

# TOWN OF WINFALL

JUNE 10, 2024

## WINFALL TOWN HALL

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 Valery McDonald, Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham, Councilwoman Arnetta Ormond, Councilwoman Debera Long, Town Clerk Valerie Jackson, Attorney Crowe, and CPA Richard Arnold.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor White at 6:00 p.m.

1. **Invocation and Pledge:** *Invocation* was led by Mayor White and the pledge was led by the Town Council.
2. **Conflict:** None Declared.
3. **Approval Agenda:** Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham made a motion to approve agenda as is, Councilwoman Debera Long second the motion and so carried. All yes.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** 05/13/2024: Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham made a motion to approve of minutes, Councilwoman Debera Long second the motion and so carried. All yes.
5. **Financial Report:** CPA Richard Arnold reported  
Acct{302.01} Miscellaneous Income was increased by \$6,000 from the Fire Department Insurance reimbursement. Acct {326.01} Vehicle Tax was increased by \$5,000, Acct {336.01} Zoning Permits increased by \$2,500, Acct{436.01} Adm-Training increase by \$1,500, Acct{450.01} Adm. Telephone increase by \$500. To balance those accounts, he had to increase Accounts in Expenses R&G acct {710.01} Building Repairs & Maintenance by \$2,000, Acct{711.02} Outside Labor by \$1,500, Acct{712.01} Street Lights by \$2,000 and the last acct in that group{730.01} Beautification increased by \$6,000 and that was increased due to the amount that was received for Fireworks. The Sewer Fund increases Acct{354.02} sewer penalty by \$1,500, Acct{358.02} Water/Sewer Taps increased by \$6,500. Expenditures Acct{803.02}  
Outside Labor increased by \$1,000, Acct{812.02} Sewer-postage \$500, Acct{824.02} Sewer-Electricity \$1,000, Acct{856.02} Sewer- Telephone \$500 and Acct{866.02} Sewer Treatment increased by \$5,000. That's all the changes for the month. Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham made a motion to accept the financial report with all the necessary changes, Councilwoman Arnetta Ormond second the motion and so carried. All yes.
6. **Old Business:**
  - A. **Fireworks:** Deputy Clerk Elisha Washington reported that the Goal of \$10,000, have almost been met we are short \$1,350. There were mentions of some promises from different businesses, but as of right now we are still collecting to meet the goal. Mrs. Washington wanted to Thank the small businesses, some residents in Winfall and surrounding areas for donating. Councilwoman Debera Long mentioned getting a break down from the town of Hertford of money that was collected and donated.
  - B. **Plumber Smoke Test:** Councilwoman Debera Long reported that on May 16<sup>th</sup> notices were put in individual's doors or mailed off to some residents who live out of town, who had green flags, and green paint regarding issues at their residency. So far, we have a total of 20 homeowners who have fixed their issue, it's important that we stay on top of that. Starting on June 21<sup>st</sup> we will give Melvin a list of residents who have fixed their issue and inspect them to make sure they are good. Councilwoman Long also proposed the Town start their list for those who have not fixed their issue on July 1<sup>st</sup> for the town to fix them and send bills out to those residents.

- C. **Melvins Contract:** Councilwoman Valery McDonald stated that the only thing that needs to be done is set a date to have him come in and view the new contract and have it signed.
- D. **Budget:** CPA Richard Arnold stated he submitted the final budget to Clerk Valerie Jackson, it's ready to go. Essentially it is the same as the workshop.

**7. New Business**

- A. **Approval of AIM (Municipal Accounting Services, Cybersecurity and Technical Assistance:** Town Clerk Valerie Jackson reported that NC League got grant money and is working with small towns who are on the UAL List. They will come out and work with the town on cyber security, training, supplies, that work with the town in accounting areas. They will have an approved budget for working with us, it will not cost the town anything. They did send a contract waiting for approval from the council. Councilwoman Valery McDonald made a motion to accept the services, Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham second the motion and so carried. All yes.
- B. **Perquimans Art League Approval for \$500:** Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham made a motion to agree to give the \$500 to the Art League, Councilwoman Arnetta Ormond second the motion and so carried. All yes.
- C. **Tax Rate (Richard Arnold) CPA-** The assessments went up on the homes, we need to arrive at a rate that will give us the same amount of revenue from property tax as we had in the prior year. If we lower from \$0.62 per \$100 to \$0.56 then we will have the same amount of income from property tax as we had in prior years, in theory you shouldn't be faced with higher bills from property tax. Councilwoman Debera Long made a motion to accept the Revenue neutral tax rate of 0.56 until next budget meeting, Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham second the motion and so carried. All yes.
- D. **Schedule Date for Future Workshop:** Council agreed to schedule for later date 06/24/2024
- E. **Response to May Public Comments:** Councilwoman Debera Long responded to the comments asked about the 2020 new taxable value vs 2024 tax value. Councilwoman Long went out on Nixon Street as it was a resident's concern about the manhole. There was a request put in with NCDOT to cover the issue.
- F. **Certificate Presentations:** Mayor Preston White, Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham, and Councilwoman Arnetta Ormond were presented with a certificate from The Essentials of Municipal Government.

**Departments:**

**Sewer:** Councilwoman Valery McDonald nothing to report.

**Fire:** Representative from sewer reported there were 5 calls, they did get approval for state grant, working on getting those invoices so they can get PO's so they can get it processed so they can avoid any issues. Also waiting on statues update on contract given to Council.

**Committee reports:**

**Administration:** Town clerk Valerie Jackson reported she has gotten an email from Perquimans County Board of education, Jobs in School System, US Postal Service is hiring and the New Juvenile Detention Center here in Winfall.

**Fire:** Councilwoman Debera Long reported she met with the finance officer of the Fire Department to go over any finance issues.

**Public Safety/Roads & Grounds:** Councilwoman Arnetta Ormond reported the grass is still growing rapidly we are looking to find part-time Roads & Ground to help, keeping the grass and roads maintained.

**Tourism:** Mayor White reported they are trying to start the cruises in the county along the Perquimans River.

**Zoning:** Nothing to report.

**Recreation:** Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham reported she has not received any updated emails on any meetings.

**Grants:** Councilwoman Debera Long reported there was one grant approved for \$15,000 to help with any drainage issues.

**Attorney:** Nothing to report.

**Public Comments:** Ronald Smirlock and Craig Trueblood spoke.

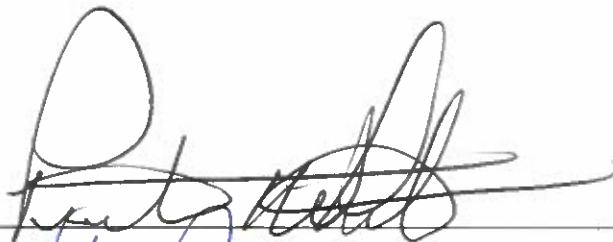
**Approval to go into closed session:** Councilwoman Debera Long made a motion the Town Council goes in closed session concerning an administrative procedure, Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham second the motion and so carried. All yes.

**Closed Session begins at 7:04 p.m.**

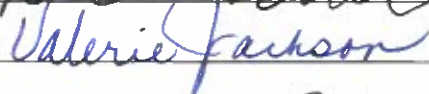
**Approval to return out of closed session:** Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham made a motion to return from close session at 7:49 p.m. Councilwoman Debera Long second the motion and so carried. All yes.

**Adjourn:** Councilwoman Debera Long made a motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:51 p.m., Councilwoman Cynthia Cunningham second the motion and so carried. All yes.

Mayor Preston White



Clerk Valerie Jackson



Minutes by: Deputy Clerk Elisha Washington

