

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL

August 8, 2023

Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at the Whitsett Town Hall. The following members of the Town Council were present: Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice and Council Members Lee Greeson and Cindy Wheeler. Also present were Town Clerk Barbara York as well as 13 citizens of Whitsett.

Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice, presiding due to the absence of Mayor Fennell, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted that a quorum was present. He asked that Council Member Lee Greeson give the invocation.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice asked if there were any Speakers from the Floor and there were several citizens attending the meeting who wanted to speak about the traffic and speed issues on Crescent Road in Whitsett. Mr. Rice let the audience know that no decision would be made at this meeting regarding Crescent Road because the town is still in the process of gathering information regarding this issue.

Dr. Matt Martin, owner of the Ponderosa on Crescent Rd. let the Council know that he is outside a lot both during the day and the night working on his property and has seen a lot of speeding cars as well as some wrecks since he purchased the property about 10 years ago. He stated that he did not want to see the road closed, he feels it is going to be useful for traffic to be able to get to the interstate from Highway 70, especially once the new Brightwood Development opens. Dr. Martin said he would like to see the large humps (not the little speed bumps) put on the road to help slow down the traffic.

Pam Murphy spoke next. She has lived on Crescent Rd. for 6 years. She stated that closing the road is not the only option she wants for Crescent Rd.; she would also be in favor of getting the large speed humps as well. She has spoken with both the sheriff's office as well as the highway patrol over the years asking for someone to come and monitor the speeding vehicles on the road, but she has been told they don't have enough staff to do that. Mayor Pro Tem Rice let Mrs. Murphy know that a representative from the DOT had been to the last meeting and said the Town could opt to put in the speed hump. Mr. Rice added that the Town is currently looking into all of its options. She is concerned about all of the developments that are being built around the Town of Whitsett and the amount of traffic that will generate. She asked about the widening of Highway 70 and Mr. Rice let her know that we were told the time line for that project would likely be sooner than it was originally planned for but it is still going to take at least 10 years to get that completed.

Fire Chief Leon Apple spoke next. He stated that if the Town did decide to close Crescent Road to through traffic, it would greatly impact the fire department. If anyone on that road had a house fire, it would delay the fire trucks tremendously from bringing water to those houses to put out that fire because there would be one way in and one way out and there would be no where for them to turn those big trucks around to come back out of Crescent road back to Highway 61. He stated that a dead-end road is a nightmare for fire service especially with their new trucks.

The next person to speak was Sal Mazzurco whose driveway to enter his property is on the end of Crescent Road where it intersects with Highway 70. He has lived on this farm since 2004. If Crescent Road were to be closed, he would be totally blocked from getting farming equipment and animal trailers into his driveway due to the angle at which that driveway comes off of Crescent. There was also some discussion about maintenance of the road.

Mayor Pro Tem Rice stated that changing the speed limit is not going to solve the speeding problem. Enforcement is the only way to solve this problem and we are being told that is not an option due to staffing issues.

Finally, Tyler Harris asked if we had requested any studies regarding traffic and speed on this road. We are waiting on the DOT to provide us with that information. He also asked if we could invite the sheriff to the next Council meeting to explain why his

department cannot enforce the speed limit on that road. It was also suggested for a patrol car to sit in one of the driveways so that drivers see it and that would help make people slow down.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Adoption of the Minutes

- Mayor Fennell asked if he heard a motion to accept the minutes from the July 11, 2023 Town Council Meeting. Council Member Lee Greeson made a motion to adopt the July, 2023 minutes. The motion seconded by Council Member Cindy Wheeler and the adoption of the July 11, 2023 minutes was carried by unanimous vote.

2. Update on Ballfield Netting/Labor

- Town Clerk Barbara York reported to the Council that Prevette Electric was supposed to come that morning to begin the installation process, and she hasn't seen or heard from them yet.
- Mayor Pro Tem Rice asked if there was any further Old Business and Town Clerk Barbara York had an ordinance adoption form that needed to be signed by all of the council members saying the ordinances have been adopted.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Planning Board

- Mayor Pro Tem Rice stated that the Planning Board did not meet this month, so there was no report.

2. Enforcement Officer/Town Administrator

- Town Clerk Barbara York presented for Enforcement Officer/Town Administrator Elaine Garner who was unable to attend the meeting. Mrs. Garner had provided notes for Ms. York to go over. She started with discussing 7209 Whitsett Park Road, the large house behind the ball field that Mrs. Garner has been trying to get plans on to see how many bedrooms and bathrooms the house has. All attempts to get information and proper documentation have been unsuccessful so far from either the owner or Guilford County Permits Dept. Mrs. Garner intends to visit this property, based on a Whitsett ordinance stating that the Town Administrator can go onto the property and inspect that property at anytime without having to call first to make an appointment.
- Ms. York next referred to 7233 Whitsett Park Road which is the mobile home that has all kinds of trash and garbage covering the backyard. There have been complaints to the Town about people's pets going back there and eating the garbage. Mrs. Garner has spoken with the owner of that property as well as sent a letter to her. The owner told Mrs. Garner she would speak to the tenants of the property and make sure all of the trash and garbage was cleared out by this date. Ms. York stated that she had ridden by there this afternoon and all of the trash was still in the backyard. A first violation letter will be sent out this week by Mrs. Garner.
- As Town Administrator, Mrs. Garner had noted that as of August 4th Joe Kalo is waiting for a technical review from engineer Josh Johnson and hopefully this agreement between Gibsonville and Whitsett will be completed. No date has been given to her regarding the completion of this agreement. Mrs. Garner has kept Lee Bryant and Randy McNeil updated on these circumstances and she would get them the agreement as soon as it is available to her for their review.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. New Tables for Town Hall events, chair donations from Greater Vision Academy, estimate for cleaning.** Town Clerk Barbara York referred the Council members to the price lists of both six and eight-foot tables that she would like to purchase for the Town Hall to use for various events and meetings. We have had to borrow tables in the past and would like to get our own. We are requesting to purchase eight eight-foot tables and six six-foot tables. Ms. York provided the Council members with prices from Amazon, ULINE and BJ's. Council Member Cindy Wheeler asked if these were something we had planned for in the budget. There is money in the budget but Ms. York did not have the budget with her at this meeting. Council Member Lee Greeson made a motion to table this discussion until next month and to be provided a copy of the budget. Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. York then made the Council aware that Greater Vision Academy had donated 88 cushioned chairs to the Town Hall. The chairs are in desperate need of cleaning. Ms. York reached out to Carpet King to see how much they would charge to clean the chairs. The owner gave us a 15% discount which would make the cost \$1122. Council Member Cindy Wheeler made a motion to table this until next month so the Council could take a look at the chairs before making a decision. Council Member Lee Greeson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

2. **Request from Senator Phil Berger re. budget needs Town** Clerk Barbara York let the Council know that the Town had received an email from Senator Berger’s office asking us to send them a list of any budgetary needs the Town may need extra money for. This email was forwarded to Council Member Craig York who has said he would email the Senator’s office to let them know that we need money for the renovation project on the Town Hall. Council member Lee Greeson stated we also need money to expand the waterline down Highway 61 to the corner of Highway 61 and Whitsett Park Road. The fire department really would benefit from this.
3. **Any items from Council Members.** Council Member Lee Greeson let the Council know that we have two travel teams that want to rent our ballfield on Wednesday and Thursday nights until October. He stated that Gibsonville would not be using the field this fall. Mr. Greeson is wanting help deciding how much to charge. There will be a \$50 deposit for the keys to the lights and the restrooms. Since Gibsonville will not be using the field this fall, we will need to hire someone to mow and care for the ballfield and the surrounding area once a week or twice a month. We need to draw up a generic contract for teams to complete when they want to use our field. When thinking about charging these teams we need to keep in mind the cost of replacing bulbs and maintaining the field. Mr. Greeson spoke with Cody Myrick who is currently mowing the Town Hall to see what he would charge to take care of the ballfield. Council Member Cindy Wheeler made a motion to accept the rates the Mr. Greeson came up with of \$40 an hour. The motion was seconded by Lee Greeson and was passed unanimously.
4. **Announcements** Mayor Pro Tem Rice asked if there were any announcements. Town Clerk Barbara York shared a thank you message from Susan Brothers McKinney to the Council for recognizing and sending a card to her father who was celebrating his 90th birthday. Ms. York also let the Council know that work has started on the Parlor room in the Town Hall. All of the paneling is down and they are currently working on repairing the walls.
5. **Speakers from the Floor** The Mayor Pro Tem asked if there were any Speakers from the Floor and there were none.

ADJOURNMENT With no further business before the Council, Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice invited a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Cindy Wheeler and seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson. The motion carried; and the August 8, 2023 Town Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at the Whitsett Town Hall.

_____/S/_____
Elaine Garner, Town Administrator

_____/S/_____
Jerry Rice, Mayor Pro Tem

APPROVED: