

**TOWN OF WEDDINGTON  
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015 – 5:30 P.M.  
MINUTES**

The Town Council of the Town of Weddington, North Carolina, met in a Special Session at the Weddington Town Hall, 1924 Weddington Road, Weddington, NC 28104 on February 26, 2015 at 5:30 p.m., with Mayor Bill Deter presiding.

Present: Mayor Bill Deter, Mayor Pro Tem Don Titherington, Councilmembers Michael Smith, Pamela Hadley and Barbara Harrison, Finance Officer Leslie Gaylord and Town Administrator Amy McCollum

Absent: None

Visitors: Cathy Killough Brown, Andy Stallings, Peggy Stallings, Jeff Robilliard, Walton Hogan, Jane Duckwall, Don Sinclair, John Houston, Betty Houston, Joe Dietrich, Charlotte Dietrich, J.B. Houston, Steven McLendon, Andrew Stallings

**Item No. 1. Open the Meeting.** Mayor Deter called the February 26, 2015 Special Town Council Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Item No. 2. Review and Consideration of Resolution Regarding Fire Service.**

Mayor Deter – The Town hired an outside consultant to give us some insight into fire service for the Town of Weddington. He had several recommendations. One was to look at the Town facilitating consolidation between two departments to drive percentages of cost savings. That is what the Town is trying to do. Everyone needs to understand that Volunteer Fire Departments are totally separate independent businesses and the Town has no influence over them. We are trying to facilitate this with the residents of Weddington. We see it as an opportunity for a cost savings and maintaining good fire protection for our Town.

Councilwoman Pam Hadley – When I first read the Title “as created by Union County”, I understand that it is talking about the existing Volunteer Fire Department districts as created by Union County. When I first read it, I had to go back and read it again because it is following with existing Weddington Municipal Fire Service lines. And they are within the Fire Department districts as created by Union County. Councilwoman Hadley stated that it could be misinterpreted referring to several matters in the Resolution, and provided changes some of which are now reflected in the revised Resolution that was approved and is included as part of these minutes.

Councilwoman Hadley – On the last paragraph on that page, “..further resolved that the Town of Weddington shall seek the consolidation of the Providence Volunteer Fire Department or the Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department or shall establish a unified single fire department.” I would prefer that “shall establish” be replaced with either “facilitate” or “seek” as it says in the “seek consolidation”. The only question I have is according to this I feel like that if no consolidation or merger is accomplished basically it is saying that the Town is on track to pay the \$750,000 to seek or facilitate the unified single fire department. I am going on record saying that according to this document it leads me to believe that if the consolidation or merger is not successful then we are on track to pay the \$750,000 to buy out Providence for no cause.

Councilwoman Harrison and Councilman Titherington both provided minor changes which are also reflected in the revised Resolution that was approved and is included as part of these minutes. Councilman Michael Smith moved to approve the Resolution with the recommended changes as discussed and to send to Union County.

AYES: Councilmembers Smith, Titherington, Harrison  
NAYS: Councilmember Hadley

**RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN OF WEDDINGTON TO CEASE PROVIDING  
MUNICIPAL FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES PURSUANT TO G.S. 160A-209 AND  
ARTICLE 14 OF CHAPTER 160A AND CONSENTING TO THE INCLUSION OF ITS  
INCORPORATED TERRITORY WITH THE EXISTING WEDDINGTON MUNICIPAL  
FIRE SERVICE LINES WITHIN THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT DISTRICTS  
AS CREATED BY UNION COUNTY  
R-2015-03**

**WHEREAS**, fire protection services are currently provided by the Town of Weddington to its citizens pursuant to G.S. 160A-209(c)(13) and Article 14 of Chapter 160A (“Municipal Fire Services Model”) and through certain fire suppression agreements between the Town of Weddington and the Providence Volunteer Fire Department, the Stallings Volunteer Fire Department and the Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department (“Fire Suppression Agreements”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Fire Suppression Agreements are authorized pursuant to Session Law 2013-39 and Article 3 of Chapter 160A; and

**WHEREAS**, the Providence Volunteer Fire Department was previously funded through a fire protection fee charged to residents located within their respective fire protection district pursuant to Senate Bill No. 1150, Chapter 883; and

**WHEREAS**, the Stallings Volunteer Fire Department was and is currently funded, in part, through a fire protection fee charged to residents located within their respective fire protection district pursuant to Senate Bill No. 1150, Chapter 883; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department was originally funded through a fire protection district fee charged to residents located within a fire protection district established pursuant to Senate Bill No. 1150, Chapter 883, and the Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department is currently funded, in part, through a fire service district tax charged to residents located within the Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department fire service district that was established pursuant to G.S. 153A-300 *et seq.*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Weddington Town Council enacted Resolution R32 on February 25, 1993, consenting to Union County’s initial inclusion of incorporated territory of the Town of Weddington within the Providence Volunteer Fire Department, the Stallings Volunteer Fire Department and the Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department fire protection districts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Weddington Town Council enacted Resolution R-2003-07 on May 12, 2003, supporting the conversion of the Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department fire protection district to a fire service district and the inclusion of incorporated territory of the Town of Weddington within that fire service district; and

**WHEREAS**, the provision of fire protection services to the citizens of the Town of Weddington by three different volunteer fire departments funded through varying fees and taxes led some to believe that inequities existed in the provision of fire protection services within the corporate limits of the Town of Weddington; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the Town of Weddington desiring the Town of Weddington to oversee and fund the provision of fire protection services within its corporate limits, the Weddington Town Council enacted Resolution R-2012-06 on May 14, 2012, withdrawing its consent to the inclusion of its incorporated territory within the Providence Volunteer Fire Department and the Stallings Volunteer Fire Department fire protection districts, and the Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department fire service district, and providing to citizens of the Town of Weddington fire protection services through the Municipal Fire Services Model and through the Fire Suppression Agreements; and

**WHEREAS**, as a municipal fire services district, the Town of Weddington moved the fire district lines within the Town that provided greater territory for the Providence Volunteer Fire Department and insured that Town residents, to the greatest extent possible, were served by the fire department closest to their residence; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Weddington retained the McGrath Consulting Group (“McGrath Group”) in November 2014 to assess the operating budget of Providence Volunteer Fire Department (“McGrath Study”) and the McGrath Group concluded that the funding for Municipal Fire Services Model was insufficient; and

**WHEREAS**, the McGrath Group identified the following options for the Town to better manage fire cost and fire protection services: (1) The Town of Weddington maintaining the status quo; (2) The Town of Weddington establishing a service agreement with one agency for their entire municipal service district; or (3) The Town of Weddington seeking a consolidation of the Providence Volunteer Fire Department and the Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the Weddington Town Council has carefully considered the McGrath Study and has investigated the Town’s oversight and funding of fire protection services and the structure of fire protection service providers within the corporate limits of the Town of Weddington; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town’s investigation has revealed that between 2008 and 2012, the Town of Weddington gave more than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) to the Providence Volunteer Fire Department, above the amount Providence Volunteer Fire Department received from Union County fire fees; that between 2012 and 2013 the Town of Weddington moved the fire district lines favorably benefitting the Providence Volunteer Fire Department by an additional Two Hundred Seventy-One Thousand Dollars (\$271,000.00); that in 2013 the Town of Weddington paid over Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$900,000.00) to renovate the fire station buildings to satisfy building code requirements; and that if its FY2015-16 budget request is held flat, Providence Volunteer Fire Department is projected to have an operating deficit of approximately Seventy-One Thousand Dollars (\$71,000.00); and

**WHEREAS**, based on the Town’s investigation, it is no longer thought to be in the best interest of the citizens of the Town of Weddington for the Town to continue to oversee and fund fire protection services within the Town’s corporate limits through a Municipal Fire Services Model; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Weddington believes that cost savings could be achieved for its citizens through the following: the dissolution of the Municipal Fire Services Model; the inclusion of its incorporated territory in a Union County fire district; the consolidation of the Providence Volunteer Fire Department and the Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department with shared governance and financial oversight; and/or the establishment of a unified, single fire department to serve the incorporated territory of the Town of Weddington; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Weddington hereby notifies Union County of the Town of Weddington's intent to discontinue providing municipal fire services subject to the consolidation of the Providence Volunteer Fire Department and the Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department or the establishment of a unified, single fire department to serve the incorporated territory of the Town of Weddington; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Weddington desires for Union County to include the incorporated territory of the Town of Weddington within a Union County volunteer fire department district that preserves the fire district lines of the Town's municipal service district on July 1, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Weddington also consents to Union County's inclusion of the incorporated territory of the Town of Weddington in a Union County volunteer fire department district that preserves the fire district lines of the Town's municipal service district; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Weddington and Union County will work to ensure that no citizen of the Town of Weddington will go without the same or similar level of fire protection service that is currently being received during this transition period; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Weddington intends that the ISO ratings for the incorporated territory of the Town of Weddington will not be impacted in a manner that results in an increase in fire insurance rates as a result of the transition in funding and oversight of fire protection services from the Town of Weddington to Union County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Weddington intends to maintain appropriate Fire Suppression Agreements with the Providence Volunteer Fire Department, the Stallings Volunteer Fire Department and the Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department to provide fire protection services to citizens of the Town of Weddington pursuant to Session Law 2013-39 and Article 3 of Chapter 160A.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** pursuant to the terms of this resolution, on July 1, 2015 and thereafter, the Town of Weddington shall no longer provide municipal fire services and shall cease charging its residents a property tax rate that incorporates the equivalent fire protection fees and fire service district tax rates; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Town of Weddington shall seek the consolidation of the Providence Volunteer Fire Department and the Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department or shall seek a unified, single fire department to serve the incorporated territory of the Town of Weddington; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Town of Weddington will consent to the inclusion of its incorporated territory within a Union County volunteer fire department district that preserves the fire district lines of the Weddington municipal service district effective July 1, 2015; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Town of Weddington's consent shall be subject to Union County sharing with the Town of Weddington its plan for including the Weddington incorporated area in the Union County fire district and the Town Council of the Town of Weddington's approval of the plan.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Deter, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy McCollum, Town Clerk

Adopted and agreed to by Union County, North Carolina, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

For Union County:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

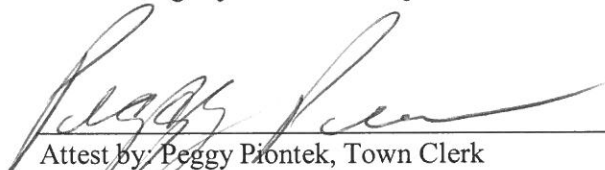
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Title: \_\_\_\_\_

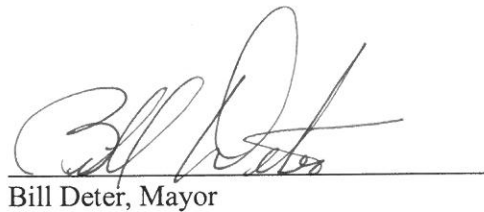
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Item No. 3. Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

  
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Attest by: Peggy Piontek, Town Clerk

Transcribed by: Tonya M. Goodson

  
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Bill Deter, Mayor