

**December 14, 2015**  
**Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**

The Wendell Town Board of Commissioners held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, December 14, 2014, in the Board Meeting Room at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Timothy A. Hinnant presiding. Present were Commissioners Sam Laughery; John Lutz; James Parham; John Boyette; and Virginia Gray; Teresa Piner-Manager; Jonnie Driver-Clerk; Butch Kay-Finance; Bill Carter-Police; David Bergmark-Planning; Patrick Reidy-Planning; Allison Rice-Planning; Tamah Hughes-IT; Jeff Polaski-Parks; and Alton Bryant-Public Works.

Mayor Hinnant called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. He recognized Senator Chad Barefoot and thanked him for attending the meeting to swear in the newly elected officials.

Chief Bill Carter led the Pledge of Allegiance and, Invocation was given by Reverend Bob Albritton.

**Adjustment and approval of the agenda**

No adjustments were made and Commissioner Parham made a motion to approve the agenda as written.

**Item 1 – Public Comment Period**

No one wished to be heard.

**Item 2 – Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of the Minutes from Monday, November 23, 2015.

Commissioner Parham made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

**Item 3 - Recognition of outgoing Town Board Members**

- a. Mayor Hinnant recognition of Commissioners
  - i. Commissioner Sam Laughery
  - ii. Commissioner James Parham

Mayor Hinnant said he had proclamations prepared for Commissioner Laughery and Commissioner Parham and he would paraphrase their accomplishments. He said including Mayor Elect Gray we had served together for the past four years and in that time we had been able to set a positive course for the town. We have hired a town manager, approved the transfer of Wendell Falls Development Agreement, approved the remodeling of town hall, and another phase of remodeling will take place in January 2016, we approved the relocation of the Wendell Police Department. We received a \$250,000 PARTF Grant, and received \$333,000 for a CDBG Grant to pave Lakewood Drive. The board was successful over the last four years and it was not all our doing but what the staff had done. Your hard work is appreciated. He presented Commissioner Parham and Commissioner Laughery with a framed proclamation.

- b. Mayor Pro Tempore Parham recognition of Mayor Timothy A. Hinnant.
  - i. Presentation of the Gavel

Mayor Pro Tempore Parham stated he had worked with Mayor Hinnant for the past four years and become close friends. He said Mayor Hinnant led the town through the toughest economic development in our history without having to raise taxes, he was an instrument in moving the Police Department into a new facility, and he worked closely with Wells Fargo and Newland Communities as well as NC Department of Transportation to open Wendell Falls Parkway. The Wendell Falls development opened in May 2015 and had permitted approximately 100 homes. He said town hall was being remodeled and if

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there are those that had not had an opportunity to see the area, please walk through. He said the town received a PARTF Grant that Mayor Hinnant initiated and worked closely with Jeff Polaski for the town to receive the PARTF Grant of \$250,000 and also a CDBG Grant for \$330,000, and a Wake County ABC Grant for \$18,000 for the Police Department. Mayor Pro Tempore Parham said the Mayor had worked tirelessly behind the scenes to do a lot of things for the Town of Wendell and he thought he had been a tremendous Mayor. He said he was going to present the gavel to the Mayor. Commissioner Parham stated that the Mayor had the fastest gavel around. Mayor Hinnant thanked Mayor Pro Tempore Parham for the gracious words.

**Item 4 – Recess – 10 minutes.**

Mayor Hinnant called for a 10 minute recess in order to prepare for the seating of the newly elected Mayor and Commissioners.

**Item 5 – Administering of Oaths by Senator Chad Barefoot.**

- a. Mr. Ben Carroll was sworn in as a Commissioner and assumed his seat at the dais.
- b. Mr. David Myrick was sworn in as a Commissioner and assumed his seat at the dais.
- c. Commissioner Virginia Gray was sworn in as Mayor and assumed her seat at the dais.

(Commissioner Gray submitted a copy of her resignation as Commissioner which is attached and made a part of the minutes).

**Item 6 – Appointment and filling of vacant seat of the Board of Commissioners.**

- a. Mayor Gray opened the floor for nominations for this position.

Commissioner Ben Carrol made a motion to nominate Jason Joyner to fill the vacant seat. Commissioner Lutz said he would like for the board to consider an applicant with a little more familiarity with the tone and direction of Wendell and one such person was former Commissioner Sam Laughery who had interest in the position. He said Mr. Laughery brought good judgement, sound decision making, citizens were familiar with him, and he was familiar with things going on here. Commissioner Lutz thought he would be a person who would do a good job, so he asked the board to consider Mr. Sam Laughery.

Commissioner Boyette said he was not familiar with Mr. Joyner and asked if he was in attendance and if so, could he answer some questions. Mr. Joyner came forward and Commissioner Boyette stated that they had never met before. Commissioner Boyette stated that he sat on the board as a representative of the citizens, and he thought it was important for everyone to know a little about us. He asked Mr. Joyner to tell the board and citizens a little about himself. Mr. Joyner said to follow up their phone conversation the other day, he moved to Wendell in 2012. He was originally from Nash County and his wife was originally from Asheboro. He said Wendell provided a lot of the amenities they looked for with a small town feel. He and his wife did not have kids, but if they did, he thought it was a place where kids could safely walk up and down the street. He said he was a partner in a government relations firm and he represented clients at the State House. He said he held a bachelor's degree from Appalachian State in town administration and city management. Commissioner Boyette asked Mr. Joyner when he first became interested in the Wendell Town Board. Mr. Joyner said in the past couple of weeks hearing that a commissioner's seat would become open. He was contacted about the position and his interest in the seat. He stated that he was interested. Commissioner Boyette asked if Mr. Joyner understood that this was to fill a two year vacancy, and whether or not Mr. Joyner would consider running again after that two year term. Mr. Joyner said he would never commit to anything beyond the two years in advance, but he could say that he would be honored to serve and would certainly do what the citizens of Wendell asked him to do.

To: Honorable Mayor Hinnant and Town Board of Commissioners

From: Virginia R. Gray, Commissioner, Town of Wendell, NC

Re: Resignation from Wendell Board of Commissioners

Date: December 14, 2015

Dear Mayor Hinnant and Board Members:

As the result of the November 3, 2015 municipal election, I am honored to be taking the oath of office for the position of Town of Wendell Mayor tonight at the organizational meeting of the Board. In order to assume the position of Mayor, it is necessary that I resign from my current position on the Town of Wendell Board of Commissioners. To that end, and in order to maintain continuity of office, I hereby submit my voluntary resignation from the Town Board of Commissioners to be effective upon my taking the oath of office for the position of Town Mayor.

I look forward to serving the citizens of Wendell as Mayor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Virginia R. Gray".

Virginia R. Gray

Cc: Teresa Piner, Town Manager  
Jim Cauley, Town Attorney

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Mayor Gray asked that all who were in favor of placing Mr. Joyner in the vacant seat on the Board of Commissioners to please raise their hand. Commissioner Carroll and Commissioner Myrick voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Lutz and Commissioner Boyette voted in opposition. The result of the votes was a tie, and Mayor Gray voted in the affirmative for Mr. Joyner. The motion passed with a 3-2 vote.

Senator Chad Barefoot administered the oath of office to Mr. Jason Joyner. Commissioner Joyner took a seat at the dais.

**Item 7 - Selection of Mayor Pro Tempore**

Commissioner Myrick made a motion to appoint Commissioner Jon Lutz as Mayor Pro Tempore. There was no discussion on the motion. The vote was unanimous 5-0.

Senator Chad Barefoot administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Pro Tempore Jon Lutz.

Mayor Gray stated she would like to thank Senator Chad Barefoot for coming to Wendell and being part of the organizational meeting and administering the oaths. She invited him to come back and visit Wendell anytime and presented him with a gift.

**Item 8 – Appointment of Town Board Liaison to the Transportation Committee.**

David Bergmark, Planning Director said the town was in the midst of updating its Transportation Plan and was directed to form a committee and the Planning Board made a recommendation on the committee membership to include one member of our Economic Development Committee, Board of Adjustment and Appearance Committee and those members had been selected. One remaining vacancy was a Board Liaison and they recommended that Commissioner now Mayor Gray serve in that capacity. They also made some notification options for getting the word out about the Transportation update. David said the prior board recommended waiting until the new board was seated to vote on a representative.

Commissioner Boyette nominated Mayor Gray to serve on the Transportation Plan Committee. Everyone voted in favor of Mayor Gray serving on the Transportation Plan Committee.

Mayor Gray asked to talk about the notice and the cost associated with it. David said there were several options, including:

1. Inserts in water bills (250-\$300)
  - a. The police department recently did this. These would only go to properties with public water, which would limit it to the town limits. For rental properties, it would go to the renter rather than the homeowners, since the utility bill should be in the renter's name/
2. Third-Class Letters sent to all property owners in the ETJ and Urban Service Area (USA) (~\$1100 to mail to 2500 addresses) (this list does not include those inside the town limits).
3. Third-Class Letters sent to all property owners within 100 feet of any collector or Thoroughfare road (new or existing) – (~1100) (this includes town limits, ETJ, and USA).
4. Third-Class Letters sent to all property owners within 100 feet of any new road (\$350 to mail to 350 addresses (Town limits, ETJ, and USA).

David said the Planning Board recommendation was to send utility bill inserts to in-town residents and letters to out-of-town parties to notify them of the transportation plan update process, at a cost of approximately \$1400.

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Mayor Gray said she thought it was important that we take a step back and do the notice, she felt like the lack of direct notice got us in trouble with some of the folks out there and she thought we were doing the right thing by setting back and listening to their concerns and that was the reason that she was in favor of the Planning Boards recommendation to send utility bill inserts to in-town residents and letters to our out-of-town parties at the cost of \$1400.

Commissioner Lutz made a motion to approve moving forward with the laid out plans of the transportation committee and to spend the \$1400 to notify the public as recommended by the Planning Board. The motion passed unanimously.

**Item 9 – Announcement of the Holiday Decoration Contest**

Patrick Reidy, Planner stated the Wendell Appearance Commission along with Old Oak Construction, Broach Custom Signs, and Domino’s Pizza, sponsored the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Wendell Christmas Decorating Contest.

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, the Appearance Commission judged all of the entries that were submitted. There were 11 residential and 13 commercial entries.

The Commissions selections are as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place Residential:	The Byrd Family – 231 Dogwood Trail
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Residential:	The Rinda Family – 215 Mayors Lane
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Residential:	The Barnette Family 231 N. Main Street
4 <sup>th</sup> Place Residential:	The Baldwin Family – 204 S. Cypress Street
5 <sup>th</sup> Place Residential:	The Quinn Family – 320 Tarragon Trail
Best Storefront (tie)	Designs by Donna Florist – 36 N. Main Street Turn-Key Home Solutions – 15 W. Third Street

The families were asked to stand and be recognized. Each one in attendance was presented with a sign to place in their yard.

**Item 10 – Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Joyner said this is new to him, but he was grateful for the opportunity to help push Wendell forward. He looked forward to working together with the board.

Commissioner Boyette said he was stunned and shocked the Panthers were 13-0 and Cam Newtown was going to get the MVP, he just knew it. He said this was a young board and he was happy to see some new faces up here. We have four years of commissioner experience on the board at this time, 2 for Commissioner Lutz and 2 for him. He said he read an article in the East Wake News that Zebulon had 62 years of experience sitting on their board and that was quite a difference. He said he thought there were some other people with experience that would have done an excellent job in filling the vacancy such as former Mayor Harold Broadwell and former Commissioner Laughery. Either would have been an excellent choice. He looked forward to working with the new board. It would be an interesting year.

Commissioner Myrick thanked the citizens of Wendell for electing him to his position and he was honored to serve. He looked forward to working with the board and growing with Wendell and being a part of that future. He also gave early congratulations to Commissioner Boyette, he understood he was expecting a baby any minute. He said Merry Christmas everyone.

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Mayor Pro Tem Lutz said he was excited about having a new board and he had a chance to speak with all of these individuals and I felt we were going to bring our best. What we lack in experience, maybe we will make up for in energy and ideas. He wanted to thank all the businesses for the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday night in December, it was a wonderful experience.

Commissioner Carroll said he would like to thank the citizens for all the support received on the campaign trail. Every vote counted and we were appreciative of that. He looked forward to serving with his fellow board members. Each one brings a unique skill set that would benefit the town. He said it would be an interesting year. He would like to encourage the positive vibes that had been blowing around town the past year. Things were picking up and people were getting motivated and excited and that was great.

**Item 11 – Mayor Comments**

Mayor Gray said she would like to congratulate the Chamber on the development of the Suburban Living magazine. She said this was a great thing for a small town to be a part in. She would like to thank the town staff and citizens committee's for all of their work with the Evening with Santa. She would like to say that it was humbling to look out and see so many friends and smiling faces and all the family that had come here to offer their support. She said it meant more to her than you would ever know. She said she could not thank them enough for all their hard work on her campaign, her husband, children, and sisters. She could not say enough. She said we were on the verge of such tremendous growth and opportunity in Wendell and she was excited to be able to be a part of it. She said thanked the citizens for letting her serve and thanked them for their confidence. She promised she would not let them down.

Mayor Gray asked those in attendance to join them for a reception at the Chamber of Commerce next door.

**Item 12 – Adjournment**

Commissioner Boyette made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. The meeting was adjourned.

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Virginia R. Gray, Mayor

Attest:

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Jonnie S. Driver, Town Clerk