

TOWN OF WINFALL

JANUARY 8, 2024-6:00 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting of Winfall Town Council was called to order by Mayor Preston White at 6:00 p.m. at Winfall Town Hall.

Those in Attendance were as follows: Mayor Preston White, Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham, Councilwoman Valery McDonald, Attorney Crowe, Town Clerk Valerie Jackson, and CPA Richard Arnold.

1. **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:** Councilwoman Valery McDonald gave Invocation. Mayor Preston White led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Conflict of Interest:** None declared.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham made a motion to approve of Agenda, Councilwoman Valery McDonald second the motion and was so carried. All ayes
4. **Approval of Minutes 12/11/2023:** Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham made a motion to accept the minutes as given. Councilwoman Valery McDonald second the motion and was so carried. All ayes
5. **Financial Report:** CPA Richard Arnold stated that Sales Tax {320.01} Has Increased to \$4,700.00, {324.01} Powell Bill increased it by \$1,300.00, increased {420.01} Mayor-Salary by \$3,000.00 and Collection Fees-Taxes will also be increased by \$3,000.00. Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham made a motion to accept the budget that was given with its clarifications. Councilwoman Valery McDonald second the motion and was so carried. All ayes.
6. **Old Business:**
  - A. **FPIC Response Letter Due (02/09/2024) Approval and sign.** Councilwoman Valery McDonald made a motion to sign the FPIC response letter and councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham second the motion and was so carried all ayes.
  - B. **Fire Truck:** Mayor White stated he would like to table this matter until we have a full council board with everyone present.
7. **New Business:**
  - A. **Public Comments:** Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham made a motion to approve and accept the Public Comments Policy as written and Valery McDonald second the motion and was so carried. All ayes.
  - B. **6-Month Budget to Actual (Due 01/15/2024)** Mayor White told CPA Richard Arnold that this needs to be done as soon as possible.
  - C. **Vacant seat nomination and approval:** Mayor White made a recommendation to nominate Debra Long to fill the Council seat, Councilwoman Valery McDonald nominated Ronald Smirlock for the Council seat and submitted a resume. Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham suggested that council table any nominations until there is a full board present before appointing another person on the Board. Mayor White agreed, they will table any nominations until the next Council Meeting.
  - D. **Approve Check off sheet for Roads & Grounds:** Councilwoman Valery McDonald made a motion to accept the checks and balances work checklist, Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham second the motion and was so carried, all ayes.
  - E. **Approval of donation of \$500.00 for Perquimans Art League:** President Vaneeda Bennett of the Perquimans Art League Board spoke and stated this donation would go towards helping Cultivate the arts through community partnerships, and to promote an inclusive environment that offers creative opportunities for all to enjoy with Outreach, Education, and Artist Opportunities as well. Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham made a motion to donate \$500.00 to Perquimans Art League, and Councilwoman Valery McDonald second the motion and was so carried. All ayes.
  - F. **Christmas Decoration Winners:** Town Clerk Valerie Jackson presented. The Leslie White Decoration Contest Winner's First place Mr. Robert Valentine. Mr. Valentine then stated he would like to give his winnings to a resident who was having a hardship. Second place Mr. and Mrs. Jason Value, and third place Mr. and Mrs. Coppersmith.
  - G. **Increase in Fees:** Town Clerk Valerie Jackson presented to Council the current fees for the Conditional Use Permit and suggested to council to increase the fees to \$300.00. Sewer Deposit increased for new accounts to \$300.00, to reserve the Park only \$125 and

facility rental \$300. The present Town Council decided to table their decision until the next Council meeting.

**H. Approval of Rezoning Parcel of Land to R-2:** Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham made a motion to rezone the parcel for Dollar General. Councilwoman Valery McDonald second the motion and was so carried. All ayes.

**Departments:**

- 1) **Sewer:** Councilwoman Valery McDonald stated she has not heard anything.
- 2) **Police:** Mayor White reported there were complaints about a shooting, someone from the sheriff's office came out and investigated. The sheriff's office will spend more time riding through and patrolling.
- 3) **Fire:** A representative for the Fire Department, Mr. JJ Bagwell, presented a letter to Council wanting to discuss separating from the Town of Winfall and the Council's opinion on the matter. He provided a copy of the Fire Department Roster. Mayor White stated the Council will take the letter into consideration and get back with the Fire Department on that matter.

**Administration:** None

**Public Safety:** Roads and Ground the guys are trying to cut limbs now, while vegetation is down. Trying to make it more visible and neater. Perquimans County Sheriff Department and State troopers are patrolling different areas of the town. At the end of the budget year, we going to revisited trying to get a police officer for the town of Winfall.

**Tourism:** Mayor White reported there has not been a meeting yet, there will be one coming up.

**Recreation:** Councilwoman Valery McDonald stated there was nothing to report, no meeting called.

**Grants:** Councilwoman Valery McDonald stated there was nothing to report.

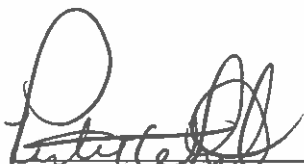
**Attorney:** The attorney stated, to follow up to Mrs. McDonald's question about the fire truck, they were aware of the meeting today. So, if there were any contracts to consider they should have had them to him by today. He wanted to comment on the weekly checklist. Attorney Crowe also asked if the Council would take into consideration editing the weekly Checklist to make sure that if something is not working, it is reported immediately so that it can be fixed in a x amount of time and of course his concern about liability if there is a problem with his truck.

Mayor White reported that he did not have anything but what he tabled. He asks the residents to think about when you go home, think about which direction you want to go, think about the community and how we are going to affect the community financially wise. He said they are going to have to think about the sewer because of Hertford raising their prices we are going to have to look at that also.

**Public Comments:** Ronald Smirlock and Debra Long had public comments.

**Mayor White:** Mayor White reported that the Open-Door Ribbon cutting was nice and a beautiful spot. The facility was designed to help the community throughout the county. Everyone is a Volunteer, their hours of operation Monday- Wednesday 10am-12pm. Thursday 4pm.-6pm. Feel free to help, volunteer or donate. It is a nice facility. At the next council meeting I might bring up donating to them because the facility was built based off donations and grants.

**At approximately 7:10** Mayor White asked to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham made a motion to adjourn and was second by Councilwoman Valery McDonald and so carried. All ayes.

  
Mayor Preston T. White

  
Valerie Jackson Town Clerk

**\*\*Minutes are submitted by Deputy Clerk, Elisha Washington\*\***

Elisha Washington 