

**TOWN OF WALLACE**  
**MONTHLY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**March 14, 2024**  
**6:00 p.m.**

The Town Council of the Town of Wallace held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the Wallace Women’s Club.

The following Governing Body members were present:

- Mayor Jason Wells (arrived late)
- Council Member/ Mayor Pro-Tem Francisco Rivas-Diaz
- Council Member Frank Brinkley
- Council Member Jason Davis (arrived late)
- 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                  | Joel Barden                                    |
| Brent Dean, Public Services Director          | Marlane Carcopo (via Zoom)                     |
| Jimmy Crayton, Police Chief                   | Marcel Davis                                   |
| Rod Fritz, Planning Director                  | Leonard Filyaw                                 |
| Ben Jones, Airport Manager                    | Sandy Forehand (via Zoom)                      |
| Joseph Trollinger, Finance Director           | Walter James                                   |
| Weston Padgett, Police Captain                | Jeraldine Rainey                               |
| Austin Eubanks, TPSA & Co. PA                 | Belinda Wedlock                                |
| Charley Farrior, Carolina Strawberry Festival | Daniel Wedlock                                 |
| Keli Wilson, CSF Chair                        | Abby Cavanaugh, <i>Duplin Times</i> (via Zoom) |
| Teri Carter, Wallace Chamber of Commerce      |  |

Mayor Pro-tem Francisco Rivas-Diaz called the regular meeting to order with a quorum of the governing body members present and Council Member Penny Thorne gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Presentations

FY 2022-23 Audit was presented by Austin Eubanks of Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co. PA. He reviewed the required communications and summarized some of the key items in the audit report. He presented an analysis of cash, financial statement findings and additional required communications.

President of the Carolina Strawberry Festival Board Charley Farrior started his presentation discussing the success of the 2023 Festival last year and the grants that were awarded. The 2024 Festival has added a Garden Gala at Johnson Nursery on April 27 from 1 to 6 pm with an

after party at the Mad Boar. North Tower, Band of Oz, Rivermist and The Tams will be providing the musical entertainment, the Recipe Contest is returning and the 5k profits will go toward the Inclusive playground planned for Clement Park.

Teri Carter, Wallace Chamber of Commerce President, shared invitations to the next quarterly Member Social at Skate City on April 9 and their new tiered membership. They have a new website and a focus on starting new business and/or growing existing business.

### Adoption of the Agenda

Mayor Jason Wells asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda.

There being none, Council Member Jason Davis made a motion to adopt the agenda as submitted, seconded by Council Member Frank Brinkley and approved unanimously.

### Public Comment Period

Ms. Jeraldine Rainey said she was confused about the speed limit on Old Wilmington Road, asked if the potholes on Hall Street could be fixed and if the Town has considered installing speed bumps?

Mr. Walter James said that there is no acknowledgement anywhere in Town of Steven Decatur Wallace, for whom the Town is named. Mayor Wells directed Planning Director Rod Fritz to look into it.

### Consent Agenda

Mayor Wells called for discussion of the minutes from the February 8, 2024 meeting, February 22, 2024 continued meeting and March 1, 2024 Budget Retreat. There being no additions or corrections Council Member Brinkley made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thorne and approved by unanimous vote.

Finance Director Joseph Trollinger reported that the delinquencies have continued trending downward with healthy tax collections in January. The current collection rate is 91%, which is three points higher than last year. He presented the following tax for release:

| Account # | Name                     | Year | Reason                   | Amount |
|-----------|--------------------------|------|--------------------------|--------|
| 5634980   | McAllister, Bryan & Wife | 2023 | Trailer Stolen Aug. 2022 | \$8.52 |

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

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

#### Request for Rezoning RZ-2023-05 (Pender County)

Mayor Wells called upon Planning Director Rod Fritz to brief the Council on this item. Mr. Fritz said that this rezoning is for 150 acres south of Wallace in Pender County. The Planning Board unanimously approved this rezoning request.

Council Member Rivas-Diaz made a motion to open the public hearing, seconded by Council Member Brinkley and approved unanimously. Mayor Wells asked if there were any comments from the public on this matter. A number of people spoke in opposition to this request citing the loss of farmland, the distance between the houses and one man said that he wanted more information about what was planned for the property. Council Member Tasha Herring made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jason Davis and approved by unanimous vote.

Council Member Brinkley made a motion to adopt An Ordinance To Amend The Town Of Wallace, North Carolina Official Zoning Map and Statement of Reasonableness (RZ#2023-05) which was seconded by Council Member Davis and unanimously approved.

#### Request for Rezoning RZ-2023-03 (Hwy 11)

Planning Director Fritz explained that this request is for 33 acres adjacent to other property owned by the petitioner.

Council Member Davis made a motion to open the public hearing, seconded by Council Member Thorne and approved unanimously. There were no comments from the public so Council Member Rivas-Diaz made a motion to close the public hearing that was seconded by Council Member Herring and approved by unanimous vote.

Council Member Davis made a motion to adopt An Ordinance To Amend The Town Of Wallace, North Carolina Official Zoning Map and Statement of Reasonableness (RZ#2023-03). The motion was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and unanimously approved.

#### Request for Rezoning RZ-2024-01 (E. Boney St.)

Planning Director Fritz stated that this rezoning of 0.26 acres is adjacent to other property owned by the petitioner.

Council Member Thorne made a motion to open the public hearing which was seconded by Council Member Davis and approved unanimously. Again, there were no comments; Council Member Rivas-Diaz made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Council Member Thorne and approved by unanimous vote.

Council Member Davis made a motion to adopt An Ordinance To Amend The Town Of Wallace, North Carolina Official Zoning Map and Statement of Reasonableness (RZ-2024-01) that was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and unanimously approved.

### **Old Business**

#### Adopt Capital Project Ordinance for Airport Lights

Manager Taylor said the the Town has \$85,200 to design new runway lighting for the Airport and asked the Council to approve Capital Project Ordinance 24.06 to track grant funds and expenditures.

Council Member Brinkley made a motion to approve CPO 24.06 NCDOT Reserve Program – Runway Lights which was seconded by Council Member Davis and approved unanimously.

### Adopt Resolution of Tentative Award for Sewer Rehab Phase 2

Manager Taylor said the low bidder on the project was Am-Liner East, Inc. with a bid of \$349,156.50 and asked the Council to adopt Resolution 23-24-17 to tentatively award the contract as the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality has to approve the funding.

Council Member Rivas-Diaz made a motion to adopt a Resolution of Tentative Award. Council Member Brinkley seconded the motion, and it was approved by unanimous vote.

### Budget Amendment for Governors Crime Commission Grant

Manager Taylor stated that the Police Department has applied for a grant for 2 radios, a large light tower and a pole mounted radar detector in the amount of \$27,000 but only budgeted \$20,875 which will necessitate a \$7,000 budget amendment to cover the items and additional grant revenue.

Council Member Thorne made a motion to adopt Budget Amendment 24-1 that was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and approved unanimously.

### **New Business**

#### Adoption of Resolution Endorsing Safety and Approve Safety Policy

Town Clerk Jackie Nicholson asked the Council to adopt A Resolution In Support Of Town Safety Policy and approve a Safety Policy to demonstrate their commitment to a safe workplace for all employees.

Council Member Rivas-Diaz made a motion to adopt the resolution and approve the Safety Policy. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thorne and unanimously approved.

#### Authorize Contract and Approve Capital Project Ordinance (Tin City Lift Station, new force main)

Manager Taylor said that improvements need to be made to the Tin City Lift Station and a new force main to handle the additional flow needed for residential development on Hwy. 41. The Town will pay the engineering costs and construction costs will be paid by the developer. The project will be funded by system development fees collected; Water and Sewer Fund will loan to the Capital Project Fund until ample funds are available to reimburse the Water/Sewer Fund.

Council Member Davis made a motion to approve Capital Project Ordinance 24-07 Tin City Pump Station & Force Main Upgrade that was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and approved unanimously.

Council Member Davis made a motion to authorize Highfill Task Order No. 4. The motion was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and approved by unanimous vote.

### Financial Reports

Finance Director Trollinger presented the finance report. He said that the dollar amount of the POs seems high but it includes the contract for the 2 wells; most budget line items are around 59% which is where they should be and sales tax continues to be strong with January 2024 dollars above all prior years.

### Town Manager's Report

Manager Taylor reported that bids for the 830 Project are due on March 20th, Darling (formerly Valley Protein) has agreed to provide additional funding, the community building project at Clement Park is moving along well, design meetings for the Public Safety Center are starting, the increased cost of the generator at Public Services has been approved, 2 separate PARTF grant applications are being submitted, one for the inclusive playground and one for the remainder of Clement Park. The Ribbon Cutting at Farior Park is scheduled for next month.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Jason Wells, Mayor

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Jacqueline Nicholson, MMC, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
TOWN OF WALLACE

**CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE**

**24-06**

**NCDOT Reserve Program – Runway Lights**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Wallace received a NCDOT block grant of \$85,200 for improvements to the Town’s airport, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town desires to establish a capital project ordinance to track the revenues and expenditures for the project;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED** by the Town Council of Wallace that pursuant to section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following Capital Project Ordinance 24-04 is hereby established and adopted:

**Section 1:** The Project authorized for design of new runway lights and other capital improvements at the Wallace-Pender Airport.

**Section 2:** The officers of this unit are hereby directed to proceed with the capital project within the terms of the board resolution, and the budget contained herein.

**Section 3:** The following initial amounts are appropriated for the project:

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Engineering    | \$ 80,030 |
| Administration | \$ 5,170  |
| Total          | \$ 85,200 |

**Section 4:** The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete this project:

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| NCDOT NPE Grant | \$ 85,200 |
| Total           | \$ 85,200 |

**Section 5:** The finance officer is hereby directed to maintain within the capital project fund enough specific detailed accounting records to satisfy the requirements of the grantor agency, the grant agreements, and federal regulations.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** by the Town Council of Wallace that this ordinance shall become in full force and effective upon adoption.

Adopted this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Wells, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk

{SEAL}

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
TOWN OF WALLACE

**RESOLUTION OF TENTATIVE AWARD**

**Resolution 23-24-17**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Wallace, North Carolina has received bids, pursuant to duly advertisement notice therefore, for repairs and construction of the Gravity Sewer Rehab-Phase 2 (Project No. SRP-W-0198), and

**WHEREAS**, the Town consulting with its Engineer, Stroud Engineering, PA has reviewed the bids; and

**WHEREAS**, Am-Liners East, Inc., was the low bidder for the Gravity Sewer Rehab-Phase 2 (Project No. SRP-W-0198), in a total bid amount of \$349,156.50, and

**WHEREAS**, the consulting engineer recommends **TENTATIVE AWARD** to the lowest bidder(s).

**NOW, THERE FORE, BE IT RESOLVED that TENTATIVE AWARD** is made to the lowest bidder(s) in the Total Bid Amount of \$349,156.50.

| <b>Name of Contractor</b>    | <b>Amount</b>       |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <u>AM-Liner East, Inc</u> | <u>\$349,156.50</u> |

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such TENTATIVE AWARD** be contingent upon the approval of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality.

This resolution is effective upon its adoption this 14th day of March 2024.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Wells, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk

{SEAL}

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**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 |                            |                    |                 |
| <b>Section I:</b>  | <b>General Fund</b>        |                    |                 |
| <b>Account Number</b>  | <b>Account Description</b> | <b>Increase</b>    | <b>Decrease</b> |
| 10-3580-085  | Grants – GCC               | \$7,000.00         | -               |
| 10-5100-581  | GCC Grant Expenditures     | \$7,000.00         | -               |
|  | <b>TOTALS</b>              | <b>\$14,000.00</b> | <b>-</b>        |

Increase grant funds and expenditures.

**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 March 14, 2024**

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jackie Nicholson  
Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Wells  
Mayor

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
TOWN OF WALLACE

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TOWN SAFETY POLICY**

**Resolution 23-24-19**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Wallace is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all employees and by reducing the number of accidents and injuries everyone may return home to their loved ones at the end of the workday; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of the Town's commitment, the Town Council endorses the establishment of a Town Safety Committee; to develop a policy and programs specific to the needs of the various departments in order to protect employees from accident and injury; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of Wallace, North Carolina promotes a Town Safety Policy and Programs to prevent accidents and injuries while on the job.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Wells, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk

{SEAL}

This is to certify that this is a true and accurate copy of this Resolution adopted by the Wallace Town Council on the March 14, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
TOWN OF WALLACE

**CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE**  
**24-07**

**Tin City Pump Station & Force Main Upgrade**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Wallace needs to make improvements to its sewer system to accommodate planned residential development, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town desires to establish a capital project ordinance to track the revenues and expenditures for the project;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED** by the Town Council of Wallace that pursuant to section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following Capital Project Ordinance 24-07 is hereby established and adopted:

**Section 1:** The Project authorized for design of upgrades and sewer improvements for Tin City Pump Station & Force Main Upgrade

**Section 2:** The officers of this unit are hereby directed to proceed with the capital project within the terms of the board resolution, and the budget contained herein.

**Section 3:** The following initial amounts are appropriated for the project:

|             |    |                |
|-------------|----|----------------|
| Engineering | \$ | <u>257,200</u> |
|-------------|----|----------------|

**Section 4:** The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete this project:

|                                   |    |                |
|-----------------------------------|----|----------------|
| Transfers From Water & Sewer Fund |    |                |
| - System Development Fees         | \$ | <u>257,200</u> |
| Total                             | \$ | 257,200        |

**Section 5:** The finance officer is hereby directed to maintain within the capital project fund enough specific detailed accounting records to satisfy the requirements of the grantor agency, the grant agreements, and federal regulations.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** by the Town Council of Wallace that this ordinance shall become in full force and effective upon adoption.

Adopted this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Wells, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk

{SEAL}