

**TOWN OF WINFALL  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
August 14, 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 6:05 p.m. Invocation was given by Councilman Preston White, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pro Tem Preston White.

Those in attendance were Mayor Fred Yates, Mayor Pro-Tem Preston White, Councilwoman Valery McDonald, Councilman Christopher Richardson, Attorney Crowe, Valerie Jackson, Town Clerk.

*Citizen's attending* was Robert Valentine, Lucretia Washington, Debra Long, Steve McDonald, Reta Blair, Craig Trueblood, Cody Roach, Jeff Lalonde, Andre' Nixon, and Eddie Felton.

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

Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made to **approve the Agenda** for August 14, 2023, meeting by Councilman Christopher Richardson and seconded by Councilman Preston White with and so carried.

**Approval of the minutes.** Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham made a motion to approve the July 10, 2023, minutes if there were no necessary corrections and seconded by Councilman Christopher Richardson and so carried.

**Financial Report:**

CPA reported that he moved the Grant-All American Rescue Plan 380.02 (72,808.00) from the Sewer Fund Revenue to the Sewer-Grant Expenditures 827.02, and it shows the carryover of the Powell Bill funds from Prior years moved (20,758.02) 324.01 to the General Fund. A motion was made to approve the Financial Report by Councilman Christopher Richardson and was seconded by Councilwoman Valery McDonald and so carried. Both are available, manual entry.

**Old Business:**

- A. A motion was made to change the Council meeting date from the **Second Monday** of the month to the **fourth Monday of the month**, and packets due Wednesday prior to the Council meeting by Councilman Christopher Richardson and was seconded by Councilwoman Valery McDonald and so carried.
- B. **Update on Website payments:** Ms. Debbie Jean reported to Council that PNC established on the web for the on-line payments that would be transferred to the Town Website. Hopefully by Friday it will appear on the Town's website. There would be a button on the Town Website that would read **PAY HERE**. She explained that there would be a charge to the customers for using the payment. Debbie explained that it would cost **\$100.00** to install and would cost approximately **\$39.00** per month. A question was asked, how do you know who paid. Debbie Parker explained that the information can be assessed on authorize net for our records.
- C. A motion was made by Councilman Christopher Richardson to **approve the following position Roads & Grounds, Andre' Nixon** and was seconded by Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham. Councilman Preston White motion to hire as **Deputy Clerk, Elisha Washington** and was seconded by Councilman Christopher Richardson and so carried. Councilman Christopher Richardson thank Mr. Hurdle who torn down the old Spellman house.
  - \* He also thanked the residents for their patience while waiting for Mr. Hurdle to get his Equipment fixed in order to start and complete the job and saved Winfall an additional \$1500.00 with the most competitive price. \* Councilman Christopher Richardson thanked the Front office staff for their initial implementation of meeting minutes to the town's website.
  - \* He responded with that being said our current minutes are available to the public and we now need to finish uploading the previous 5 years to continue with transparency to the public, for **all minutes from 2018 to current be posted to the website**, was seconded by Councilman Preston White and so carried.

\*Councilman Christopher Richardson made a motion to name **Valerie Jackson as Office Manager with the duties of, Finance Officer and Town Clerk** for the Town of Winfall, we just hired a Deputy Clerk and when the Deputy Clerk get to be Clerk she will take over that position, and was seconded by Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham and so carried.

**New Business:**

- A. **Approval to Purchase a New Fire Truck:** Councilman Christopher Richardson made a motion to roughly approve \$17,000 to Winfall Fire Department for the purchase a new Fire Truck and was seconded by Councilman Preston White and so carried.

**Other information:** Councilwoman Valery McDonald made a motion to dissolve the current Citizen Advisory Committee that we had and redo that committee, we going to change it and then add a couple of subcommittees that I like to put in there, Finance, communication, and Social Media. Each committee will be chaired by a Winfall representative who will advise the town council of issues within each committee. The \_\_\_\_\_ will provide a monthly report and each subcommittee could hold work sessions, to discuss and clarify their monthly report. It was seconded by Councilman Christopher Richardson. Councilman Preston White ask if it had been opened to the public, has it been broadcast throughout the public? And will the public have the opportunity to get on the disconnect? Councilwoman McDonald said it was the original committee that Carol had started, Councilman White responded; Okay, and Councilwoman McDonald said, "we are going to redo it where it will be more of the town citizens who will be in charge of the advisory committee for the community. They will bring us, they will put a Council person on that committee, they're going to do it, without \_\_\_\_ Councilman Preston White made a motion to dissolve the old advisory board and to visit the new one, Councilman Preston White then apologized and seconded and so carried."

Councilman Christopher Richardson made a motion to align the monthly meeting minutes to the Roberts Rules of Order, which basically will be a restructure of something. We would have to sit down as a working group. It would work perfectly with what she had motioned because according to Robert's Rule of Order the committees report, the subcommittees can actually come in the meeting give their reports. Councilman Preston White said he would like to table it until the board have the opportunity to look at to see if it fits in with the meetings we have now. Right across the \_\_\_\_ and make sure that it is in perspective with the guidelines of the state. \*Councilman Christopher Richardson replied, "that's fair enough. Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham ask, "aren't we already governed by the Robert Rules of Order? Councilman Christopher Richardson, replied the Robert Rules of Order actually spells out and has a moblistic agenda form all the way down, and ours deviate quite a bit of how it's written in the book. Council Preston White responded that we needs to get the lawyer to look at it compare apples to oranges to see if it complies with what we already have in place. Councilman Richardson replied, "sounds good.

A. **POLICE** – Mayor Yates ask, "what are we going to do with the cop? Councilman Preston White responded, eventually down the road our plans are to get our police force back. Councilman Richardson responded, already got the police car, we have already picked up an asset because the police car will be paid off.

B. **Fire:** It was reported that there was a structural fire at 682\_\_ and the fire department could get their hands on the new fire truck located in Raleigh. Councilman Preston White said that there will be a public hearing meeting on August 28, 2023. Councilman Preston White explained the purpose for purchasing a new fire truck in details.

**Other Information:**

**Departments:**

**Committee Report:**

**A. Administration/Fire–**

B. **Public Safety:** Council Preston White reported that the Sheriff and State Trooper have been patrolling the Town of Winfall. He talked to a couple of officers, and told them they are doing a good job.

C. **Roads & Grounds:** Councilman Preston White reported about the potholes on Smith rd., and how the prices were going up. He said prices were going up and to clean grass. The cost is Haywood Smith Road \$2900.00, Williams Street \$2100.00 and two estimates, one 3500.00 and 2800.00 behind the water tower. Councilman White said the grass was flying, the guys picked up 2 bags of trash and is cutting every 2 weeks. As quickly as they pick it up, people are throwing more down.

D. **TOURISM** – Mayor Pro Temp White stated that they are working on the dining boats, there were complications with coming into Hertford is that the sediments are higher than they expected. There's a possibility it may not come to Hertford. It's still under investigation to if they are still going to do it or not. There's a possibility that it could come to the plantation.

E. **Zoning Permits:** \*Councilman White reported that there were problems with Cotton Gin where the new building is located, the problem is with the land, he would have to get Mr. Lewis Smith and the attorney to look at it. \*I'm still getting complaints about dogs in the community. I direct them to SPCA. You call I'm just going to direct you to SPCA, it's good you have pets, but you got to be responsible for your pets. \*

F. Councilman Preston White said he feel like these prices, you want to look, or you want some more estimates, or do you want to move forward? Councilman Richardson ask to clean up trash and the water tower? Councilman White responded, trash and the potholes, Smith been waiting for a while because we couldn't find nobody to fix the potholes, and the prices are steady going sky high. The other guy, Mr. Ronnie Belch, I called him, and he never showed up after promising to do it in 3 weeks.

This other guy is ready to take care of those spots if Council want to move forward. After more discussion Councilwoman Valery McDonald made a motion to hire the lower bid for the streets and the cleanup, and was seconded by Councilman Richardson and so carried. The two streets will come out of Powell Bill Funds, and the clean up out of Town Hall Funds. Also the house has been torn down on Main Street. Mr. Hurdle done a professional job.

- G. Grants/Sewer/Recreation: Councilwoman Valery McDonald reported that there was a recreation meeting this pass Tuesday, and she spoke with Howard about a grant to help redo the playground out here. She said I'm going to meet with him, and he is going to get me the grant writer information. He felt very sure we could possibly get the grant, and we could possibility have 2 basketball courts out here. Mayor Yates responded with a possibility down the road. Councilwoman McDonald replied we got to get started now, they start taking the grant applications in May. We need to get everything together and we could submit for that grant. Councilman Christopher Richardson made a motion to adopt and was seconded by Councilman Preston White and so carried.

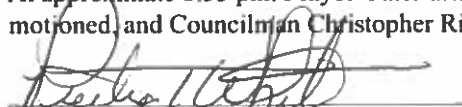
Attorney: The attorney replied he had nothing.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were public comments from Ms. Debra Long, Mr. Robert Valentine, Mr. Eddie Felton, and Mr. Steve McDonald. Mr. Eddie Felton submitted his bill for the work done on River Street.

#### **Other Information Public Comments:**

At approximate 6:55 pm. Mayor Yates ask for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Councilman Preston White motioned, and Councilman Christopher Richardson seconded and so carried.

  
Mayor Pro-Tem Preston White (in the absent of Mayor Yates)

  
Valerie Jackson, Town Clerk

*Town Council Meetings are audio-recorded to maintain the integrity of the various discussions. The meetings minutes are just snapshots in time (recaps) of discussions). Copies of the complete recordings are available upon requests.*