

TOWN OF WALLACE
MONTHLY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
March 11, 2021
6:00 pm

The Wallace Town Council held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting in the Council Chambers at the Town Hall.

The following Governing Body members were present:

Charles C. Farrior, Jr., Mayor
Council Member/Mayor Pro-Tem Wannetta Carlton
Council Member Frank Brinkley
Council Member Jeff Carter
Council Member Francisco Rivas-Diaz
Council Member Jason Wells

The following members of the Governing Body were absent:

NONE

Also Present were:

Larry Bergman, Town Manager	Anna Heath, Town Attorney
Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk	Greg Adams, CPA (via Zoom)
Jimmy Crayton, Police Chief	Marlane Carcopo (via Zoom)
Brent Dean, Public Services Director (via Zoom)	Jason Davis
Rod Fritz, Planning Director	Beverly Trobaugh
Sharon Robison, Library Director (via Zoom)	Penny Thorne (via Zoom)
Rob Taylor, Finance Director	Curt Simpson, Duplin Times (via Zoom)

Mayor Charley Farrior called the regular meeting to order with a quorum of the governing body members present and Council Member Jeff Carter gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Presentations and Proclamations

Oath of Office

Mayor Farrior administered the oath of office to Finance Director Robert C. Taylor, Jr..

Presentation of FY 2019-2020 Audit

Greg Adams, CPA, Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co., presented the Town's FY 2019-2020 Audit Report. Mr. Adams reviewed the required communications, status of the General Fund and Water & Sewer fund, a fund balance analysis and Fund Balance as a percentage of General Fund Expenditures.

Adoption of the Agenda

Mayor Farrior called for discussion of the agenda and asked to add an item under new business for a utility easement for NCDOT on Hwy. 11 on the land and sewer lift station near the bridge. Council Member Francisco Rivas-Diaz made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jason Wells and approved by unanimous vote.

Public Comment Period

There were no comments from the public.

Consent agenda

Minutes from the February 11, 2021 monthly meeting, and the March 5, 2021 Strategic Planning/Budget Retreat

Mayor Farrior called for discussion of the minutes. Town Clerk Jackie Nicholson said she found a typo on page 6 of the February 11 minutes. There being no other additions or corrections Council Member Wells made a motion to approve the minutes with that correction. The motion was seconded by Council Member Wannetta Carlton and approved by unanimous vote.

Tax Report

Town Manager Larry Bergman presented the Tax Report for the period ending March 11, 2021 and said that year to date collections were up 3.72% and the 10 year overall collections 0.32%. Payment plans received amounted to \$2,344.10 and foreclosures paid in the amount of \$500.00. The Progress of Foreclosures report led to some discussion of adding a bit more detail as some accounts look as if there has been no progress made on them.

Tax Releases

There were no releases presented.

Budget Amendments

Finance Director Rob Taylor had budget amendments for approval but first asked the Council how they would like to proceed. The budget ordinance gives authority to the Budget Officer (Town Manager) to take certain budget actions without advanced approval of the Town Council. Mr. Taylor said that doesn't seem to be the current practice. The Council directed Mr. Taylor to abide by the budget ordinance.

Mr. Taylor asked for approval of budget amendment #8 to transfer funds from capital outlay to contracted services, #10 for purchasing police cars.

Council Member Rivas-Diaz made a motion to approve budget amendment #8 which was seconded by Council Member Carlton and approved unanimously.

Council Member Wells made a motion to approve budget amendment #10. The motion was seconded by Council Member Frank Brinkley and approved by unanimous vote.

New Business

Discussion of Transfer of Special Use Permit for Solar Farm

Planning Director Rod Fritz stated that the Brick City Solar Farm has changed lease holders and been acquired by Pine Gate Renewables. The new lease holder is requesting some changes to the scope in order to constructing a fixed knot fence design instead of a standard chain link fencing+barbed wire toppers as noted in the site plan. Mr. Fritz asked for Council input on whether or not these changes can be handled administratively. The Council directed Mr. Fritz to handle this administratively.

Discussion of Request From NCDOT (North Carolina Department of Transportation) for a Permanent Utility Easement

Town Manager Larry Bergman explained that NCDOT will be doing some bridge work on Hwy 11 and have requested a permanent easement related to the land and sewer lift station owned by the Town near that bridge. During the bridge work they will be relocating some underground utilities. All expenses, including engineering, will be covered by NCDOT and the Town will be paid \$1,500.

Council Member Brinkely made a motion to execute a permanent utility easement (Deed For Highway Right Of Way) as proposed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and approved unanimously.

Financial Reports

Finance Director Rob Taylor said that he was catching up with some bookkeeping to close out December, January and February and briefed the Council on financial activities.

Disaster Reports

Nothing to report at this time.

Council Reports

Council Member Carlton commented that the Retreat went well and thanked the Town Manager and Department Heads for putting it together.

Council Member Wells said he had been approached about how a new businesses can get started in Wallace and suggested putting together a packet of information for interested persons. Discussion ensued about marketing the Town using the Chamber of Commerce or some other method, possibly an outside marketing firm.

Council Member Carter asked about the process of getting mobile home parks into compliance with the Town's regulations. Planning Director Fritz explained that non-compliant parks need to apply for a temporary special use permit (SUP). The park owners then have three (3) options: 1) do nothing and the park must close after six (6) months; 2) submit a compliance plan showing how it will comply with operating standards and the park can operate for six (6) years (the SUP may be revoked and the park closed if the plan is not advancing); and, 3) submit a compliance plan showing how it will comply with both operating and design standards and the park may operate indefinitely provided compliance is met for both standards (SUP may be revoked if plans not advancing).

Council Member Carter said he was told by a downtown business owner that another business has a sign that is not in compliance with the Historic District guidelines. Planning Director Fritz said to provide the name and he will look at it.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Farrior asked the Council when they would like to meet again this month. Thursday, March 25 at 6 pm was agreed upon.

Mayor Farris said that another meeting with Dr. Robinson needs to be scheduled to give him about what the folks from Rural Water found. Manager Bergman will contact Dr. Robinson to set it up.

Mayor Farris reported that ABC Board Chairman Jimmy Tate called to say that aside from the State mandated distributions to the Police Department there would be no further distributions to the Town for the General Fund.

Department Head Reports

Jason Wells, Fire Department, said when the new apparatus are delivered in April and May it will take some weeks before they will actually be put in service. He said that lately most calls have been wrecks.

Rod Fritz, Planning Director, reported that two (2) demolition by neglect letters were sent but only one (1) has been received and that property owner has begun to take some action. He is currently working on two (2) park projects, organized a civic meeting to receive comments from citizens for the Parks & Recreation Master Plan and the Boney Mill Pond Park Master Plan.

Anna Heath, Town Attorney, reported that the court date for the former Super 10 building is scheduled for April 12 and all notices have been sent.

Jimmy Crayton, Police Chief, referenced his report and asked if anyone had any questions, there were none.

Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk, provided the Council with information about upcoming training opportunities for elected officials.

Brent Dean, Public Services Director, said the Street Department has been filling pot holes around Town and the Inmate Labor Program may start up again in a couple of months. Director Dean stated that program really provides the Town with a lot of help for storm drainage issues.

Sharon Robison, Library Director, thanked Rod Fritz for securing the blueprints for the library expansion plan that was proposed several years ago. Director Robison said that some of their older patrons have begun to return to the library in-person.

Manager Bergman reported that David Bizzell is working so he could not attend the meeting. Mr. Bizzell said a request had been made to hold a wedding at Boney Mill Pond Park, Parks & Recreation Program Supervisor Savannah Hardison has worked up a fee schedule for these types of events.

Town Manager's Report

Manager Bergman stated the Little Rockfish Creek project that involved mowing and cleaning out the channel has revealed that the bank erosion is more extensive than initially thought and Jerry James requested an additional \$500,000 for the project since there will be more work on a longer length of the creek, it was approved. He reported that the American Rescue Plan has become law and the Town may receive \$1.1 million. Manager Bergman is learning more about how the funds may be used.

Closed session

Council Member Wells made a motion to go into a closed session to consult with the Town Attorney (G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3)). The motion was seconded by Council Member Carlton and approved unanimously.

The Mayor and Council consulted with the Town Attorney how to move forward with an issue where the other party has obtained Council. Ms. Heath indicated that the individual may not be contacted directly, only through the attorney. Some clarification of who is the responsible party need to be answered.

Council Member Wells made a motion to end the closed session that was seconded by Council Member Carlton and approved by unanimous vote.

With there being no other business to discuss at this time, Council Member Rivas-Diaz made a motion to continue the meeting on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 6:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Wells and approved by unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles C. Farior, Jr., Mayor

Jacqueline Nicholson, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF WALLACE
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #8
FOR BUDGET 2020-2021**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Wallace, North Carolina the following amendments be made to the budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021:			
Section I:	Water & Sewer		
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Account Number	Account Description	Increase	Decrease
30-8300-450	WWTP Contracted Services	\$45,000.00	
30-8300-740	Capital Outlay		\$45,000.00
	Grand Total	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00

To transfer funds from capital outlay to contracted services expenditure line in Water & Sewer Fund. Additional funds were included in capital outlay to cover cleaning costs. Costs should be expensed and not capitalized.

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 the 11th day of March, 2021

Attest: _____
Jacqueline Nicholson, Town Clerk

Charles C. Farrior, Jr

**TOWN OF WALLACE
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #10
FOR BUDGET 2020-2021**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Wallace, North Carolina the following amendments be made to the budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021:			
Section I:	General Fund		
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Account Number	Account Description	Increase	Decrease
10-5100-760	Capital Outlay – Police	\$26,000.00	
10-3650-880	Issuance of Debt		\$26,000.00
	Grand Total	\$26,000.00	\$26,000.00

In FY 18/19 \$119,223.20 was budgeted for police cars. Some cars ordered did not arrive by year end and only \$62,785.37 was spent. Cars that arrived late were charged to FY 19/20 budget of \$139,874. Some cars ordered in FY 19/20 also arrived late and therefore did not create a budget shortfall in FY 19/20. For the current budget year FY 20/21, \$175,000 has been budgeted for police car purchases. All cars ordered have arrived within the budget year and because current year budget has been used to cover vehicles ordered in FY 19/20, there is now a shortfall. A budget amendment is needed to cover this shortfall that originated in FY 18/19. Also, the Town had budgeted to borrow funds for vehicles in FY 19/20 and did not use all the amount budgeted due to cars coming in late. As it was Council's intent to borrow the funds for previous purchases, a budget amendment is recommended to cover additional cost of cars and off set with debt issuance.

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 the 11th day of March, 2021

Attest: _____

Jacqueline Nicholson, Town Clerk

Charles C. Fariior, Jr., Mayor