

**TOWN OF WEDDINGTON  
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009 - 7:00 P.M.  
MINUTES**

The Town Council of the Town of Weddington, North Carolina, met in a Regular Session at the Weddington Town Hall, 1924 Weddington Road, Weddington, NC 28104 on May 11, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Nancy D. Anderson presiding.

Present: Mayor Nancy D. Anderson, Mayor Pro Tem Robert Gilmartin, Councilmembers L.A. Smith, Tommy Price (left at 9:18 p.m.) and Jerry McKee, Town Attorney Anthony Fox, Finance Officer Leslie Gaylord, Town Planner Jordan Cook and Town Administrator/Clerk Amy S. McCollum.

Absent: None

Visitors: Brian Carlton, Craig Horn, Walter Staton, Bill Price, Barbara and Pat Harrison, Genny Reid, Werner Thomisser, Barry Moose, Richard W. Hancock

**Item No. 1. Open the Meeting – Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.** Mayor Nancy D. Anderson called the May 11, 2009 Regular Town Council Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Mayor Anderson offered the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Item No. 2. Special Recognitions.** Mayor Anderson recognized the following Union County Teachers with a Certificate of Appreciation:

- Union County Teacher of the Year from Marvin Ridge High School – David Dahari
- North Carolina Teacher of the Year from Porter Ridge High School – Jessica Garner
- Union County Teacher Assistant of the Year from Marvin Ridge Elementary School – Sally Norris

Mr. Craig Horn shared recognitions for local service members. He stated, “We would like to recognize our local citizens that have family in the military and in many cases are deployed around the world and often in harm’s way. We will be hanging here in the Town Hall a Blue Star Flag for each of these service men. If you know of someone that is deployed or serving our country, we would appreciate being aware of them so that we can recognize them appropriately. Memorial Day is one of the most important days of the year to recognize those that have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. I have had the great honor of serving our country abroad and know what it is like to be away.”

**Item No. 3. Determination of Quorum/Additions and Deletions to the Agenda.** There was a quorum. Councilmember L.A. Smith moved to approve the May 11, 2009 Regular Town Council agenda as presented. All were in favor, with votes recorded as follows:

AYES: Councilmembers Smith, Price, McKee and Mayor Pro Tem Gilmartin  
and Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

**Item No. 4. Presentation by Mr. Barry Moose, NCDOT.** Mayor Anderson asked that Mr. Barry Moose walk through the process of how the funding would work for the proposed connector road from Providence Road to Weddington-Matthews Road and the roundabout at the intersection of Highway 84

and Weddington-Matthews Road. Mayor Anderson also asked that Mr. Moose give an update on the Providence Road Widening and the relocation of Weddington Church Road.

Mr. Moose – Conversations are still occurring with Weddington UMC. I did have a group from the church to come visit me a couple of weeks ago. They have a desire and are willing to accommodate the road. They want us to push it as far off the property line as we can which would mean taking a little more lake than I had originally planned. That has created some design complications where it would tie back into Weddington Church Road from a geometric point of view. I am still moving that ball forward. In regard to the proposal that you see on the screen, all of you remember the development that was going to happen and the monies that we earmarked to finish the road that the developer was going to build. We had earmarked and reserved 2 million dollars that we were going to use to build the remaining 1,500 feet of roadway for the Rea Road Extension. We held 2 million out to make that connection. That would have carried Rea Road across Highway 16 through the development and back on to Highway 84. I do not foresee that happening any time soon. It is not funded now. It may be 5, 10 or 20 years from now. I do think it will happen but in a bigger way than we were proposing. We have that 2 million dollars sitting there. I have been hearing you for years about access concerns in and around Highway 84. One day I was doodling and said why can we not take this money and re-scope it and build this northern connector road and put a roundabout at Highway 84. The purple line was centrally put there to show what potentially could happen if that area ever developed. I am not proposing to build that with public funds. What you start seeing is some circulation around the Town so people that want to get to the shopping center do not have to depend on Highway 84 and Highway 16 solely. It gives them some choices. The money for the part of Rea Road that we were going to build is sitting in year 2013. We do not want to wait until 2013 to build these two improvements. I suggested to the Mayor one day when we were talking that if the Town had the financial means to advance the money to the State of North Carolina we would consider entering into a contractual arrangement where you would loan us the money, go ahead and have these improvements built sooner, and we would promise to pay back in the year 2013 when we were originally planning to spend that money. How that process works is we basically enter into a Municipal Agreement; it is a legal binding document both the Town and the State of North Carolina would execute and that document would have the specific provisions in it that says the Town would agree to advance “x” amount of dollars and in return the State of North Carolina would promise to pay it back in 2013 with a nominal interest rate, typically 3 to 4% a year. You would get these projects at least three years earlier. I have estimated both to cost between \$1.2 million to \$1.5 million and that would include design. That is without walking the property. I feel very comfortable with \$600,000 for the roundabout. I do not know if there are any major drainage issues. If there are, that could increase the cost by 10% to 20%.

Councilmember Jerry McKee - If we have a contract agreement, what happens if there are changes to the construction and the price goes up?

Mr. Moose - If it is a small amount of money, we probably would not come back to the Town. If it is a significant amount of money, I would not make that decision by myself. I would come back to you. We could potentially come back and say that we need more money. This is not the Highway 16 project – a multi-million dollar project. These are much smaller. You usually have a very good design and can contain those costs very tight. Not as many surprises. I would not anticipate that being the case unless there is an unknown landfill that we are going through and have to clean up.

Councilmember McKee – The funds designated for the Rea Road Extension, could they get lost or go away?

Mr. Moose – There are several steps that we need to go through before I would even advise you to consider this type of arrangement. We are right now in the throws of updating our Transportation

Improvement Plan. The proposal is to go from a 7-year plan to a 5-year plan, which would carry it out to 2013 – 2014. I have to ensure that the money stays in that plan. I am working on that right now to make sure that happens. The second step is we have to go through the MPO process to get them to endorse a change in scope for the project and changing the funds to these projects in lieu of the Rea Road Extension project. Once those two steps occur, then we enter into an agreement where we have a signed document that freezes those dollars. If I have a binding document and it meant me paying Weddington back or building 485, I will pay my commitments first. It will not be a slam dunk with MUMPO.

Mayor Anderson - I was at that meeting when the money was put in there and Marion Cowell, Board of Transportation Member, was very clear that money would only be used to finish Rea Road and there was no way that the State would start it. My feeling is that we will lose the money if we do not use it someplace else.

Mr. Moose – That is correct, we will lose the money in 2013 if we do not use it someplace else.

Councilmember Tommy Price - I am surprised that the numbers for the traffic circle work with it being so close to the intersection.

Mr. Moose – Before we went too far with this, we had our traffic and congestion management people look at it and they said it would work.

Councilmember Price - Does it work purely based on the purple line?

Mr. Moose – No.

Councilmember Price - Traffic backs all the way down to the yellow line on Highway 84 now. I do not see the purpose of the traffic circle without four roads. If the traffic circle goes in, does it change the profile from the circle to Highway 16?

Mr. Moose – Highway 16 working towards the circle will be just like we have it planned. There will be a spot where I will try to stop construction knowing that we are going to build the roundabout because I do not want to build something that we are going to tear out. Right now that is a balancing act because we do not have the design for the circle. We do not even have a plan in place. I am juggling the contractor and slowing him down as much as I can on Highway 84 while we work through these issues. The roundabout feature does not necessarily have to be a roundabout. The roundabout I suggested because of the aesthetic aspect of it. It is getting back to what the Town has asked for wanting more of a main street feel - less asphalt and more green space. The roundabout functions well at 30,000 cars a day. After that it starts to degrade a little. For many years into the future, the roundabout should be adequate. I was forward thinking that Rea Road Extension will happen. It is too important of a connector not to happen. I just cannot tell you when because it is not a funded project. Once that happens, a lot of traffic will die off in this area because they will be taking that route.

Councilmember Price - The traffic studies that were done, did they show more cars turning left off of Highway 84 to Providence or turning right on Providence?

Mr. Moose - I do not remember. I think we are building a dual left and a dual right.

Councilmember Price – No, you have a designated left, a straight and left and a designated right. That is something that I was curious about.

Mr. Moose – We may need to go back and revisit that. To make the roundabout work, we are going to need to reduce the queue lengths. If the queue length backs up to the circle, then we do not need to build the circle because the circle will shut down. The value of the roundabout is making traffic flow. We will make sure the traffic works before we build anything. Right now we are in the baby stage of this. I do not want to do a lot of work unless I know you are on board with it. During the preliminary review, our traffic people actually liked it. They felt it was a good idea and that it split the traffic to go in different directions.

Councilmember McKee - You said that the roundabout would cut down on some of the construction on Highway 84.

Mr. Moose – There is no need to build that if I know a year later that I am going to come back and build a roundabout. What I will try to do is to pick that spot on Highway 84 where we will build the roundabout up to and stop the construction on Highway 84 so that I do not have to waste money to tear all of that out.

Mayor Anderson – You said earlier if Weddington funded some of the design, we could have this up and running in March 2010.

Mr. Moose - The two steps to make the financial package work I shared with you, those being that we need to make sure that it stays on our TIP and make sure that MUMPO endorses. Those are the two steps to make the financial arrangement work. We cannot advance this project too fast. Right now this region is in a non-attainment air quality status. That means that we cannot modify any TIPs for the next year. We have already been through a grace period where we could do things and now we are in the non-attainment period. The only thing that we can do in the next year is to continue to build projects that we have already identified in the TIP. Changing scopes of projects, adding projects and taking projects out, we cannot do until we get this region back into an attainment status. That is the MPO primary function. The MPO is the one that drives that process. The earliest that we can modify the scope and the TIP is March 1, 2010. The earliest that we can even consider starting construction would be March 2010 on both projects. That is assuming that we get attainment status. What I suggested is if we keep the money in the TIP and MUMPO endorses this, I think it would be a low risk for you to advance the design funding between now and March 1 and have the design in place and have the contracts ready so when we find ourselves in attainment we can make those modifications then we can turn right around and let the contract.

Mayor Pro Tem Gilmartin - How do we get attainment and does the 1.2 to 1.7 million dollars include the costs for right-of way?

Mr. Moose – The costs that I gave you were construction costs. It does not mean that these monies cannot be used for right-of-way but the number would go up. This is new ground for everyone. We have never in this region ever found ourselves in a non-attainment status. I think this is a learning process for everyone. What happens is if we do not find ourselves in attainment of March of next year, federal funds get cut off. That means that all construction shuts down. Between now and then there is a model, it goes out and it measures road projects, development, industry and some-how they put that in this model and some magic numbers come out the other end and as long as those numbers are within the budgetary amounts for things like carbon deposits and things of that nature then we are okay. I think it is going to be a challenge but I think it is doable. There are going to have to be some creative things done to show the EPA that we can maintain and be within the budgeted amounts for these air pollutants. I never try to estimate right-of-way cost. I usually give an estimate of construction knowing that there is going to be an element on top of that for utility work and right-of-way acquisition. The economic downturn has been working in our favor. The first three stimulus projects that we let were a large variety of projects which included the widening of NC 51 in Pineville, the bridge replacement project and a new road alignment in

Stanly County. Those three projects averaged 21% below our construction estimate. With the stimulus money, we received a total for the State of \$735 million. I do not know how long we will sustain that much of a savings.

Councilmember McKee - On the roundabout, we were talking about advancing design monies. Is there any way to figure how much more right-of-way would be needed?

Mr. Moose - That would be a derivative of the design itself.

Councilmember McKee - If we advance the money for it and it ends up to where somebody does not want to donate right-of-way, we are going to have a problem. We would be spending money before we even know. Can we not have a preliminary drawing saying it is going to cost this much for the circle without having to do design money?

Mr. Moose - You have to design to a certain level to have a confidence level for your right-of-way. You do not have a 100% set of design plans. We develop what we call a set of right-of-way plans. It is in the 30% range. We have enough of the geometric design on paper so that we have a fair level of confidence that this will be the necessary right-of-way and this will be the necessary utility costs. I feel that we could have everything done before March of next year. A consultant would be more expensive. The other thing to keep in mind is you do not have to build both of these projects. I believe the northern connector is too good of a project to not consider. The roundabout depending on how you want your Town to look, I think that is a personal preference. My statutory limit locally for a contract is 1.2 million dollars so collectively if these projects are more than \$1.2 million I can let them separately to keep it below that threshold so I can stay in control of the project instead of sending it to Raleigh. If it is over \$1.2 million I have to go through a more formal bidding process. To see a good design of a roundabout go to Goldmine Road and Wesley Chapel Stouts Road. That is about the size of what we are talking about. A roundabout is not a stop condition. It is a yield condition. It is a traffic calming device. It does not stop traffic. I do not see us having to accommodate a lot of commercial traffic using Highway 84.

Councilmember McKee - At what point in the design would we know this? I am concerned about how much money the Town would spend.

Mr. Moose - I would recommend carrying the plans to a 25 to 30% level and have the right-of-way identified. Then we can go get right-of-way cost estimates on how much we would think the right-of-way would cost. We would work with the Town to get as many donations of right-of-way that we could. If you advance the money, we are going to be joined at the hip. I will be keeping you informed of this process. If I feel that it is getting out of hand I will be standing here telling you what I know and that decision will be made jointly. There is a point of no return. Once I let a contract there is a point of no return.

Councilmember McKee - What costs at this point would the Town have already invested?

Mr. Moose - Your design costs – for us to do it I would say \$50,000 to \$75,000. I am going to ask our Board member if he is willing to participate with State funds to help with the design costs.

Mayor Anderson - These are small projects. There are really no surprises. We hardly miss the mark on these types of projects.

#### **Item No. 5. Public Comment.**

Walter Staton – We the good citizens of Weddington elected you to govern and solve our problems. I am here tonight to ask you to vote to lower the property tax by ½ of one cent for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Why now? We are in the worst economic decline since the Great Depression. Many Weddington residents have lost their jobs and homes. Lowering taxes now is simply the right thing to do. By voting to lower property taxes now will help Weddington fathers, mothers, girls and boys, all of the people of Weddington, and not just a few or a special group. By lowering property taxes you are doing a great service to all Weddington citizens. We voted for you and deserve your votes up or down for the official record here in Weddington. In closing, the Weddington voters are carrying the load during this Weddington recession. The checks you receive each month is money that we work very hard to get. You have the opportunity to vote to let us keep ½ of one cent for this financial fiscal year. We need your help. Can we depend on you?

Craig Horn - I read in this weekend's newspaper that the Town of Weddington intends to divert up to \$145,000 of our money to "Weddington High School weight room, as well as classroom supplies." Mr. Gilmartin, you are quoted as saying, "I don't believe it to be the library money anymore." You are right, it is not the library's money anymore, nor is it yours. It is our money, the taxpayers and residents of Weddington, North Carolina. Some of this \$145,000 was collected from residents in support of the library project and the rest from taxes collected from Weddington property-owners. It is not money for the indiscriminate use of members of the Town Council in support of pet projects that benefit only a few. I have great empathy for the challenges of your job as members of the Town Council. It is difficult and often thankless. It is time-consuming and much more complex than meets the eye of most citizens. I commend you for your sacrifice on our behalf. But, with the job comes the expectation that you will be good shepherds of our money. We, the public, assent to be governed in our corporate best interests. We expect our "governors" to preserve, protect and defend our property and the way of life that we have attained. We don't always do our part by paying attention, but we do our part by paying the levies thrust upon us. And, we expect you to do your part. You have raised our taxes again and again. Last year you chose to raise our taxes by holding the tax rate at previous levels in the face of a dramatic increase in assessed valuation. How much did our valuation increase in 2008 over 2009 and how much was the additional income to the Town? I know that across Union County, the assessed valuation increased by an average of 23%. Given the nature of Weddington, I dare say that this 23% is significantly less than we experienced in Weddington. For my neighbors and me, it has been a double whammy. We were annexed to the Town of Weddington, without our permission I might add, giving each of us an additional tax bill that we did not even have previously. Based on actual and estimated "Total Assessed Valuation" as published by Union County, property values have increased by 70% since 2005, an increase of over \$9 BILLION. By not lowering the tax rate, the Town of Weddington and Union County takes money out of our pockets at an already alarming rate. Not fair! DO NOT take money we have given for a library and shift it to a pet project at Weddington High School. Citizens of Weddington are not the only ones attending Weddington High School. What about the Town of Wesley Chapel, and Indian Trail and Marvin and Waxhaw that attend Weddington High School? Have they been contacted to support a weight room at Weddington High School? Will these towns be using tax money and library money? Probably not. I support Weddington High School. I invest my own time as a volunteer and I invest my own money, not just my tax money, in support of Weddington High School in particular and Union County Public Schools in general. Weddington High School is a terrific place! I will work hard to get them a new weight room, if that is what is needed and makes good sense, but not with the tax money and the library-donations of the property-owners in the Town of Weddington. Folks, I don't need to tell you that these are challenging times. At least two of my neighbors have lost their jobs in the past few months and another has lost the income-producing power of their key wage-earner while he serves our country in Iraq. Many others are retired, including myself. How many of our tax-payers are widows, living in a house that they and their spouse worked all their lives to own? They now struggle to pay the taxes just so that they can stay in that house. We all know the challenges of this economy. We are all tightening our belts, reducing our overhead and allocating our resources to what we HAVE to do and not always what we want to do. What will the Town of Weddington be doing?

Werner Thomisser – It is fiscally irresponsible to take \$145,000 of Weddington tax payer money and give it to Weddington High School for a weight room. Sixty-three percent of our property taxes already go to Union County Public Schools. It is Union County Public Schools’ responsibility to fund the schools and not the Town of Weddington. Your responsibility is to fund the Providence VFD who has a greater need than the \$127,000 that you have already appropriated this year. What about EMS? They are going to get cut because every department in Union County is going to get cut. What about police? If you want another idea - what about the traffic light at Weddington-Matthews Road and Hemby Road? People have been killed there. That is how you spend money so everyone benefits. Only 100 athletes will benefit from this weight room - less than 1% of the total population of Weddington. Mr. Moose is a well-intentioned honorable man. Sometimes what NCDOT wants, does not happen. I-485 has taken for ages as well as the Monroe Bypass and Providence Road Widening. What about the stimulus money that the Governor took away that was supposed to be distributed for Charlotte and Union County? I do not understand a roundabout. I thought the idea was to take traffic off of Providence Road and to move rapidly down Highway 84. A roundabout will slow it down. If you are going to take the Rea Road Extension and run it into the roundabout, you are dumping all of that traffic off at the Town Hall. It does not make any sense. Who is going to benefit from the northern connector? The citizens of Weddington have told you that they do not want anymore commercial. We already have a connector. It is Hemby Road. It is risky business lending NCDOT a million dollars. Not that they are not going to pay it back but things do not happen the way that NCDOT wants it to happen. Focus on Weddington and things that are important to the people.

**Item No. 6. Approval of Minutes.**

**A. March 9, 2009 Regular Town Council Meeting.** Councilmember Price moved to approve the March 9, 2009 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes. All were in favor, with votes recorded as follows:

AYES: Councilmembers Smith, Price, McKee and Mayor Pro Tem Gilmartin  
NAYS: None

**B. March 16, 2009 Special Town Council Meeting.** Councilmember Price moved to approve the March 16, 2009 Special Town Council Meeting minutes. All were in favor, with votes recorded as follows:

AYES: Councilmembers Smith, Price, McKee and Mayor Pro Tem Gilmartin  
NAYS: None

**C. April 9, 2009 Special Town Council Meeting.** Councilmember Price moved to approve the April 9, 2009 Special Town Council Meeting minutes. All were in favor, with votes recorded as follows:

AYES: Councilmembers Smith, Price, McKee and Mayor Pro Tem Gilmartin  
NAYS: None

**Item No. 7. Old Business.**

**A. Consideration of Resolution to Adopt/Endorse/Support the CONNECT Regional Vision and Action Agenda.** Town Planner Cook stated, “I believe that this is a win-win for the Town. There is no cost associated with participating. It allows us to have a voice in the region. Typically, we have not had a huge voice and this would allow us to be with a bigger group of people and have a voice and knowledge of surrounding communities. I would act as the liaison.”

Councilmember Smith moved to approve Resolution R-2009-05:

**TOWN OF WEDDINGTON  
RESOLUTION  
TO ADOPT/ENDORSE/SUPPORT  
THE CONNECT REGIONAL VISION AND ACTION AGENDA  
R-2009-05**

**WHEREAS**, the Greater Charlotte Bi-State Region includes 17 counties, 12 in North Carolina and 5 in South Carolina, with a population of 2.4 million which is expected to double by 2030; and

**WHEREAS**, such major growth benefits economic development and job creation, the management of which is best conducted collaboratively in order to position the region for global competitiveness; and

**WHEREAS**, such major growth also challenges air quality, water resources, transportation, utility infrastructure and land consumption, all of which are matters of regional concern; and

**WHEREAS**, the Region has articulated an explicit desire to collaborate on issues of area wide impact; and

**WHEREAS**, to proactively address growth and quality of life, Centralina and Catawba Regional Councils of Government and the Charlotte Regional Partnership have successfully initiated the CONNECT regional vision process for the Greater Charlotte Bi-State Region; and

**WHEREAS**, the CONNECT Regional Vision and its prioritized Action Agenda represent the first consensus broad-based policy direction for this Bi-State area, enabling future collaboration, widespread policy coordination and a stronger voice for consensus on regional interests; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Weddington agrees that it is both within its desire and in its best interest to support collaborative approaches to sustainable growth, healthy environment, strong economy, high-quality education, and enhanced social engagement;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of Weddington hereby adopts (endorses/supports) the CONNECT Values, Vision, and Action Agenda as a guide for the future growth of the region, and agrees to consider the Values/Vision and associated policy options as a guide in their own decision-making about community growth;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town of Weddington pledges to undertake the following actions in support of CONNECT:

**1. Participation:**

- a. Appoint a CONNECT Liaison to be the primary point of contact between the jurisdiction and the CONNECT team;
- b. Participate actively in appropriate cabinets, work groups, and other decision-making bodies as requested, and in the update of CONNECT action plans;
- c. Participate actively in CONNECT workshops and educational offerings about growth and best practices, to enhance the level of public discussion;

**2. Communication/Collaboration:**



- a. Share copies of plans, policies, initiatives, and successes with the Regional Clearinghouse (to be created);
- b. Notify its neighbors of upcoming plan changes, border matters, major developments, or other issues which may impact them, in a timely manner, through [www.cogsconnect.org](http://www.cogsconnect.org);

**3. Engagement**

- a. Consider the CONNECT Vision and Values in its current policies, programs, and decisions to provide a regional perspective;
- b. Consider adoption and implementation of those aspects of the CONNECT Action Agenda that are locally appropriate;
- c. Provide letters of support for grant applications and other fund-raising efforts by the Councils of Government to implement CONNECT;
- d. Support development of stable funding sources, including both public and private commitments, to provide for CONNECT Action Agenda implementation and leveraging of grant funds;
- e. Engage local media and citizens in discussions of how multiple community goals can be best achieved through regional collaboration.

Adopted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.

The votes were recorded as follows:

AYES: Councilmembers Smith, McKee and Mayor Pro Tem Gilmartin  
 NAYS: Councilmember Price

**Item No. 8. New Business.**

**A. Call for Public Hearing to Consider Rezoning of Weddington Elementary, Middle and High Schools from R-40 and R-CD to E-D (Educational District) – Public Hearing to be Held June 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Weddington Town Hall.** The Town Council received a copy of the Zoning Map Change Application and a map of the area. Councilmember Price moved to call for a public hearing to consider rezoning of Weddington Elementary, Middle and High Schools from R-40 and R-CD to E-D. All were in favor, with votes recorded as follows:

AYES: Councilmembers Smith, Price, McKee and Mayor Pro Tem Gilmartin  
 NAYS: None

**B. Consideration of Donation to Weddington High School for Fitness Center.** Mayor Pro Tem Gilmartin stated, “I would like to move to give a donation in the amount of \$145,000 to the Weddington High School for a fitness center. There have been interesting comments from the citizens. I tend to take a different tact on what I am hearing. I think one of the greatest reasons we in Weddington have the value that we have out here in our homes is strictly because of our schools. Our schools separate and stand alone as it relates to other areas. You can ask any realtor on the planet what is the first thing potential people that move into your area ask is how nice is the school is and what does it offer? This is a viable chance for us as a collective group, the school and the Town, to advance the ball forward. This is not for 10% of the students. This will benefit each and every member of Weddington High School. It is a fitness class that every student has to take. I believe that the library is extremely important and I believe that someday we will have a library in Weddington. I do not know when that will take place. We as a Council voted to set money aside – taxpayers’ money, on two occasions and gave Union County the money. The library has been put on hold. I think this is a proper way to divert funds to another need that I believe helps our Town immensely. I sit back as a Councilmember and take a look at some of the things

that we have done in the past and I am proud. We bought an ambulance. We have funded every request that the fire station has requested and will continue to. That will not change. We will do whatever Sheriff Cathey suggests we do as it relates to increased police officers. This to me seems like the right thing to do. It is a small portion of what they need. They have raised \$127,000 to date. Other schools in our county have fitness centers. I believe for a young man and young woman to be completely well rounded this too should be part of what we focus on to give back to our community and that is why I am asking for the \$145,000 as a donation for the fitness center for Weddington High School.”

Mayor Anderson - This is the \$145,000 that was returned to us. We gave the \$145,000 to the library and it has been sitting there for four or five years. This is not private donations. This is Town donations for the specific building of the library. When they changed from a regional library to a superregional concept, Council voted to ask for our money back since the plans were so up in the air.

Councilmember Price – I feel like Weddington High School has been a little shorted to start with. When Weddington’s High School was being built, the gym was designed with air conditioning. It got installed. So much screaming from the County occurred that they pulled it out. In the last four years, Forest Hills, Parkwood, Monroe, Sun Valley and Piedmont all got brand new multi-million dollar state of the art gymnasiums all fully air conditioned. I feel the same way as Mr. Gilmartin does. I disagree with some of the things I heard about that this is being built for 100 students. This is not a thing for the football team. It is a classroom building. This was a request not from the athletic department but from the Site Based Management Team. I have not tried to overanalyze the gift. It was money we gave away for a purpose and that purpose fell apart. We asked for it back. We got it back and we are giving to another worthy cause.

Councilmember McKee – As far as library funds, those funds should be kept so as the Town develops that money can be used to purchase land for the library even though the library may not be built for 5 years. We pay a lot of taxes to schools. If they cannot run the schools properly, then they should adjust their budgets accordingly. I do not think it benefits as many people. They already have exercise programs that students can participate in.

Councilmember Price – Does the County not build libraries?

Councilmember McKee – Yes, in conjunction with the Towns. If we have a piece of land ready for a library, I think we would have a better chance than someone else in getting it who does not have the land set aside.

Councilmember Price – Not only did we give them the land but we gave them \$145,000 to boot.

Councilmember McKee – We still want to get a library here. If you took a vote now you would probably get 90% participation for a library to be built in Weddington. Let’s work for it before someone else gets it.

Councilmember Smith – I understand the Schools need and desire for a weight room. It comes down to who is going to benefit and who is going to use it and from my point of view it is a select group that is going to benefit using tax payer money for a county function. The library would serve a much greater population than the weight room.

Mayor Anderson – What if this fitness center had public access? I have had conversations with the YMCA and also with CMC-Union and they are all in favor of a partnership with UCPS and the Town of Weddington to have public access.

Councilmember Smith – I think that would be a great option and that discussion should take place between the UCPS and the YMCA.

Councilmember Price – Why are we acting like we are choosing between the library and the fitness center?

Councilmember Smith – I am not. The library money is in the fund balance and it is not earmarked for the library.

Mayor Anderson – We are facing across the board cuts for UCPS. It is going to be ugly. Weddington has a long history of supporting our schools. I am also a nurse. I am very concerned with the health and wellness of our community. I want to see the senior citizens using the track at the high school for their walking trail. I want to see aerobic stationary bicycles at this fitness center and I want to see everyone using it. I want to see every single freshman that walks in that school to be on a four-year program so that by the time that they graduate they have obtained the ideal weight to keep them healthy.

Councilmember Smith – By giving this money we are not giving public access. That is not ours to give.

Mayor Anderson – The YMCA has a model for this already.

Councilmember Smith – I think the County and the YMCA should have that discussion. I think that it is a good idea.

Mayor Anderson – The other thing is that it would be a grant to the school. The fact that it happens to be a fitness center is because the Site Based Management Team of this school decided that this is their number 1 priority for the last three years. I do not feel comfortable second guessing their priorities.

Councilmember Smith – Have you asked the other communities that send kids to that school to donate?

Mayor Anderson – If we are going to lead by example, we should do the right thing.

Councilmember Price – The school system is getting really backed up. Councilmember McKee has already said how much of his tax money goes to the school system. There is only one way to catch up and that is to raise your taxes even more. Since I cannot get my other councilmembers to lower the tax rate for the Town of Weddington, why not use some of the tax money you have already put in to relieve a little bit of the schools?

Mayor Anderson – The other problem I have with this is not all Weddington High School students go to this high school. There are Weddington citizens who are in the Marvin Ridge cluster. To say that all of our young adults in our community will have access is wrong. We have an elementary and middle school here also. If we are going to supplement our public schools to make up for the budget cuts, I would like to amend or add on so that we give something to everyone and not all to one because once again they can decide how they want to spend this. I am for helping all the schools.

Mayor Pro Tem Gilmartin – The principal came to me to ask on behalf of the Site Based Committee if it would be appropriate to ask for some funds. It was discussed first at the retreat.

Mayor Anderson – I want to make it part of the entire budget process. Would you consider that? If we want to give money to the other schools we need to talk with our Finance Officer to see if that is possible because if it is not possible I would be more comfortable in cutting this in different pieces so everyone gets a bite of the pie. There are needs in all of the schools.

Finance Officer Gaylord – From the last meeting, we had put in the 2010 budget \$100,000 for the schools.

Mayor Anderson – I am not totally for decimating the entire library fund and I would like to see the Council fund a certain amount of dollars each year to bring that designation back up at least to \$145,000. I am not willing to give up on the library. I am asking my councilmember if we can amend his motion or roll this discussion into the whole budget process.

Attorney Fox – I would also like to reserve the ability to look at the appropriate way to structure the decision made by this Council to make sure it is allowed by Statute. When you contemplate giving monies to schools you specifically look for a specific authorization to do that. There are certain provisions in the General Statutes authorizing cities to fund certain outside agencies.

Mayor Pro Tem Gilmartin withdrew his motion and agreed to include in budget discussions.

**C. Call for Public Hearing to Consider the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 – Public Hearing to be Held June 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Weddington Town Hall.** The Town Council received a copy of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Finance Officer Gaylord advised that the proposed budget is for a 3 cents tax rate. She stated, “The budget includes an appropriation for the schools for a weight room facility but that budget can be amended. There is money for the downtown streetscape project and consulting work.”

Mayor Anderson - We just spent 45 minutes talking with Barry Moose about transportation projects that we need.

Finance Officer Gaylord - The downtown streetscaping project is in the budget for \$32,500. That could serve as your design money.

Councilmember Price moved to call for a public hearing to be held June 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Weddington Town Hall regarding the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

All were in favor, with votes recorded as follows:

AYES: Councilmembers Smith, Price, McKee and Mayor Pro Tem Gilmartin  
NAYS: None

**D. Consideration of Approval of the Pay and Classification Plan Prepared by The MAPS Group.**

The Town Council received portions of the Pay and Classification Plan prepared by The MAPS Group and presented by Pat Thomas on April 27, 2009. Councilmember Smith moved to approve Option 2 with the Pay and Classification Plan and to discuss the benefits recommendations at the next Town Council Meeting. All were in favor, with votes recorded as follows:

AYES: Councilmembers Smith, Price, McKee and Mayor Pro Tem Gilmartin  
NAYS: None

**Item No. 9. Update from Town Planner.** The Town Council received the following memo from Town Planner Jordan Cook:

- There was an LARTP Steering Committee meeting on Thursday, May 7th. Martin/Alexiou/Bryson provided the final draft list and map of roadway and intersection

improvements throughout the Western Union County area. The Steering Committee also discussed possible text amendments and land use revisions presented by Clarion Associates. Clarion provided the towns a list of 20 possible text changes to choose from. Each town has the option of selecting any text amendments they want. The Steering Committee also discussed possible bike and greenway locations as well as implementation and funding methods.

The Steering Committee is currently discussing one more meeting to discuss the final draft plan. Following this meeting, Martin/Alexiou/Bryson will be ready to present a complete draft of recommendations to the public in late May. After public comment, the consultants plan to present the LARTP to each town's Town Council in June.

Don't forget to go to look at the project's website for all the latest information and let us know if you have any questions or would like to provide input on the study. The website is [www.lartp.org](http://www.lartp.org).

- Several of the Text Amendments discussed at the Town Retreat have been drafted and presented to the Planning Board. Several of these text amendments were given a favorable recommendation and two are being revised by the Town Attorney. The Text Amendments will be ready for the June 8<sup>th</sup> Town Council agenda.
- The Woods Phase I Final Plat is scheduled for the May 18<sup>th</sup> Planning Board Meeting.

**Item No. 10. Update from Town Administrator/Clerk.** The Town Council received the following memo from Town Administrator/Clerk Amy S. McCollum:

- Town Newsletter should be sent out the end of May. Main theme of newsletter will be "Support/Shop Weddington".
- Litter Sweep Clean up Event was a success with approximately 16 people in attendance.
- Board of Adjustment Hearing for Rick Hunt Minimum Housing Issue (Beulah Church Road) on May 18, 2009.
- WCWAA – Meeting has been set up with Ken Ashe with the Office of Geospatial and Technology Management on May 27, 2009. Bonnie Fisher and Steve Sands will represent the Town at this meeting. It was originally scheduled for this week on May 14.

**Item No. 11. Public Safety Report.**

*Weddington Deputies – 439 Calls*

*Wesley Chapel VFD – 109 Calls*

*Providence VFD*

*Monthly Call Responses –*

|                    |          |        |           |
|--------------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| Mecklenburg County | Fire: 11 | EMS: 8 | Total: 19 |
| Union County       | Fire: 16 | EMS: 9 | Total: 25 |
| Monthly Total      | 44       |        |           |

Chief Eric Wheeler - Providence VFD responded to several fires during the month of April. On Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Providence VFD responded to a working house fire at 138 Weddington Church Road. Mutual

aid was received from Wesley Chapel VFD and from the Charlotte Fire Department. The fire began on the rear of the garage and first in crews did an outstanding job of quickly controlling the fire and preventing spread to the living portions of the home. On Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, Providence VFD responded mutual aid to Wesley Chapel VFD for a working house fire at 1308 South Providence Road. Providence E-321 was the first unit to arrive on scene within five minutes of being dispatched and began fire attack. Waxhaw VFD also provided mutual aid assistance to this fire. On Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, Providence VFD responded again with Wesley Chapel to a working barn fire at 5211 Weddington Road. No civilian or firefighter injuries were reported in any of these incidents.

The Town Council also received a copy of the Financial Statements for Providence VFD.

**Item No. 12. Transportation Report.** Mayor Anderson advised the Council that there is a Public Involvement Meeting for elected officials on May 18 regarding the Monroe Bypass.

**Item No. 13. Update from Finance Officer and Tax Collector.**

**A. Finance Officer's Report.** The Town Council received the Revenue and Expenditure Statement and the Balance Sheet for April 1, 2009 to April 30, 2009. Finance Officer Gaylord advised that she will have a Budget Amendment for the Town Council's approval at the next Town Council Meeting.

**B. Tax Collector's Report.** Monthly Report – April 2009

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Adjust Under \$2.00  | \$(3.96)     |
| Balance Adjustment   | \$(2.87)     |
| Overpayment  | \$(105.56)   |
| Releases   | \$(27.76)    |
| Pay Interest and Penalties                                 | \$(400.68)   |
| Refunds  | \$914.39     |
|  |              |
| Taxes Collected:   |              |
| 2006   | \$(440.48)   |
| 2007   | \$(505.40)   |
| 2008   | \$(8,469.47) |
|  |              |
| As of May 1, 2009; the following taxes remain Outstanding: |              |
| 2001   | \$9.18       |
| 2002   | \$89.53      |
| 2003   | \$210.27     |
| 2004   | \$290.19     |
| 2005   | \$428.35     |
| 2006   | \$376.64     |
| 2007   | \$1,915.05   |
| 2008   | \$23,561.25  |
|  |              |
| Total Outstanding:   | \$26,880.46  |

Notices of Right to Advertise Mailed 04/17/09

The Town Council also received a copy of the Unpaid Balance Report by Receipt Number.

**Item No. 14. Council Comments.**

Mayor Anderson advised that she attended Town Hall Day and talked with legislators about a variety of issues including transportation, annexation and the redistricting bill. Mayor Anderson reminded the Council that drumSTRONG will be held this coming weekend.

Councilmember McKee asked that Finance Officer Gaylord develop a policy requiring that any organization that the Town donates money (over “x” amount of dollars) should have their books audited.

**Item No. 15. Adjournment.** Councilmember Smith moved to adjourn the May 11, 2009 Regular Town Council meeting. All were in favor, with votes recorded as follows:

AYES: Councilmembers Smith, McKee and Mayor Pro Tem Gilmartin  
NAYS: None

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

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Nancy D. Anderson, Mayor

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Amy S. McCollum, Town Clerk