

TOWN OF WALLACE
MONTHLY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
October 12, 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 Francisco Rivas-Diaz
Council Member Jason Davis
Council Member Frank Brinkley
Council Member Jeff Carter
Council Member Tasha Herring

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	Ben Jones, Airport Manager
David Bizzell, P & R Director (via Zoom)	Joseph Trollinger, Finance Director
Jimmy Crayton, Police Chief	David Carter
Brent Dean, Public Services Director	Cam Lee, Planning Board Chairman
Rod Fritz, Planning Director	Joseph Merritt
Taylor Johnson, Fire Chief	EB Pannkuk

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.

Presentations

Public Services Director Brent Dean reported on activities in his department. He spoke about Animal Control which is now a contracted service, Well 15 and 16 Phase 2 with materials being an issue but an online target date in February 2024, the Little Rockfish Creek project is complete, Sloan St. will be paved when utility repairs are complete, trimming tree limbs around Town and preparations for the holiday season.

Town Manager Rob Taylor introduced new Airport Manager Ben Jones.

Adoption of the Agenda

Mayor Wells called for discussion of the Agenda. Council Member Jeff Carter made a motion to adopt the agenda as submitted, seconded by Council Member Francisco Rivas-Diaz and approved by unanimous vote.

Public Comment Period

David Carter asked if the property owner across the street from his house had been contacted and asked if he is allowed to put an irrigation well on his property? Town Manager Taylor said that Code Enforcement was working on the property issues and he would give him a call about the irrigation well.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Wells called for discussion of the minutes from the September 14, 2023 meeting and the September 28 called 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 Brinkley and unanimously approved.

Finance Director Joseph Trollinger said the current collection rate is 42.29%.The following tax releases were presented for approval:

Account #	Name	Year	Reason	Amount
0536801	Bin Dong Japanese Steakhouse	2021	Business Closed 2019	40.02
0536801	Bin Dong Japanese Steakhouse	2022	Business Closed 2019	40.02
0536801	Bin Dong Japanese Steakhouse	2023	Business Closed 2019	40.02
0001990	ACC Nails	2023	Business Closed 2022	68.53
1391655	Bug's Shop Beauty Salon	2021	Business Closed	6.38
1391655	Bug's Shop Beauty Salon	2022	Business Closed	6.38
1391655	Bug's Shop Beauty Salon	2023	Business Closed	6.38
1783673	Cellular Express Inc	2021	Business Closed 2017	6.14
1783673	Cellular Express Inc	2022	Business Closed 2017	6.14
1783673	Cellular Express Inc	2023	Business Closed 2017	6.14
1875151	Coastline Care Inc	2021	Vehicle - no registration	9.62
1875151	Coastline Care Inc	2022	Vehicle - no registration	9.62
1875151	Coastline Care Inc	2023	Vehicle - no registration	9.62
4270896	Identity Search LLC	2021	Business Closed 2011	18.35
4270896	Identity Search LLC	2022	Business Closed 2011	18.35
4270896	Identity Search LLC	2023	Business Closed 2011	18.35
10001980	Dixie General Contractors	2023	Trailer no longer owned	5.12
5338754	Leyla's Coffee Shop	2023	Business Closed 2019	94.59
5338754	Leyla's Coffee Shop	2022	Business Closed 2019	94.59
5338754	Leyla's Coffee Shop	2021	Business Closed 2019	94.59
7547954	Ruanos Income Tax	2023	Business Closed 2014	12.23
7547954	Ruanos Income Tax	2022	Business Closed 2014	12.23
7547954	Ruanos Income Tax	2021	Business Closed 2014	12.23
5357722	Leyde Diabetic Supplies	2021	Business Closed	2.38
5357722	Leyde Diabetic Supplies	2022	Business Closed	2.38
2059590	Creative Concepts	2023	Business Closed 2021	34.76
2059590	Creative Concepts	2022	Business Closed 2021	34.76
8958602	Veranda	2021	Business Closed 2012	92.14
8958602	Veranda	2022	Business Closed 2012	92.14

8958602	Veranda	2023	Business Closed 2012	92.14
5534215	MCJ Body Shop	2021	Business Closed	94.80
5534215	MCJ Body Shop	2022	Business Closed	94.80
5534215	MCJ Body Shop	2023	Business Closed	94.80
			Total	\$1,270.74

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

Old Business

Clement Park Master Plan Discussion

Town Manager Taylor said that in December 2021 the Town Council approved \$75,000 for an inclusive playground at Clement Park and since that time another \$20,000 has been raised from private donations. It is not enough to complete the project. Additionally, other park improvements are needed such as repairing/ updating the community building and fixing the tennis courts. The recommendation is to use the assigned funds for a Clement Park Master Plan and then apply for a PARTF Grant to construct the project. Manager Taylor asked the Council to authorize use of the assigned funds for that purpose and approve an agreement with Alfred Benesch & Company to prepare the master plan.

Councilmember Rivas-Diaz made a motion as such. The motion was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and approved by unanimous vote.

Allowing First Floor Apartments Downtown Discussion

Planning Director Rod Fritz stated that Mayor Wells had asked the Planning Board to look into allowing apartments on the first floor in the downtown business district. Mr. Fritz said that would require a text amendment to the UDO (Unified Development Ordinance) and reported there are no other towns in North Carolina that permit it as it is not deemed the “highest and best use” of the property. The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend against first floor apartments downtown. EB Pannkuk expressed his opinion in favor as the need for office space in downtown Wallace is weak. His focus was mainly related to property he is planning to develop.

The Council determined to send this back to the Planning Board for additional consideration.

New Business

State Grant for Public Safety

Manager Taylor said that Council is aware of the award of \$5 million from the State for a public safety facility. The Council decided to have a work session/continued meeting to discuss how the funds should be used.

Donation of Fire Truck to a Department in Need

Fire Chief Taylor Johnson asked the Council to approve the donation of Engine 9 which is not being used to the East Arcadia Fire Department in Bladen County.

Council Member Herring made a motion to declare the 1987 Ford Pumper Tanker surplus, seconded by Council Member Brinkley and unanimously approved.

Council Member Brinkley made a motion to donate the 1987 Ford Pumper Tanker to the East Arcadia Fire Department that was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and approved by unanimous vote.

Appointment to Recreation Commission

Manager Taylor asked about appointments to the Recreation Commission. Parks & Recreation Director David Bizzell said that Brandon Chadwick who has volunteer coached at the park for a number of years was willing to be appointed.

Council Member Herring made a motion to appoint Brandon Chadwick to the Recreation Board for a term to expire in 2026 which was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and approved by unanimous vote.

Financial Reports

Finance Director Trollinger presented the financial reports for the period ending August 31.

Council Reports

Council Member Herring said she received a call from Howard Boney who lives on the corner of Dobbins St. and Teachey Rd. said the grass is so high you can't tell the shoulder of the road from the ditch. She reminded everyone of Pet Day in the Park on October 21 and asked what are the plans for the fountain in front of Town Hall? Council Member Herring is considering a mural downtown for Emanuel Pickett and she is still receiving feedback regarding Dobbins Park.

Council Member Davis asked about water and electric at the training grounds. Mayor Wells stated that Duke Energy has agreed to supply power and there is a plan for water.

Council Member Carter said the Council still hasn't discussed stormwater fees.

Council Member Brinkley asked if there was a paving/patching timeline and/or a procedure manual to establish some parameters?

Council Member Rivas-Diaz said the ditch between 2 houses on W. Craven St. belongs to the Town and needs some attention.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Wells shared with the Council an invitation from the Warsaw Chamber of Commerce for VIP seating at the Veteran's Day Parade on Saturday, November 4 with an RSVP.

Town Manager's Report

Manager Taylor reported on the various projects. He stated that and RFP (Request for Proposals) should be going out within 2 weeks; met on the Calico Bay Sewer Project and shared the Council's input; still trying to close out the Yates lawsuit/Super 10 by getting it before a judge.

With there being no other business to discuss at this time, Council Member Herring made a motion to continue the meeting on Monday, October 23, 2023 at 6 o'clock pm which was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and approved by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Wells, Mayor

Jacqueline Nicholson, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk