Robinson presented a service

agreement between Northampton County and the Town of Weldon for inspection services to be performed by the Code Enforcement Officer, Richard Brown.

Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the Service Agreement. Mayor Pro-Tem Charlotte Moss seconded the motion. The motion carried. 4-0-0-1.

### C. Vision or Strategic Plan for the Town of Weldon

Mayor Pro-Term Charlotte Moss advised that the Town of Weldon is in need of a Vision or Strategic Plan which outlines the town's short-term and long-term goals over the next couple of years. Commissioner Moss is asking for input from citizens and fellow commissioners on areas of improvement that can be prioritized. Commissioner Moss identified two areas of improvement of which she is currently aware: street upkeep including litter collection, and the lack of activities for children living in the town. Commissioner Moss asked for input from the citizens about how to increase the utilization of the River Falls Park.

An unidentified member of the citizenry advised, from the audience, that the addition of basketball goals would improve the park.

Commissioner Brunson advised that strategic plans outline goals for one year, three years, and five years in the future. Commissioner Brunson advised that strategic plans also allow for the identification of relevant, current topics related to the town in 2018. Commissioner Brunson advised that strategic planning additionally allows for the participation of the citizenry as a whole.

Commissioner Stanbeck asked citizens to identify specific areas of the park that need to be improved such as the volleyball nets and horse shoe pits repairs that are needed.

## **ITEM EIGHT: POLICE REPORT**

Chief James Avens gave the monthly report for the Town of Weldon Police Department. Chief Avens advised that the department answered 285 calls/complaints, worked a total of 6 accidents which resulted in \$8,000 in damages and made a total of 8 arrests. Complete report on file in Clerk's Office.

Chief Avens advised that the Police Department and the Fire Department will be jointly hosting a Blood Drive on March 16, 2018 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

## **ITEM NINE: FIRE REPORT**

Chief Martin Bolt gave the monthly report for the Town of Weldon Fire Department. Chief Bolt advised that the department responded to 97 calls of which 40 were in town and 57 were out of town. Chief Bolt advised that the department completed 205 hours of training this month. Chief

Bolt advised that their response times were slower this month due to the bad weather conditions (69% in 4 minutes). Complete report on file in Clerk's Office.

Chief Bolt advised that the Fire Department has completed two equipment tests with no issues. Chief Bolt advised that the Fire Department has been conducting training in conjunction with Roanoke Rapids Fire Department. Chief Bolt advised that Rockfish season will begin March 1, 2018 and the department's boats are ready to respond to requests for assistance. Chief Bolt reminded the citizens to please call on the Fire Department if assistance is needed.

Chief Bolt advised that Firearm Ben Sloan was in a bad accident and requested he be remembered during his time in recovery.

**ITEM TEN: STREET REPORT**

Street Department Supervisor Antonio Williams gave the monthly report for the Town of Weldon Street Department. Mr. Williams advised that the department hauled 22 loads of brush, 15 loads of leaves, and 5 loads of debris for a total weight of 5.12 tons.

**A. Surplus of three vehicles**

Town Administrator Mitchell Robinson advised that the council viewed the three vehicles during the work session. Mr. Robinson advised that the town would solicit bids on the vehicles if the Board of Commissioners wished to surplus them.

Commissioner Stanbeck motioned to surplus three vehicles in the Street Department. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. The motion carried. 4-0-0-1

**B. Budget Amendment – Wood Chipper \$36,000**

Town Administrator Mitchell Robinson advised that the old wood chipper owned by the town was purchased in 2008 and needed to be replaced.

Mayor Pro-Tem Charlotte Moss motioned to approve a budget amendment in order for the Street Department to purchase a wood chipper. Commissioner Stanbeck seconded the motion. The motion carried. 4-0-0-1

**ITEM ELEVEN: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Town Administrator Mitchell Robinson advised that Halifax Community College was interested in partnering with the Town of Weldon for the purpose of creating a joint marketing effort. Mr. Robinson advised that part of that effort would be the creation of banners or signs for the downtown highlighting the town and the college. Mr. Robinson advised that a portion of the Town Revitalization Grant could be utilized for signage.

Town Administrator Mitchell Robinson advised that he would like to work on the departmental budgets for the Police and Fire Departments at the Board of Commissioners next work session. Mr. Robinson advised that Mayor Pro-Tem Moss is the Fire Commissioner and Commissioner Brunson is the Police Commissioner. Mr. Robinson advised that additional meetings with them would be necessary.

Town Administrator Mitchell Robinson advised that the details have been worked out for the Board of Commissioners to attend the Essentials of Local Government training on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Mr. Robinson additionally advised that the auditors on continuing to work on the town audit.

## **ITEM TWELVE: ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Stanbeck advised that he truly appreciated the efforts of Street Department Supervisor Antonio Williams and the Street Department for the work completed on the BB&T building. Commissioner Stanbeck advised that it is important for the town to look its best.

Mayor Meacham announced that Ferrells, a new furniture store, has opened at the intersection of Country Club and US 158.

Mayor Meacham announced that International Food Day at Halifax Community College will be on February 22, 2018 and encouraged the public to attend. Mayor Meacham advised that it is a truly wonderful event and attending costs \$3.00 per person.

Mayor Meacham advised that the Shad Tournament begins on March 24, 2018 and that prizes will be given. Mayor Meacham advised that it is a family friendly event and is not high competition. Mayor Meacham encourages the public to attend.

## **ITEM THIRTEEN: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Mayor Meacham opened the floor for public comment.

**Michael Scott:** Mr. Scott advised that he is disappointed with the lack of advancement in Weldon. Mr. Scott advised that he was concerned about the conditions of the sidewalks in town. Mr. Scott advised that he was additionally concerned about a large hole in front of his home. Mr. Scott advised that crush and run had been placed in the hole at some point but it was gone. Mr. Scott advised he was afraid there was water underneath it. Mr. Scott advised that he was concerned that children or people in general would fall into the hole.

Mr. Scott advised that the building across from the school was an eye sore and something need to be done about it. Mr. Scott inquired about any future plans for that building.

Code Enforcement Officer Robert Brown advised that a letter had been sent to the school about the condition of the building. Mr. Brown advised that the school intends to make repairs.

Commission Stanbeck advised that repairs need to be made to the glass in that building.

No one else came forward to speak. Mayor Meacham closed the floor for public comment at 6:50 pm.

**ITEM FOURTEEN: CLOSED SESSION**

Mayor Pro-Tem Charlotte Moss made a motion that the Board of Commissioners enter into closed session to discuss Economic Development and matters involving attorney-client privilege (NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(3) and (a)(4)). Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. The motion carried. 4-0-0-1


The Board of Commissioners entered closed session at 6:51 pm.

Mayor Pro-Tem Charlotte Moss made motion for the Board of Commissioners to return to open session. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. The motion carried. 4-0-0-1. The Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 7:54 pm.

**ITEM FIFTEEN: ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Pro-Tem Charlotte Moss made a motion that the regular session of the Town of Weldon Board of Commissioners stand adjourned. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. The motion carried. 4-0-0-1.

Mayor Meacham adjourned the regular session of the Town of Weldon Board of Commissioners at 7:55 pm.

  
Julia M. Meacham - Mayor

  
Faith E. McDuffie - Interim Town Clerk