

TOWN OF WINFALL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 13, 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 Fred Yates at 6:00 pm. Invocation was given by Councilman Preston White and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Fred Yates.

Those in attendance were Mayor Fred Yates, Mayor Pro-Tem Preston White, Councilwoman Valery McDonald, Councilwoman Carol Cooper, Attorney Crowe and Valerie Jackson; Town Clerk, Finance Officer Debbie Parker and Personnel Manager Brenda Dillard.

Citizens attending were: Robert Valentine, Cynthia Cunningham, Steve McDonald, Christopher Richardson.

Mayor Yates asked if it was a conflict of Interest. None was declared. A motion was made by Councilman Preston White and was seconded by Councilwoman Carol Cooper and so carried.

Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made to **approve the Agenda** for March 13, 2023 meeting by Councilman Preston White and seconded by Councilwoman Carol Cooper and so carried.

A motion was made to **approve the Minutes** for February 13, 2023 meeting as is by Councilman Preston White and seconded by Councilwoman Valery McDonald. Discussion was made in regards to the minutes. Personnel- Corrections were made to Jeremi Holley resigning instead of retiring. On the second page Councilwoman Carol Cooper corrected the information about getting a 2nd bid for the roads. The attorney said they should they should get a 2nd, consider it if "less." The word less expensive was omitted. Mayor Pro Tem Preston White made a motion to approve the minutes with the necessary corrections and was seconded by Councilwoman Carol Cooper so carried.

Financial Report:

The accountant Richard Arnold reported there was one change. Financials was amended to increase Real estate taxes by 6,000 and change. So it should increase the taxes by 10,000 and to balance the budget increased the contingency fund by the same amount. A motion was made to approve the **Financial Report** by Councilman Preston White and was seconded by Councilwoman Carol Cooper and so carried.

Old Business:

- A. **Vacant Council Approval:** Councilwoman Carol Cooper made a motion to appoint Christopher Richardson to the vacant council seat, after much discussion from Mayor Pro Tem Preston White and was seconded by Councilwoman Valery McDonald and so carried. Mayor Pro Tem Preston White voted Nay. Magistrate Todd Tilley administered the oath of office to Christopher Richardson (Newly appointed Council Member)

New Business:

A. **ARP Policy Review and ARP Ordinance Approval:** Councilwoman Carol Cooper made a motion to approve the ARP Project Ordinance and was seconded by Councilman Preston White and so carried. Mayor Yates reported to Council that he had some good news and some bad news. He read Debbie Parker's letter of resignation as *Town Finance Officer, effective March 23, 2023 (see letter for additional information)*. She noted that she would continue in other capacities. Debbie Parker restated her reasons for her resignation and noted that a Council person who has that background could serve in that position.

B. **Policies Approval:** Mayor Yates tabled the approval on the other policies. (Councilwoman Valery McDonald requested to have a workshop. The workshop for the budget and policies approval was scheduled for April 15, 2023 at 12:00 to 2:00 pm.) Valerie Jackson stated she would not be able to attend. Debbie Parker reported to Council that there was a virtual training online that Council needed to complete. She told them she would send it to their email.

Councilwoman Carol Cooper made a motion of approval to for the ARP Policy for Adoption and was seconded by Councilman Preston White and so carried.

Mayor Yates ask for a motion to tear down the house located at 108 Main Street, Hertford, NC 27944. Councilwoman Carol Cooper reminded Mayor Yates that the motion had already been motioned previously, it just needed to sign it; it had already been voted on so there was no need for a motion. All Councilmembers signed the agreement (between Town of Winfall and Michael Hurdle Enterprises).

Other Information:

Departments:

- A. **Sewer:** Councilwoman Carol Cooper made a motion to hire an Engineer to look into the town's sewer system and was seconded by Councilman Preston White and so carried.
- B. **Roads & Grounds:**
- C. **Public Safety:**
- D. **Fire:**

Committee Report:

Personnel Manager Brenda Dillard reported that the town is still looking for a person for Roads and Grounds. She also reported that Jeremi Holley would like to come back part-time to help maintain the grass (mow, pick up trash and extra duties) until the position is filled. Hours and wages were discussed. Councilwoman Carol Cooper said they had someone they were looking at. Councilwoman Carol Cooper suggested using that person on a temporary basis until they look at bids (\$10.00 an hour/20 hours). After discussion Councilman Preston White made a motion to **contract** Jeremi Holley temporary until they can evaluate the cost. It was seconded by Councilwoman Carol Cooper and so carried. Personnel manager Brenda Dillard asks Council to please check their email because there maybe something that requires an answer right away.

Administration: Councilwoman Carol Cooper told Council that they needed to vote on the rezoning. She reported that the planning and zoning board had approved the rezoning of the 2 lots on Wiggins Road and Cotton Gin Road to Highway Commercial. Councilwoman Carol Cooper made a motion to approve the rezoning and was seconded by Councilwoman Valery McDonald and so carried.

- E. **Fire/ Roads & Grounds/Tourism:** Councilman Preston White reported that he received an email from Debra Brookins for permission to have a cookout to block off Church Street on both ends for granddaughter graduation cook-out. After discussion, Councilman Preston White made a motion to block off both ends of Church Street and was seconded by Councilwoman Carol Cooper and so carried.

Recreation: Councilwoman Valery McDonald reported that the grant for the Recreation Department had been awarded. She reported that she had not heard from Melvin Jackson regarding the sewer. Discussion was held by Council. Personnel Manager Brenda Dillard shared information of an engineer out of Greenville-Rivers & Associates, and she will get the information to Councilwoman Valery McDonald.

Personnel Manager Brenda Dillard shared with Council that Cotton Gin Road is not a Powell Bill Street and never has been when it was discussed to repair it. Mayor Yates said it should be a Powell Bill Street, and he will look into getting it on the list. Councilwoman Carol Cooper ask Mayor to look into it. After discussion Councilwoman Carol Cooper made a motion to get the streets fixed and was seconded by Councilwoman Valery McDonald and so carried.

Attorney:

Other Information Public Comments:

Councilwoman Valery McDonald reported that Ms. Brookins made a request about having a sign brought down in town like the one at the foot of bridge. She reported that if someone would make it DOT would put it up. Councilwoman Valery McDonald made a motion that Councilwoman Carol Cooper fills in the positon as finance officer until they find someone and was seconded by Councilman Preston White and so carried. Ayes have it.

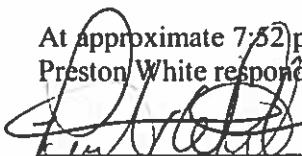
Ms. Cynthia Cunningham requested to see the Town Ordinance regarding the Council position. She also requested to have the minutes revisited because the appointment was done unfairly.

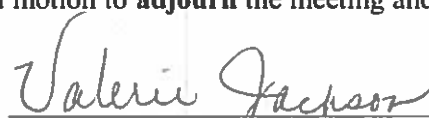
Mr. McDonald talked about the strategic planning session and a public hearing. He would like to do that in April if Council is interested. He and Mrs. Brookins are working together, and they are ready to go. Mayor Yates told him to lobby the Council and see when they are available. After discussion it was suggested April 15, 2023 at 10:00-12:00. Steve McDonald said there were confusion about the police department and patrolling. Councilman Preston White reported that the Sheriff Department of Hertford was patrolling.

7:34 Councilwoman Carol Cooper made a motion to go into close session for a personnel matter and was seconded by Councilman Preston White and so carried.

7:50 Councilwoman Carol Cooper made a motion to return from close session and was seconded by Councilman Preston White and so carried.

At approximate 7:52 pm. Mayor Yates ask for a motion to **adjourn** the meeting and Councilman Preston White responded.


Mayor Fred Yates


Valerie Jackson, Town Clerk