

TOWN OF WALLACE
MONTHLY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
July 11, 2024
6:00 p.m.

The Town Council of the Town of Wallace held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday July 11, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers at the Town Hall.

The following Governing Body members were present:

- Mayor Jason Wells
- Council Member/ Mayor Pro-Tem Francisco Rivas-Diaz
- Council Member Frank Brinkley
- Council Member Jason Davis
- Council Member Tasha Herring
- Council Member Penny Thorne

The following Governing Body members were absent:

None

Also present were:

Rob Taylor, Town Manager	Anna H. Herring, Town Attorney
Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk	Dave & Sara Cailler
David Bizzell, Parks & Rec Director (via Zoom)	Samatha Darlington, Community Economic Development Planner
Lisa Cottle, WWTP-ORC	Joseph Trollinger, Finance Director
James Crayton, Police Chief	Jennifer Raynor, Library Director (via Zoom)
Rod Fritz, Planning Director	Marlane Carcopo
Brent Dean, Public Services Director	Mary Steward Blackwell
Taylor Johnson, Director of Fire Operations	Jeraldine Rainey
Ben Jones, Airport Manager	Pam Teachey
David Morgan, Police Captain	Abby Cavanaugh, <i>Duplin Journal</i>

Mayor Jason Wells called the regular meeting to order with a quorum of the governing body members present and Council Member Tasha Herring gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Adoption of the Agenda

Mayor Wells asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. A Budget Amendment, closed session and a short presentation were added.

Council Member Frank Brinkley made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended, seconded by Council Member Francisco Rivas-Diaz and approved unanimously.

Public Comment Period

Sara Cailler spoke to the Council regarding the water at her home in River Landing. Ms. Callier expressed her concern and frustration because this matter hasn't been solved. Town Manager Rob Taylor explained that the Town is trying to determine the cause in order to find a solution and will continue to do so.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Wells called for discussion of the minutes from the June 13, 2024 meeting and June 25 continued meeting. There being no additions or corrections, Council Member Rivas-Diaz made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Council Member Herring and approved by unanimous vote.

Finance Director Joseph Trollinger reported that tax delinquencies were \$30,000 lower than in April and outstanding balances were 27% lower than this time last year. The tax scrolls were canvassed to ensure that only 2023 receipts were included.

There were no tax releases.

Old Business

Memorandum of Understanding with Pender County (Utilities)

Manager Taylor stated that in the MOU with Pender County, paragraph 5. stated the intent to terminate the agreement to supply bulk water, but that is incorrect. Taylor asked the Council to adopt the MOU again with paragraph 5. amended as Pender does not want to terminate the contract.

Council Member Rivas-Diaz made a motion to adopt the MOU with the amended language in paragraph 5. which was seconded by Council Member Penny Thorne and unanimously approved.

Fire Contract with Duplin County

Fire Chief Taylor Johnson said he has reviewed the Fire Services Agreement with Duplin County and asked the Council to approve it for a term of 5 years.

Council Member Brinkley made a motion to approve that was seconded by Council Member Penny Thorne and approved unanimously approved.

New Business

Establish Public Hearing for Rezoning

Planning Director Rod Fritz asked the Council to establish a public hearing for the August 8 meeting for a rezoning request. The property is adjacent to the future Royal Farms station. The out parcel is currently zone RA-20 (residential/agricultural, minimum lot size 20,000 sq. ft.) and would be rezoned HB (highway business) for additional retail development in the future.

Council Member Herring made a motion to establish a public hearing on Thursday, August 8, 2024 after 6:00 pm that was seconded by Council Member Jason Davis and approved by unanimous vote.

Update Depot Commission Bylaws

Manager Taylor said the Depot Commission has requested a change to their bylaws to reduce the number of members to 12 and add certain attendance requirements. Taylor also advised that the Commission should not have authority to expend municipal funds as they are not a Town department, Article III Section B should be deleted and that Article III Section C. be amended to state "To lease real or personal property ~~of the Wallace Depot~~ either from or to private individuals, subject to approval by resolution of the Town Council ~~in each instance;~~ and.."

Council Member Brinkley made a motion to approve the proposed changes. Council Member Thorne seconded the motion, and it was approved by unanimous vote.

Discussion of Festivals

Manager Taylor opened the floor for discussion of managing smaller festivals and special events. Currently there is a special event permit with a \$200 fee. There seemed to be some agreement to follow the same procedure for all. This item will be discussed again as no decision was reached.

Review of Bike and Pedestrian Plan

Manager Taylor reported that the Wallace Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan had been received and would be posted on social media to receive final comments from the public prior to adoption by the Council. The next steps would be to start planning and seeking grants to fund the projects.

Police Department Budget Amendment FY 24-2

Manager Taylor asked the Council to approve Budget Amendment FY 24-2 to pay for training. These Substance Abuse Tax funds are kept in Fund Balance until needed.

Council Member Herring made a motion to approve Budget Amendment FY 24-2 that was seconded by Council Member Thorne and unanimously approved.

NC Rural Planning Presentation

Samantha Darlington, Community Economic Development Planner with NC Rural Planning made a presentation on Strategic Economic Development Planning & Implementation Services. Ms. Darlington will work with a volunteer committee to prepare for and respond to economic growth while helping the community maintain its rural character. The committee will be selected by the Council.

Financial Reports

Finance Director Trollinger said all accounts are being reconciled from the legacy system to the new system which will offer more options for reporting and Department Heads will be able to review their budgets in real time. A field trip to Burgaw by the Finance Department is planned as they have the same software. Intern Tyler Brinkley has caught on quickly.

Council Reports

Council Member Rivas-Diaz asked about the future location of the Parks & Recreation offices (in the old school building at Clement Park when renovations are complete).

Council Member Brinkley said that trees are falling on the play yard at Lynda's Play and Learn and they are not her trees. It is not Town property, so the owner of the trees needs to be contacted.

Council Member Thorne thanked Airport Manager Ben Jones for giving her the "grand tour".

Council Member Davis asked if the contractor for the 830 project is ready to go when we get the ok (yes).

Council Member Herring asked why the fountain at Boney Mill Pond was not running (so it wouldn't suck mud). She said an event for Veterans providing resources to them is being held at the American Legion tomorrow from 10 am to 2pm.

Town Manager's Report

Manager Taylor reported the 830 project is on the LGC (Local Government Commission) agenda in August. The Darling project (formerly Valley Proteins) is in the soil sampling stage. Water wells should be online July 17, WWTP (wastewater treatment plant) dike project should be going to bid soon and the Grist Mill pier work and roof frame are complete. The design for the Police Department did not meet the requirements so it is being redone. Taylor said he will be at the NCGFO Conference July 22 and 23 and on vacation the 26-29.

Closed Session

Council Member Thorne made a motion to go into closed session for a personnel matter (N.C.G.S.143-318.11(a)(6)) that was seconded by Council Member Herring and approved unanimously.

The Mayor and Council completed the Town Manager's evaluation and discussed how much to increase his compensation and agreed upon an amount.

Council Member Rivas-Diaz made a motion to end the closed session. Council Member Herring seconded the motion that was unanimously approved.

Council Member Rivas-Diaz made a motion to pay the Town Manager the salary agreed upon which was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and approved by unanimous vote.

There being no further business to discuss Council Member Brinkley made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thorne and approved by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Wells, Mayor

Jacqueline Nicholson, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF WALLACE
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT
GENERAL FUND
Fiscal Year 24-2**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Wallace, North Carolina the following amendments be made to the General Fund			
Section I:	General Fund		
Account Number	Account Description	Increase	Decrease
53-5100-140	Expenditures – Training	\$2,500.00	-
53-3990-000	New Meter Fee	\$2,500.00	-
	TOTALS		-

Appropriate funds for training from Substance Abuse Tax Fund

Section II: Copy to Finance Director

Copies of this budget amendment shall be delivered to the Finance Director for their direction in the disbursement of funds:

Adopted this July 11, 2024

Attest:

Jackie Nicholson
Town Clerk

Jason Wells
Mayor