

TOWN OF WALLACE
MONTHLY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
November 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 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
Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk	Marlane Carcopo (via Zoom
Rod Fritz, Planning Director	Ruth Diaz-Munos
Ben Jones, Airport Manager	Nicholas Whaley
Wayne Rich, Asst. Fire Chief	Amanda Whaley
Joseph Trollinger, Finance Director	Joseph Merritt

Mayor Jason Wells called the regular meeting to order with a quorum of the governing body members present and Town Attorney Anna Herring gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Presentations

Airport Manager Ben Jones reported on activities at the Airport stating that October was the biggest month of the year with high jet fuel sales. He talked about airport safety with the Boy Scouts and the road relocation project to commence in March 2024 and be completed by year end.

Adoption of the Agenda

Mayor Wells called for discussion of the Agenda. Town Manager Rob Taylor asked that 2 items establishing public hearings be added, one for an annexation and one to amend the UDO. Council Member Tasha Herring made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended, seconded by Council Member Francisco Rivas-Diaz and approved by unanimous vote.

Public Comment Period

Nicholas Whaley commented about his father-in-laws property on N. Graham Street and asked if it would be acceptable to put a black mesh fence cover up to mitigate the neighbors complaints.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Wells called for discussion of the minutes from the October 14, 2023 meeting and the October 23 continued meeting. There being no additions or corrections Council Member Frank Brinkley made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jeff Carter and unanimously approved.

Finance Director Joseph Trollinger said the current collection rate is 48.41% with a decrease in delinquencies as expected. The following tax releases were presented for approval:

Account #	Name	Year	Reason	Amount
3097750	Garvey, Wayne	2023	Sold Trailer	3.08
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8782153	Trolleys Inc DBA Subway Charters	2023	Billed Wrong	1,173.01
8996330	Walker, Edward L.	2023	Exemption	279.00
				\$1,458.17

Council Member Francisco Rivas-Diaz made a motion to approve the tax releases that was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and approved unanimously.

Old Business

Budget Amendment to Purchase Fire Radios

Assistant Fire Chief Wayne Rich explained that Department is working toward a grant to purchase radios. The radios currently in use, which are being phased out, are not holding a charge. The Department thinks the best course of action is to purchase a few new radios now rather than continuing to replace the batteries. There are no funds in the budget to purchase them. Manager Taylor presented a budget amendment to cover the expenditure.

Councilmember Jason Davis made a motion to approve BA FY24-1. The motion was seconded by Council Member Carter and approved by unanimous vote.

New Business

Financing Service Truck

Finance Director Joseph Trollinger stated that a crane service truck was budgeted to be financed. RFPs (request for proposals) were issued and responses received from United Community and United Bank. The recommendation is to accept the proposal from United Bank; \$150,000 for 5 years with 6.75% interest.

Council Member Carter made a motion as such which was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and unanimously approved.

Policy for Releasing Utility Billing Data

Manager Taylor informed the Council that a request had been received for utility billing information such as past due accounts and those on the cut off list for nonpayment. Under G.S. 132-1.1(c) utility billing is not considered a public record unless the Council permits it's release. This was briefly discussed.

Council Member Herring made a motion not to release the utility billing date, seconded by Council Member Brinkley and approved by unanimous vote.

Street Naming Discussion

Manager Taylor reminded the Council that at the meeting last month Council had discussed honoring former Council Member David Jordan by naming a street after him (currently Powell Street). Further research revealed that Duplin County has street naming authority and a process. The Council directed Taylor to speak with Nancy Jordan before initiating the process.

Resolution Approving Local Water Supply Plan

Manager Taylor stated that Town's water supply plan has been updated as required and asked for the adoption of a Resolution (23-24-12) stating approval of the Plan. The Plan shall be submitted tho the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources.

Council Member Brinkley made a motion to adopt a Resolution For Approving Local Water Supply Plan that was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and approved unanimously.

Discussion of Appointed Boards and Commissions

Manager Taylor talked about reducing the number of members on the Town's appointed Boards and Commissions. Town Clerk Jackie Nicholson said she did a quick survey and most of the responses were similar to Wallace.

Petition for Annexation AX-2023-01

Planning Director Rod Fritz stated that a Petition for Voluntary Satellite Annexation had been submitted and asked the Council to direct the Town Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of the petition and to establish a public hearing at the December 14 meeting.

Council Member Brinkley made a motion to direct the Clerk to determine the sufficiency of a petition for annexion and schedule a public hearing on December 14, 2023 after 6:00 pm. Council Member Rivas-Diaz seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous vote.

Public Hearing for UDO (Unified Development Ordinance) Amendment

Planning Director Fritz said that the Planning Board recommended amending the UDO to regulate Vape Shops and asked the Council to schedule a public hearing regarding this matter.

Council Member Jason Davis made a motion to hold a public hearing for a UDO amendment on December 14, 2023 after 6:00 pm which was seconded by Council Member Herring and unanimously approved.

Financial Reports

Finance Director Trollinger presented the financial reports for the period ending September 30, 2023.

Council Reports

Council Member Herring commented that the street sweeper was doing a good job. She said that volunteers were needed for Christmas at Twilight and thanked the community for voting.

Council Member Davis said that the Downtown Get Down was successful and thought the Town should consider doing more events like this.

Council Member Carter asked about the fountain in front of Town Hall (Manager Taylor said he had a plan).

Council Member Rivas-Diaz expressed his appreciation for getting reelected.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Wells stated that on Tuesday, November 28 there will be a meeting at the Women's Club about the state's rail transportation plan.

Town Manager's Report

Manager Taylor reported on the various projects:

- Little Rockfish Creek – waiting on reimbursements
- Currie/Duplin Street Drainage – almost complete
- Farrior Park – PARTF Grant – lights almost done
- Clement Park Community Building – RFPs due November 15

With there being no other business to discuss at this time, Council Member Brinkley made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Council Member Herring 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 24-1**

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
10-5300-740	Capital Outlay- Fire	\$70,000.00	-
10-3990-000	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$70,000.00	-
	TOTALS	\$140,000.00	-

Funds to purchase new radios for fire department

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 November 9, 2023

Attest:

Jackie Nicholson
Town Clerk

Jason Wells
Mayor

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

TOWN OF WALLACE

23-24-12

RESOLUTION FOR APPROVING LOCAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 143-355 (l) requires that each unit of local government that provides public water service or that plans to provide public water service and each large community water system shall, either individually or together with other units of local government and large community water systems, prepare and submit a Local Water Supply Plan; and

WHEREAS, as required by the statute and in the interests of sound local planning, a Local Water Supply Plan for Town of Wallace, has been developed and submitted to the town council for approval; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds that the Local Water Supply Plan is in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 143-355 (l) and that it will provide appropriate guidance for the future management of water supplies for Town of Wallace, as well as useful information to the Department of Environmental Quality for the development of a state water supply plan as required by statute;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of Town of Wallace that the Local Water Supply Plan entitled, Town of Wallace Local Water Supply Plan dated 9/18/2023, is hereby approved and shall be submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the town council intends that this plan shall be revised to reflect changes in relevant data and projections at least once every five years or as otherwise requested by the Department, in accordance with the statute and sound planning practice.

Adopted this 9th day of November 2023,

Jason Wells, Mayor

Attest:

{SEAL}

Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk