

TOWN OF WINFALL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
June 12, 2023, 6:00 pm.
WINFALL TOWN HALL, WINFALL, NC 27985

The regular monthly meeting of the Winfall Town Council was called to order by Mayor Fredrick Yates at 6:00 pm. Mayor Pro-Tem Preston White gave the invocation and lead the pledge of allegiance.

Council Members Presence:

Mayor Fredrick Yates

Mayor Pro- Tem Preston White

Councilman Christopher Richardson

Councilwoman Valery McDonald

Staff Member Presence:

Debbie Jean Parker- Office Assistance fill in as Clerk in absent of Clerk Valerie Jackson

Mayor Fred Yates asked if it was a conflict of Interest. None was declared. A motion was made by Councilman Christopher Richardson and was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Preston White and so carried.

Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made to approve the agenda and to add another line item "d" to New Business to the agenda "Online Bill Pay" by Councilman Christopher Richardson and Mayor Pro-Tem Preston White and seconded and it was so carried.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes for the month of May was tabled for approved until July meeting due to the absent of Clerk.

Approval of Financial Report: CPA Richard Arnold reported that the following line items has increased & decrease the budget:

General Fund Expenditures

306.01 Real Property Tax - \$7000.00

320.01 Sales taxes - \$18,000.00

321.01 Solid Waste Disposal Tax - \$100.00

332.01 Solid Waste Fees - \$4000.00

435.10 Adm Equipment Leasing - \$300.00

454.01 Adm Collection Fees -Taxes - \$400.00

465.01 Adm Contingency Fund- \$25,750.00

Road & Grounds

730.01 R&G – Beautification Committee - \$200.00

Sewer Fund Expenditures

812.02 Sewer – Postage - \$500.00

866.02 – Sewer Treatment - \$500.00 (decrease)

Motion to approve financial report by Councilman Christopher Richardson, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Preston White and so carried.

Old Business – None

New Business:

- a. **Absent Council Seat Replacement-** Mayor Fred Yates ask the question when was the vacant council seat going to be filled? Mayor Pro-Tem Preston White nominated Cynthia Cunningham to fill the vacancy seat until November election. Councilman Richardson asks who that person was, Mrs. Cunningham stood to identify herself, Councilman Richardson stated he just wanted to know who she was. Councilwoman McDonald stated that she wasn't aware that they were electing a replacement during this meeting. McDonald stated that she feels they should wait until next meeting to give others an opportunity to apply for the position if they so desire the position. Mayor Pro-Tem Preston express concern that no one else has shown interest in the seat and he question why keep waiting, the seat will only be filled until November. After some debating between councils, there was not a seconded and the motion was tabled, Mayor Pro Tem White told County Clerk Todd Tilley who was waiting to swear the new council person in he could leave because the seat was not going to be filled at this time.
- b. **Budget Hearing and adoption approval** will be held June 26, 2023, at 5:30 pm & 6:00 pm (for FYI)
- c. **Audit Contract approval for 2022-2023 Budget Year** – Council will review and approval if necessary to accept the Audit Team Thomas, Price, Scott Adams & Co. P.A. to complete the towns 2022-2023 budget during Special Meeting session on Monday June 26, 2023
- d. **Online Bill Pay through PNC Bank:**
Councilman Richardson motion that we allow PNC to add a link to Town's web page for sewer customers to be able to pay their sewer bill online. Council Woman McDonald seconded, and it was so carried.

Other Information:

- a. **Sewer-** Councilwoman McDonald reported that they are still waiting for the sewer lines get repaired at Pumping station #5 – Andy's – so that the by-pass pump that is currently there can be removed. McPherson Enterprises Company has been hired to complete the job.
- b. **Roads & Grounds** – Mayor Pro- Tem Preston White reported that 2 contactors have been hired to keep grass cut around the town, since our person for roads & ground is no longer with the town.
- c. **Fire Department** – Fire Chief Gregory Terranova reported the department did receive the 50/50 grant of \$22,000.00. Chief Gregory submitted the 2023 Fire Department Roster. (See attachment)

Committee Reports:

1. **Administration/Finance** – Councilman Richardson stated that he took over the position as Finance Officer until the new position of Office Manager is put in place in July, and Valerie Jackson has agreed to take the position and she will become the Finance Officer. Richardson also stated that Full time Roads & Ground position and part time clerk position will be available when the 2023-2024 budget is approval.
2. **Sewer/Grant/Recreation** – Councilwoman Valery McDonald reported that she had no update on sewer, no meeting has been held for recreation department since Feb, and nothing new for Grants. Council Richardson commented that the town do have grant money for playground equipment and if we do not us it, we must return it.
3. **Roads & Ground/Public Safety/ Tourism** – Mayor Pro-Tem Preston White stated he had nothing new for Tourism, but Fireworks for Perquimans County will be July 2nd. For public safety the house located on 312 Main St, contractor Hurdle said it will be another 2 -3 months before he could get it torn down and if the town wants to use someone else it will be ok with him because his truck is being repaired, Mayor Pro-Tem White stated that we do have another bidder that will do it but his bid was \$1000-\$1500 more, Councilman Richardson stated that he feel the town could wait a couple months to save the town money, Mayor Pro- Tem White reminded him that the citizen has been complaining about this house being a hazard for the community and it's been approve for removal for over 3 years now, just waiting for contractor to do it. Mayor Pro-Tem White stated that he had nothing new for roads & grounds report it was given earlier about using two outside contactors to keep grass cut. Councilman Richardson comments that the town is looking into getting vending machines for snacks and drinks and possible bait out where the pavilion is, but he will be looking into how we can get them setup. Richard also mentions that the town is looking into getting the outside bathroom doors repaired so it will be for community usage.
4. **Attorney** – Will Crow- no report
5. **Mayor** – Fredrick Yates – no report

Other Business:

Public Presence & *Comments:

Jovahnie Winslow

Cynthia Cunningham

*Debra Long – Gave comments and concerns about the house on 312 Main St. that it an elderly veteran woman living next door and she do not need live next door to it. Long also commented about the trash that is laying in ditches and along the roadways. Long also thank the town for the town's website and the updates for public viewing.

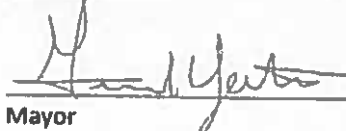
*Lauren & Don Spruill – Ask for update about the re-zoning permit that was submitted in April to have their property Hollowell Drive & Hollowell Circle re-zone from R1 & GB to R2. Mayor Yates replied since The Former Council & Zoning Administrator Cooper was working on this with them, and others council are unaware of what has been done, the office staff will investigate and get back with them with updates.

Flora Jennings

*Lucretia Washington- Made comments about the drains on Main St. are still stopped up. Washington asks who are responsible for unstopping them. Mayor Yates replied that's a DOT road, and they would have to be the one who unstop them. Washington asks who is responsible to call them, Mayor Yates replied that the town will call.

*Eddie Felton- Submitted a letter to council with concerns about his home located on River St. because the former owner, his grandmother was placed in a nursing facility before passing, she received Medicaid financial support and now they want to claim ownership of her property if the sum amount is not paid, he wanted to know can the town of Winfall help in anyway. Councilman Richardson replied that the town cannot help financially but offered to place his story on our webpage if he so desires and suggested he do a go fund me project to help in his situation.

Adjourn – Motion to adjourn by Mayor Pro- Tem Preston White, seconded by Councilman Christopher Richardson and so carried.



Mayor

7-10-23 Valerie Jackson

Clerk