

05/16/23

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Wade met in regular session May 9, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. at the Wade Town Hall.

Board Present

Mayor Joseph Dixon
Commissioner Kevin Herring
Commissioner Johnny Lanthorn
Commissioner Jennifer Weaver

Board Absent

Commissioner George Strater
Commissioner Johnny Sawyer

Visitors

2 Wade Citizens

Mayor Dixon called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

Agenda Adoption

Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion seconded by Commissioner Herring to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Commissioner Herring made a motion seconded by Commissioner Lanthorn to approve the Minutes of the April 11, 2023 regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

Board Members reviewed the Reports and Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion to approve the Reports as presented. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Water Department

Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion to approve the Report as presented. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Business Items

Speakers from the Floor

Mayor Dixon informed the Board that no one had signed up to address the Board under the Speakers from the Floor agenda item.

Committee Reports

Beautification -Mayor Dixon reported that the maintenance of employees were working on making the Town look good for Founder's Day.

Park - Mayor Dixon explained that the maintenance employees were also cleaning up limbs & leaves at the Park prior to Founder's Day. He also stated that they would be planting flowers at the Park prior to the Founder's Day event. Commissioner Weaver reported that there were piles of leaves at the Park that children were playing in. Mayor Dixon stated that Parks & Recreation was supposed to bring their vacuum truck to clean

up the piles. It was agreed that Parks & Recreation should be called again about the removal of the leaves.

Streets – Mayor Dixon informed the Board that the streets were in good condition and that the maintenance workers were soon going to be spraying the streets for grass.

2022 - 2023 Budget Amendments

Town Clerk Cindy Burchett explained that the Amendments was needed to clean up Budget line items for the end of the fiscal year. Board Members reviewed Water Fund Budget Amendment 2-23 and Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion to approve the Amendment as presented. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Board Members reviewed General Fund Budget Amendment 3-23. Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion to approve the Amendment and Commissioner Herring seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Park Issues

Mayor Dixon informed the Board that Mrs. Linda Lee had made an offer for the Town to purchase her land near the Park which includes two .55 of an acre tracts for \$40,000. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett informed the Board that Mrs. Lee did not have the tracts appraised because she was advised that the appraisal would be too costly. Mayor Dixon explained that one of the lots had both a water and sewer tap. Board Members held a general discussion of the issue and also of the fact that the Board had previously offered her \$30,000. Board Members agreed that \$40,000 was too much and that other acreage was selling for much less for an acre. Following additional discussion, Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion to offer Mrs. Lee \$35,000 for the two tracts. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Dixon informed the Board that there was a problem with the dogwood trees along the walking trail. He explained that each year many of trees die and have to be replaced. He stated that it was difficult to find the trees and that they were quite expensive. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett stated that there was no area left to plant additional trees that had irrigation. She explained that if the tradition was going to continue then the irrigation must be extended, and a new type of tree needed to be used. Mayor Dixon stated that the maintenance workers had done everything possible before, during and after the planting of the dogwoods to get them to live. Commissioner Lanthorn stated that there was blight affecting dogwoods in the area. A general discussion was held regarding the type of tree that should be used. Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion to table discussion of the issue until additional information could be gathered regarding the type of trees that should be used and to get an updated price on the stones. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

2023-2024 Budget

Board Members reviewed & discussed the proposed budgets for both the General Fund and Water Fund. Commissioner Lanthorn stated that he had reviewed both budgets and felt that the 4% for salaries increase was not sufficient due to the increase in the cost-of-living. Commissioner Lanthorn recommended a 9% increase based on the rate of inflation. He commented that he made a suggestion in November to address the matter, but it was not done. There was a general discussion of the current salary amount. Mayor

Dixon stated that he was concerned about taking such action because there were 2 Board Members missing. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett stated that the issue must be resolved prior to the June meeting because the Budget would have to be formally adopted by June 30th. Commissioner Herring suggested having a special meeting. Board Members agreed to have a special meeting that would only address the issue of salaries. Commissioner Lanthorn asked that the meeting be scheduled for the following week. Following discussion of the other proposed figures, Board Members advised Town Clerk Cindy Burchett to move forward with the proposed budget figures.

Appointment of Planning Board Representative

Mayor Dixon explained that the term of Planning Board Member Mark Williams was set to expire soon. He stated that Mr. Williams had agreed to serve a second term. Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion to reappoint Mr. Mark Williams to a second four-year term as the Planning Board Representative for the Towns of Wade, Godwin & Falcon. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Lanthorn stated that he would like Mr. Williams to attend meetings on a regular basis to give the Board updates.

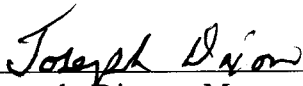
Founder's Day 2023

Commissioner Herring stated that he had two groups lined up to sing: the Williams Sisters and a group from New Hope Baptist Church. There was discussion of a Hispanic group that may also perform. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett stated that it was imperative that a timeline for the performances be established. Commissioner Weaver stated that there were approximately 14 vendors lined up. There was a general discussion concerning the parade. Mayor Dixon stated that he was working with South River Tractor Club to head up the tractor exhibition. Commissioner Herring stated that he would work on getting a color guard for the parade and opening ceremonies. Mayor Dixon stated that he had taken care of ordering the portable toilets, hand wash stations and gray water box. He also stated that the golf carts had been ordered and the use of a sound system had been set up; however, he still had to order the trophies. Commissioner Weaver stated that she was talking to a representative from the Cumberland County Library about being a vendor. Mayor Dixon stated that Jaden Parrish had agreed to sing the National Anthem. It was announced that the next Founder's Day Committee meeting would be May 11th at 7:00 PM at the Park.

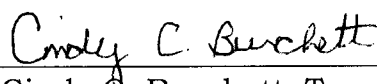
Adjournment

Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion seconded by Commissioner Herring to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.



Joseph Dixon, Mayor



Cindy C. Burchett, Town Clerk