

**TOWN OF WEDDINGTON
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2010 - 4:00 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 March 22, 2010, at 4:00 p.m. with Mayor Nancy D. Anderson presiding.

Present: Mayor Nancy D. Anderson, Mayor Pro Tem Daniel Barry, Councilmembers Werner Thomisser, Robert Gilmartin 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: Walker Davidson

Item No. 1. Open the Meeting. Mayor Nancy D. Anderson called the March 22, 2010 Special Town Council Meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. There was a quorum.

Item No. 2. Continuation of Discussion Regarding Establishing Key Goals and Objectives for 2010-2012. Mayor Anderson reviewed the Goals and Objectives Worksheet that was prepared for 2010-2012 from the March 5 and 6, 2010 Town Council Retreat.

Mayor Anderson reviewed the following objective that she prepared for the Town Council's consideration:

Preserve Small-Town Rural Atmosphere

- Catawba Lands Conservancy – Increase Financial Support
- Urban Forester – Contribute \$1,400 toward Salary
- Catawba Lands Conservancy – Advise the CLC if they preserve land in Weddington, that the Town would consider paying the \$25,000 grant money for the property.
- Zoning Ordinance – 10% Set Aside
- Transportation – No Curb and Gutter, All Purpose Trails, Scenic Roadways and Landscaping
- Paid Development Rights (PDR) – Mayor Anderson advised that she believes there are people in the Town that are interested in this concept of paying the property owner to not develop their property.
- Community Gardening Program
- Farmers Market – The organization that was considering this for Weddington has advised that they would like to wait until after the widening has been completed and may put the Town on their schedule for next year.
- Town Green/Open Space – Councilmember Thomisser presented a book that he received from a class that he recently took that showed different examples of Town Greens and felt that the Town could do something similar with its existing property.
- Historic Preservation (Original School House on Short Property, Work at Church Regarding Their Properties, Heritage Trees)

Other items discussed:

- Mayor Anderson asked that the Town Council consider asking the President of the Student Council for Weddington High School to be an ex-officio member of the Town Council.
- Discussion of Fire Fee versus Fire Tax and that the Union County Fire Study is approximately six to eight weeks from being finalized but at least a year away from implementation.
- Surrounding towns want to discuss existing sphere of influence agreements and future annexation plans.

Item No. 3. Discussion of Proposed Budget Items for Fiscal Year 2010-2011. Finance Officer Leslie Gaylord reviewed the proposed budget items with the Town Council for Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

Items discussed:

- Chief Dave Banick advised that the Providence VFD needs \$216,300 for next fiscal year which would allow for the staffing of the day and night programs. Chief Banick also explained to the Town Council what they will be using the grant money for that they recently received.
- Town Administrator/Clerk Amy McCollum advised that she should have an estimate from Centralina Council of Governments on associated costs with the proposed involuntary annexation. Attorney Fox will estimate legal costs that may occur with a future involuntary annexation.
- Mayor Pro Tem Barry asked that legal fees be broken out into categories in the future.
- Town Council asked that an agenda item be placed on the next Town Council Agenda regarding a policy on usage of the Town Attorney and determining a threshold amount not to exceed for Council requests of the Town Attorney.
- Finance Officer Gaylord was asked to separate Council travel expenses from staff travel expenses.
- The Council advised that new Council Chairs were not needed.
- Town Staff will rent a microphone system or projector if needed and those items do not need to be purchased at this time. The Town Council also by consensus voted to not purchase the online tax inquiry database at this time.
- Finance Officer Gaylord was instructed to include a Planning Conference in the amount of \$2,500 for next year with no mediator.
- The Council agreed to pay the CLC \$1000 for this year and Mayor Anderson explained that the money that CLC receives helps with the operating expenses of trying to acquire land for the region. She stated, "It takes \$25,000 to take land into the conservancy. They have to do environmental studies, attorney fees, transactions, title searches, etc." The Town Council will decide later regarding giving additional money next year to CLC.
- Councilmember McKee expressed concern that if a budget item in the future will be exceeded, that permission from the Town Council would be needed for that to happen.
- Council asked that Town marker money be left in the budget along with conduit costs for future street lighting.
- Mayor Anderson discussed her concerns with using Town money for the Christmas Tree Lighting Event in December. The Council agreed to leave \$1,500 in the budget for next year and to work towards receiving donations for the event.
- Mayor Anderson advised that she has received estimates that the roundabout at Tilley Morris will cost \$600,000 excluding costs for right-of-way acquisition and also that the Rea Road Feasibility Study was being conducted at this time. Mayor Anderson felt that having a line item on the budget regarding these transportation issues carries a lot of weight in showing how important these issues are to the Town.
- The Town Council did not want to support any type of Town festival but advised that they would support another Ice Cream Social.

- Finance Officer Gaylord was asked to put money in the budget for window glazing of the Town Hall at \$3,150.00 and a sprinkler system at an estimated cost of \$5,040.

Item No. 4. Closed Session. Mayor Pro Tem Barry moved to go into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3) – To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body. All were in favor, with votes recorded as follows:

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

Item No. 5. Adjournment. Councilmember Gilmartin moved to adjourn the March 22, 2010 Special Town Council Meeting. All were in favor, with votes recorded as follows:

AYES: Councilmember Thomisser, Gilmartin, McKee and Mayor Pro Tem Barry.
NAYS: None

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Nancy D. Anderson, Mayor

Attest:

Amy S. McCollum, Town Clerk