

TOWN OF WALLACE
MONTHLY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
February 9, 2023
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:

Jason Wells, Mayor
Council Member/Mayor Pro-Tem Wannetta Carlton
Council Member Frank Brinkley
Council Member Jeff Carter
Council Member Jason Davis
Council Member Francisco Rivas-Diaz

The following members of the Governing Body were absent:

None

Also Present were:

Rob Taylor, Town Manager	Anna H. Herring, Town Attorney (via Zoom)
Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk	Gage King, Airport Manager
Jimmy Crayton, Police Chief	Ken Floyd, Chamber of Commerce
Chuck Farris, Fire Chief	Sandy Forehand (via Zoom)
Rod Fritz, Planning Director	Jimmy Johnson

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Wells welcomed Boy Scout Troop 35. Troop Leader Stanley Skidmore said that they are working on a Citizenship in the Community merit badge which requires attendance at a meeting of a local elected board.

Presentations

Fire Chief Chuck Farris provided an update on the fire department, discussing membership, run numbers, training, James Sprunt Community College program for vehicle maintenance, a new fire station, grants and radios. He said the most important item is a new station.

Ken Floyd, Wallace Chamber of Commerce President, talked about upcoming events including Founder's Day and burying a time capsule, quarterly breakfast meetings starting in March and starting up the Farmer's Market again. Mr. Floyd reported ten new members joined this month and the Chamber has partnered with the Downtown Wallace Merchants Association to purchase new street signs for the historic district.

Adoption of the Agenda

Mayor Wells asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda? A closed session to discuss property acquisition was added and Council Member Wannetta Carlton made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended which was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and approved by unanimous vote.

Public Comment Period

Hollis Skidmore commented that he wants to be Mayor one day so he can bang the hammer.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Wells called for discussion of the minutes from the January 12, 2023 meeting, the January 26, 2023 continued meeting and the closed session minutes from December 8, 2022. There being no additions or corrections Council Member Carlton made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and unanimously approved.

Town Manager RobTaylor presented the tax report for the period ending 12/31/2022. He said the outstanding taxes are \$103,011 which is 40% lower than this time last year.

Old Business

Adoption of Depot Rental Lease Resolution

Town Manager Taylor said that Council approved the rental agreement with the Depot Commission last month but State Law requires the adoption of a Resolution Authorizing The Lease Of Town Property To The Wallace Depot Commission, Inc.

Council Member Jason Davis made a motion to adopt said resolution which was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and unanimously approved.

Resolution to Join American Flood Coalition

Manager Taylor stated that in November Tony McEwen made a presentation on behalf of the American Flood Coalition whose purpose is to help communities in mitigating flooding through a forum of best practices and developing support for local and state-level response to flooding and sea level rise. There is no cost for joining.

Council Member Davis made a motion to adopt a Resolution Providing For Wallace to Become A Member Of The American Flood Coalition that was seconded by Council Member Carlton and approved by unanimous vote.

Approve Capital Project Ordinance for Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Assessment Project

Manager Taylor said this CPO (Capital Project Ordinance) is to track the costs of the project.

Council Member Franciso Rivas-Diaz made a motion to adopt CPO 23-11. The motion was seconded by Council Member Brinkely and unanimously approved.

Resolution Declaring Surplus Property Sale

Manager Taylor stated that this had been discussed previously. The houses would be advertised for 30 days and sold to the highest bidder. Once purchased the houses are required to be moved off the land. He asked the Council to approve Resolution 22-23-09 Authorizing The Sale Of Real Property Pursuant To N.C.G.S. 160-A-274.

Council Member Rivas-Diaz made a motion to adopt the Resolution which was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and approved unanimously.

Appointment to Eastern Carolina Council of Government

Town Clerk Jackie Nicholson stated that the Town has no representative on the Eastern Carolina Council of Governments. Their general membership meetings are the second Thursday of the month which is the same night as regular Council meetings. Airport Manager Gage King has been asked and has agreed to represent the Town of Wallace.

Council Member Carlton made a motion to appoint Gage King to the Eastern Carolina Council of Governments. The motion was seconded by Council Member Davis and approved by unanimous vote.

New Business

Resolution Directing the Clerk to Investigate the Sufficiency of a Petition for Annexation

Planning Director Rod Fritz said a petition has been submitted for annexation of 1.99 acres of property on Hwy. 41 across from Walmart. The first step is to adopt a Resolution Directing The Clerk To Investigate A Petition Received Under G.S. 160A-31.

Council Member Carter made a motion to adopt said petition. The motion was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and approved unanimously.

Approve Contract for Engineering Services

Manager Taylor stated that as part of a grant application the Town was required to do an RFP (request for proposals). A generic RFP to cover engineering services for the grant and additional engineering services was sent out. Responses were received from four engineering firms and based on review committee points system Highfill Infrastructure Engineering was selected. The Town Attorney has reviewed the contract and it is ready for approval.

Council Member Carlton made a motion to approve the contract with Highfill. The motion was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and approved by unanimous vote.

Approve Capital Project Ordinance For Asset and Inventory Assessment Grant

Manager Taylor asked the Council to approve a Capital Project Ordinance for AIA (Asset and Inventory Assessment) for the Town's water distribution system to track related expenses and grant proceeds.

Council Member Brinkley made a motion to approve Capital Project Ordinance 23-10 that was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and unanimously approved.

Financial Reports

Manager Taylor presented the financial reports stating that the fiscal year is half over and in the General Fund revenues are at 64.66% with expenditures at 53.18%; Water/Sewer is 42.36% revenues and 34.75% expenditures. The Stormwater Fund is in good shape and the Airport Commission needs a budget amendment for fuel purchases.

Council Reports

Council Member Davis had numerous questions such as the timeline on new development (2024), the grant for improving the school building at Clement Park (received today); demolition of dilapidated house (30 days); removal of the railroad tracks (not answered). Davis also asked about library hours and processing passports, ABC revenues and the housing development adjacent to Wallace Elementary School. Manager Taylor responded that the library was operating during the agreed upon hours and was not currently doing passports, agreed that the Town should be receiving ABC revenues and the housing development was being held up by the 830 project and he was pursuing the remaining easements needed for the sewer line.

Council Member Carter said he saw some activity around the storm drain at College and Main (waiting on NCDOT). He asked about the lot across the street from Kentucky Fired Chicken (code enforcement started) and distributed some photos of Medical Village Drive which is in really bad condition.

Council Member Brinkley said the position of project manager should seriously be considered.

Council Member Rivas-Diaz said he would get some photos of streets he would like to see get some attention.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Wells said there is still a vacancy on the ABC Board and asked for nominations.

Council Member Carter made a motion to appoint Josephine Wade Farris to complete the term of Gwen Austin which expires in 2025. The motion was seconded by Council Member Carlton and approved unanimously.

Town Manager's Report

Manager Taylor reported that the plans for the Jim Russ building have changed and it will not be necessary to close the alley. He asked if Mayor Wells or Council Member Rivas-Diaz would be attending the CFCOG Annual Meeting. Council Member Rivas-Diaz responded that he would. Taylor reminded the Council that the Budget Retreat is scheduled for next Friday, February 17 beginning at 10 am.

Closed session

Council Member Rivas-Diaz made a motion to go into closed session to discuss acquisition of real property(G.S.143-318.11(a)(5)) that was seconded by Council Member Carlton and unanimously approved.

Airport Manager Gage King provided an update for the Council on two (2) different properties and related issues.

Manager Taylor sought Council direction with negotiating for property related to the 830 project.

Council Member Brinkley made a motion to end the closed session. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz 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 adjourn which was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Wells, Mayor

Jacqueline Nicholson, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
TOWN OF WALLACE

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LEASE OF TOWN PROPERTY TO THE
WALLACE DEPOT COMMISSION, INC**

Resolution 22-23-07

WHEREAS, the Town of Wallace (“Town”) owns the historic train depot which is used primarily as a museum and is located at 206 SW Railroad Street Wallace, North Carolina (“Property”); and

WHEREAS, the Wallace Depot Commission, Inc (“Commission”), a nonprofit organization desires to lease the entire Property for one year; and

WHEREAS, the Commission will sublease the facility from time to time and manage all rentals and subleases; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 160A-272 authorizes the Town to enter into leases for one year or less upon resolution of the Town Council adopted at a regular meeting; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Wallace as follows:

The Town Council hereby approves the lease of a of the Property described above for one year in the amount of \$1.00 and directs the Town Manager to execute the lease and any instruments necessary to the lease. This Resolution is effective upon adoption.

This resolution is effective upon its adoption this 9th day of February 2023.

Jason Wells, Mayor

Attest:

Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk

{SEAL}

Date_____

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
TOWN OF WALLACE

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR WALALCE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE
AMERICAN FLOOD COALITION**

Resolution 22-23-08

WHEREAS, proactively investing to prevent flooding is a wiser use of resources than spending on flooding recovery, as exemplified by FEMA research showing that \$1 of spent on disaster prevention saves up to \$7 in recovery costs, and

WHEREAS, national coordination and support are necessary for communities to fully address the challenge of flooding and sea level rise, and the American Flood Coalition provides a platform advocating for national solutions to flooding and sea level rise that invest in and protect our coastal communities, and

WHEREAS, the American Flood Coalition is a no-cost forum for best practices and source of support in developing local and state-level responses to flooding and sea level rise that will enhance Wallace's resilience effort, and

WHEREAS, flooding and sea level rise are important issues that our residents deserve to understand and the American Flood Coalition provides opportunities and tools to communicate with residents on flooding challenges and solutions, and

WHEREAS, joining the American Flood Coalition will aid the Wallace's efforts to protect against flooding without requiring any financial support or dues from the Wallace Town Council, and

WHEREAS, The Town of Wallace has engaged in multiple projects to improve stormwater drainage and to mitigating flooding, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Wallace finds that joining the American Flood Coalition will promote the welfare of Wallace residents and ensure the prosperity of the local economy by accelerating solutions to sea level rise and flooding, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WALLACE

The Town of Wallace recognizes the need to advance national solutions to sea level rise and flooding and will work as a member of the American Flood Coalition to safeguard the welfare of the its residents.

This resolution is effective upon its adoption this 9th day of February 2023.

Jason Wells, Mayor

Attest:

Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk

{SEAL}

Date _____

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
TOWN OF WALLACE

CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE

23-11

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires the municipality’s wastewater treatment plant be evaluated by a professional engineering firm, and

WHEREAS, based on the evaluation, recommendations can be provided and utilized for future capital project planning for Wallace; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to establish a capital project ordinance to track the grant proceeds and related expenditures related to this 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 23-11 is hereby established and adopted:

Section 1: The Project authorized is WWTP Evaluation.

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 Services	\$ 110,300
----------------------	------------

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

Transfers – Water & Sewer Fund	\$ 110,300
--------------------------------	------------

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 9th day of February 2023

Jason Wells, Mayor

Attest:

{SEAL}

Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
TOWN OF WALLACE

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY PURSUANT TO
N.C.G.S 160A-274**

Resolution 22-23-09

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statutes 160a-274 authorizes the Town of Wallace to sell real property, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Wallace owns three houses on property owned by the Town, and

WHEREAS, the houses need to be removed from the property to allow for the expansion of the Town's airport, and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to sell these properties to the highest bidder using an electronic auction service as allowed under N.C.G.S 160A-270,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of Wallace, that the houses be auctioned and sold to the highest bidder.

The Mayor or his designee and the Town Clerk are hereby authorized to execute any and all necessary documents on behalf of the Town from time to time related to the conveyance of said property.

This resolution is effective upon its adoption this 9th day of February 2023.

Jason Wells, Mayor

Attest:

Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk

{SEAL}

Date _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CLERK TO INVESTIGATE

A PETITION RECEIVED UNDER G.S. 160A-31

(Petition #AX-2022-04)

WHEREAS, a petition requesting annexation of an area described in said petition (Duplin County PIN 330604829441, 1.895 acres) was received on December 02, 2022 by the Town Council of the Town of Wallace; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 160A-31 provides that the sufficiency of the petition shall be investigated by the Town Clerk of Wallace before further annexation proceedings may take place; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Wallace, deems it advisable to proceed in response to this request for annexation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Wallace, that;

The Town of Wallace Clerk is hereby directed to investigate the sufficiency of the above-described petition and to certify as soon as possible to the Town Council the result of her investigation.

Jason Wells, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jacqueline Nicholson, Town Clerk

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
TOWN OF WALLACE

CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE

23-10

WHEREAS, the Town of Wallace has been awarded a grant from North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality to perform an inventory and assessment of its water distribution system, and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to establish a capital project ordinance to track the grant proceeds and related expenditures related to this 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 23-11 is hereby established and adopted:

Section 1: The Project authorized is Water Asset and Inventory Assessment (AIA).

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	\$ 150,000.00
-------------	---------------

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

Grant Proceeds	\$ 150,000.00
----------------	---------------

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 9th day of February 2023

Jason Wells, Mayor

Attest:

Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk

{SEAL}