

April 28, 2014

Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes

The Wendell Town Board of Commissioners held their regularly scheduled board meeting on Monday April 28, 2014 in the Commissioners meeting room at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Timothy A. Hinnant presiding. Present were Commissioner Jon Lutz; John Boyette; and James Parham; Town Manager Teresa Piner, Town Clerk Jonnie Driver; Public Works Director Alton Bryant; Police Chief of Police Bill Carter; Finance Director Butch Kay, Interim Planning Director David Bergmark; Planner Patrick Reidy; and IT Administrator Tamah Hughes. Commissioner Sam Laughery and Virginia Gray were unable to attend the meeting due to an illness.

Mayor Hinnant called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Police Chief Bill Carter and the invocation was given by Mr. Bennie Collins of Wendell Baptist Church.

Adjustment and approve of the Agenda

Commissioner Lutz made a motion to approve the agenda as written. The vote was unanimous 3-0.

Item 1 – Public Comment Period

Regina Harmon stated she read some great things in the paper this week and she wanted to say thank you for all of your hard work and for the board was trying to do. She said she thought the board was forward thinking. Please come out Friday night May 2nd for the Street Dance.

Item 2 – Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the Wake County Tax Report for February 2014.

Commissioner Parham made a motion to approve the consent agenda. With no further discussion the motion passed with a 3-0 vote.

Item 3 – Presentation by Chamber President Ginny Byrd Porter

Mrs. Porter said the Chamber had been working on its strategic planning. We wanted to make sure that our services are in line with what the members were requesting. Their mission had not changed which was to advocate for our members providing common grounds and to be a voice between our members and the town and community and provide services to the community at large.

Mrs. Porter said for upcoming events as Ms. Harmon stated the chamber had the Annual Sidewalk Sale and she thanked the board for its support in that effort. This would be their first annual street dance which would be held Friday night at 7:00 p.m. featuring a local band that plays Blue Grass, Folk and Jives. All downtown restaurants would be staying open late including Aubrey & Peedie's Grill. The Town's Public Safety Day is Saturday, May 3rd, and the chamber's Annual Golf Tournament would be in May along with the Harvest Day Festival the first week in October and the Annual Chamber Banquet in November.

Mrs. Porter said Commissioner Parham asked her earlier what the town could do to help the Chamber and her request was to continue to do the great work that the board was doing.

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Item 4 – Presentation by Tanya Barrett, Coordinator of the Eastern Wake Senior Center.

Ms. Barrett stated she was the Program Coordinator for the Eastern Wake Senior Center in Wendell. She said the Senior Center was open Monday thru Friday 8:00-5:00 and the mission of their organization was to provide home and community based services so that the disabled and senior adults can maximize their independence as long as possible while remaining in their homes.

Ms. Barrett stated the Senior Center was a non-profit center. They operate off of donations and appreciate any donations received. She said the services offered are fee except for some of the activities they do there may a small charge for the supplies and things.

Ms. Barrett said some of the programs offered at the Senior Center were Health Screenings, Health Education Programs, Exercise and Fitness, Wellness, Nutrition, and Social Activities such as crafts, sewing and gardening.

Ms. Barrett said Meals on Wheels was also provided through the Senior Center and they would be celebrating their 40th year of serving hot and nutritious meals to seniors in Wake County. The first meal was served on February 21, 1974 and this year they will serve their 8 millionth meal. She said 500 meals were served per week in the Wendell area.

Ms. Barrett said the Total Life Center was located in the Senior Center which gives seniors an alternative to other forms of long term care to care givers. She said they serve adults 18 years and older with unit supervision or care during the day. She said the youngest recipient on record was 18 and the oldest was 110. The total Life Center opened in Wendell on April 21, 1989 and average 20 people per day for up to 11 hours a day.

Commissioner Parham said it was important to revisit some of the things that were happening in Wendell, the services that are provided such as health screenings at no cost, and citizens are encouraged to take advantage of these services.

Item 5 – Presentation and update by Stantec and CAMPO regarding the Northeast Area Study

David Bergmark introduced Max Bushel who was with Stantec which was the consulting team doing the study for CAMPO.

Max stated this was the final board briefing and they were going to all the communities in this area and talking about the results. He said we had a lot of public input into the study and we had produced a lot of helpful ideas from the input. He said we had produced a project report work book. He said it looked like the plan would be formerly adopted this summer by CAMPO. He said we had also done a policy guide book and they had looked at two sites in the area.

Max said this project was about making the street accessible to all users. He said one of the things we had talked about was transit issues and we were looking at express bus and a circulator bus route for Knightdale. He said in the second phase which was 20 years out, plans were to extend express bus all the way to Franklinton and also consider if possible some circulator service around Rolesville and Wake Forest.

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He said the third phase would be to have peak hour express bus to Bunn and implement a circulator service towards Knightdale and Wendell.

Mayor Hinnant said he heard Mr. Bushel talk about increased bus lines in 20 years, but he would like to know other than the Wendell area, was light rail or commuter rail being proposed in other parts of the county. Max said he believed the Wake County Board of Commissioners may have to approve a bond issue. Mayor Hinnant said he knew about that, but he was talking about the plan. Max said no. He said the goal was to do what was feasible with what we had.

Mayor Hinnant said it looks like the plan was indicating commuter rail all around Raleigh. You were saying that the plan was not proposing commuter rail around Raleigh. Max said the plan proposes commuter rail. Mayor Hinnant said that was not what you told me. The Mayor said that in 20 years Wendell was not getting commuter rail but he saw that there was a line on the map that proposed commuter rail. He said he wanted to send a message that anytime anybody comes about transit, we do not want to pay for anybody else's rail unless Wendell was going to get that advantage also. He said he did not mind paying for rail, but he did not want to be taxed for somebody else's economic driver.

Max said he wanted to explain that this was commuter rail on an already existing rail line. Mayor Hinnant said it might be, but you told me there was not commuter rail on this plan and then you told me as I questioned it, that there was commuter rail. Max said he was referring to light rail.

Max said Stantec had looked at the intersection of Buffalo Street and Wendell Boulevard and they were planning for how the street may look. He said all of the plans were online and encouraged everyone to take a look at them.

Commissioner Boyette said we were told that transit would drive higher density development and you were saying that in order to get transit you need existing higher density development. He said was it Mr. Bushel's opinion that bringing the higher density would put projects higher on the priority list for getting those transit dollars toward the east side of the county. Max said if you do have higher density development here you would be likely to get transit.

Item 6 – Request by the EDC to discuss the permitting of firing ranges inside the Town of Wendell's Planning Jurisdiction and to forward to the Planning Board for review and consideration.

Planner David Bergmark stated this was an item that the Economic Development Committee (EDC) to be brought before you. He said we looked at the town's zoning code and currently the Use Matrices contains no such use for indoor or outdoor firing ranges. He stated it was likely that the inclusion of a use for indoor and outdoor firing ranges would require additional standards to be attached to the use to insure safety and protect property values.

Mr. Bergmark said the EDC has requested that the Town Board direct the Planning Board to explore how indoor and outdoor firing ranges could be appropriately permitted.

The Board was in agreement to allow the Planning Board to explore how firing ranges could be appropriately permitted.

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Item 7 – Discussion and update on downtown recycling dumpsters.

Manager Piner stated approximately 15 years ago the Town of Wendell contracted with Waste Industries to place five cardboard recycling containers for use by businesses and residents in the downtown district. She said as part of the contract the town was not charged for this service and Waste Industries received all proceeds from the sale of the cardboard. She said the containers were placed in the downtown area prior to the acceptance of cardboard in the residential roll out containers and the acceptance of cardboard as Solid Waste Container Site #11.

Mrs. Piner said the contract with the town to receive cardboard pickup at no charge was no longer in place. Waste Industries had contacted the business owners on which the recycling containers were located and no business owners on which the recycling containers were had expressed the desire to pay for the service.

Mrs. Piner said at this time it was recommended to have the containers removed from the downtown business district to avoid a monthly charge for service.

Commissioner Boyette asked if Waste Industries had given any comment about the usage dropping off or an explanation as to why they want to do this. Mrs. Piner said they did not, but she thought it was very little revenue from the cardboard.

Commissioner Lutz asked was there any objection to having the containers removed. Teresa said the businesses were asked by Waste Industries if they wanted to keep the cardboard recycling containers but it was something they did not want to pay for themselves.

Mayor Hinnant said he would like to have a straw vote on the issue, he said since the solid waste site accepts cardboard and any business can have the container installed at their own expense, he did not believe that the town should have to pay for that service and his recommendation would be to have the containers removed. The Commissioners were all in agreement to remove the containers.

Item 8 – Discussion and update on the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Planner Patrick Reidy stated each municipality in Wake develops and submits its own Hazard Mitigation Plan every five years as required by FEMA. Planning Director from the municipalities and Wake County agreed to collaborate on the next submission unifying the thirteen plans into a single Hazard Mitigation Plan for the county.

Once the plan was approved by FEMA, it will be brought before the Board of Commissioners for each municipality to consider the adoption of the plan.

Item 9 – Discussion on a recommendation by the Wendell Planning Board regarding the placement of solid waste containers at curbside.

Planner David Bergmark said it was requested that we look at this as we looked at other code enforcement issues. Currently the regulations stated that the containers are placed at curbside no earlier than 7:00 p.m. of the day prior to collection and retrieved no later than 7:00 p.m. of the actual collection day.

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Mr. Bergmark said concerns had been expressed to the town that current regulations do not allow enough time for residents to deposit or retrieve their trash containers from the curbside. Critics of the current standard have complained that existing regulations so not allow enough flexibility for residents who may work the night shift. As a result of these concerns the Town Board asked the Planning Board to review the current time period allowed and discuss whether additional time should be provided.

Mr. Bergmark said the Planning Board unanimously voted to amend Section 18-98 and Section 18-165 of the Wendell Code of Ordinances to allow a 48 hour window, rather than a 24 hour window for solid waste containers to be by the curbside. The proposed change would amend these two sections of the code to allow containers to be placed at curbside no earlier than 7:00 a.m. of the day prior to collection and retrieved no later than 7:00 a.m. of the day after collection.

David said if the Town Board was in agreement with the changes recommended by the Planning Board, this item may be placed on the May 12, 2014 agenda for discussion and action.

The Board was in agreement for this item to be placed on the May 12, 2014 Agenda.

Item 10 – Discussion and action on a Resolution in opposition to House Bill 150.

Mayor Hinnant said this was put on the agenda per a request from the Wake County Mayor's Association. He said each municipality is asked to adopt a Resolution in opposition of House Bill 150.

Manager Piner said HB 150 restricts local governments' ability to institute design and aesthetic controls on single-family residential structures-by prohibiting cities and towns from requiring design and aesthetic control on any structure subject to the North Carolina Residential Code for One and Two-Family Dwellings. The ordinance disallows cities from applying such standards in zoning districts, special use districts, conditional use districts and conditional districts, unless all of the property owners to which they might potentially be applied issues their specific consent.

Mayor Hinnant said we had a Developer's Agreement for Wendell Falls that protects the town as to how Wendell Falls is built out. If this HB 150 passes there would be no protection for what we call Wendell Proper, it would take away the protection as far as the aesthetics and lot sizes. There would be no protection for the town to control what was built in a subdivision.

Commissioner Boyette said the last he heard on this bill it was in committee and it might or might not pass. Mayor Hinnant said it was in committee, but we had a representative from the N.C. League of Municipalities that said there was conversation to get this out of committee and it could go for a vote and would pass because the Homeowners Association is pushing for this bill.

Commissioner Lutz made a motion to approve a resolution in opposition to HB 150. The vote was unanimous 3-0.

Item 11 – Review and approval of proposed 2013-2014 street improvement project.

Manager Piner stated the town went to bid for this year's street improvement project in March. Sealed bids were due by Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.

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Manager Piner said we received 5 bids with Fred Smith Company having the lowest Base Bid of 268,253.40 and the Alternate for is for finishing and resurfacing a section of Forest Lane in the amount of \$12,675.00 for a Total bid of \$280,928.40.

Teresa said there was not a lot of street work being done on the north side of town because Raleigh was planning utility work in that area and they did not want to put down new asphalt and to have it cut or opened, so staff was planning to focus on the north side of the boulevard at a later date when Raleigh had finished their work.

Commissioner Parham made a motion to award the Bid of \$280,928.40 to Fred Smith Company for the 2013/2014 street improvement project. The vote was unanimous.

Item 12 – Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Boyette said he would like to thank Ms. Harmon for her comments that it was nice to hear citizens let us know when we are doing good and when we are not doing what we are supposed to be doing. He would also like to thank Mrs. Porter and Ms. Barrett for giving their presentations and they were very informative.

Commissioner Parham the Eastern Regional Center was having a Foster Care Improvement Kick-off on May 8th. We are in great need of Foster Care in this part of the county.

Commissioner Lutz said he had the luxury of spending time last Thursday at East Wake High School with the Civics Class and they had done a presentation of going around town and the park blindfolded and in wheel chairs just testing the accessibility of the park. It is important that we keep all of our areas accessible to everybody, which is something that we don't always think about.

Item 13 – Mayor's Comments

Mayor Hinnant said he thought it was a huge step forward with getting our dirt road paved. He also agrees with the comments that Ms. Harmon made earlier. She mentioned that this board was trying to make positive changes and he thanked her for her positive comments.

Item 14 Adjourn.

Commissioner Parham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Timothy A. Hinnant, Mayor

Attest:

Jonnie S. Driver, Town Clerk