

**TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2017
TOWN OF SAWMILLS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 PM**

COUNCIL PRESENT

Joe Wesson
Gerelene Blevins
Keith Warren
Jeff Wilson
Joe Norman
Reed Lingerfelt

STAFF PRESENT

Christopher Todd
Terry Taylor
Julie A Good

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Joe Wesson called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: Pastor Ashley Crouse gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Joe Wesson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA: Mayor Joe Wesson asked for a motion to adopt the April 18, 2017 Agenda.

Keith Warren made a motion, and Reed Lingerfelt seconded, to adopt the April 18, 2017 Agenda. All were in favor.

APPROVE MARCH 21, 2017 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Joe Wesson asked for a motion to approve the March 21, 2017 regular meeting minutes.

Joe Norman made a motion, and Gerelene Blevins seconded, to approve the March 21, 2017 regular meeting minutes. All were in favor.

APPROVE MARCH 21, 2017 CLOSED SESSION MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Joe Wesson asked for a motion to approve the March 21, 2017 closed session meeting minutes.

Reed Lingerfelt made a motion, and Joe Norman seconded, to approve the March 21, 2017 closed session meeting minutes. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Joe Wesson asked if anyone had any questions or comments at this time.

Jo Ann Miller wanted to thank Council for the donation of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) to the American Legion Post 392. The fundraiser raised over seven thousand dollars (\$7,000.00) for the American Post Legion 392.

RECOGNITIONS:

RECYCLE REWARDS WINNER: Mayor Joe Wesson announced Mrs. Norlene Wilson as the April Recycle Rewards winner. A credit of twenty-eight dollars (\$28.00) will be added to her sanitation bill.

No Council action was required.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

SAWMILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DONATION REQUEST: Mayor Joe Wesson stated that the Sawmills Elementary School requested a donation in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for the “Arts Extravaganza”.

Gerelene Blevins made a motion, and Joe Norman seconded, to give a donation in the amount of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) to the Sawmills Elementary School. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION:

BUSINESS PRESENTATION: MARKET BASKET: Steve Hunt of HHA Development, LLC, who operates both Market Baskets in the Town of Sawmills, gave Council a business presentation regarding an alcohol referendum for the Town of Sawmills.

No Council action was needed.

DEBT SETOFF RULES OF PROCEDURE: Town Administrator Christopher Todd stated that the Town of Sawmills is currently enrolled in the Debt Setoff program to help collect past due balances on closed accounts with a balance of fifty dollars (\$50.00) or higher. According to the Debt Setoff Rules, a debtor, after receiving a letter stating that they owe a past due balance, has a right within thirty (30) days to ask for a hearing to dispute the debt. As such, a hearing policy needs to be effect should a hearing be requested.

If a hearing is requested by the debtor, a Notice of Hearing after Request by Debtor needs to be sent with the following information:

- Inform the debtor of the time, date and place of the hearing;
- Inform the debtor who will hear the challenge (the Hearing Officer, Town Administrator Christopher Todd);
- Provide the debtor with a pre-hearing contact person; and
- Inform the debtor that after the hearing, the Town of Sawmills will mail, to the debtor's last known address, a written decision as to whether the debt is owed and the amount.

After the hearing, a Post Hearing Notification Letter needs to be sent containing the following information:

- Advise the debtor of the hearing decision;
- Inform the debtor that if the debtor disagrees with the decision of the governing body or the person designated by the governing body to hold the requested hearing, the debtor may file a petition for a contested case under Article 3 of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes; and
- Inform the debtor that the petition for a contested case must be filed within thirty (30) days after the debtor receives a copy of the local decision.

Joe Norman made a motion, and Reed Lingerfelt seconded, to adopt the Debt Setoff Rules of Procedure as written. All were in favor.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FEDERAL COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:

Town Administrator Christopher Todd stated that President Trump released his FY 2018 budget which will begin on October 1, 2018. The proposed budget includes various changes to federal spending and significantly reduces or eliminates critical programs that support economic and community development for our region. If these programs are eliminated, it would dramatically impact the Town of Sawmills economic/community development efforts. However, Congress actually develops and adopts the federal budget and determines the funding levels subject to veto by the President.

The National Association of Development Organizations provided a summary of the proposed cuts (see attached).

Here are a few of the key highlights:

- CDBG Program in HUD is eliminated
- HOME Program in HUD is eliminated
- Economic Development Administration (EDA) in Commerce Department is eliminated
- Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is eliminated

Historically, all of these programs have received strong bi-partisan support in Congress.

Joe Norman made a motion, and Gerelene Blevins seconded to adopt the Resolution Supporting Federal Community & Economic Development Programs as written. All were in favor.

HORSESHOE BEND ROAD AREA SEWER IMPROVEMENTS RESOLUTION:

Town Administrator Christopher Todd stated that during the regularly scheduled February 21, 2017 Council Meeting the Town Council approved for the Town to move forward on applying for funds to finance a sewer project for the Virginia Acres area. Staff has worked with West Consultants to put together the application package. At this time, the Council must pass the resolution allowing for the application to be submitted. The resolution would allow Town Administrator Christopher Todd to apply on the Town's behalf and work with the State to provide all necessary documentation.

Joe Norman made a motion, and Reed Lingerfelt seconded, to pass the Horseshoe Bend Road Area Sewer Improvements Resolution as written. All were in favor.

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN RESOLUTION: Town Administrator Christopher Todd stated that in order to qualify for different forms of state infrastructure funding the Town must have an updated Asset Management Plan. The previous plan was adopted in 2014 and must be updated as projects have been completed since that time.

Joe Norman made a motion, and Gerelene Blevins seconded, to approve the updated Asset Management Plan as written. All were in favor.

UPDATES:

APRIL CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT: Town Planner Leslie M. Meadows stated that there are ten (10) code enforcement cases open:

- Teresa Annas Compton is the owner of a dilapidated house located at 4476 Sawmills School Road. Town Administrator Christopher Todd was informed that owner is in the process of hiring a contractor to make repairs. Town Planner Leslie M. Meadows checked with Caldwell County on April 11, 2017, who verified that owner had a 2011 building permit for remodel changed over into her name. Caldwell County stated they would honor the permit if a new contractor takes over;
- WNC Properties, LLC owner of 4209 Creekview Pl. Minimum housing complaint. Town Planner Leslie M. Meadows stated that she had learned that Minimal Housing

- Inspector Robin Soots had retired and she is working with the new/other Caldwell County Building Inspectors to investigate and follow-up on this complaint;
- David Graham (Landlord) owner of 4176 US Highway 321A. Minimum housing complaint. Town Planner Leslie M. Meadows stated that she had learned that Minimal Housing Inspector Robin Soots had retired and she is working with the new/other Caldwell County Building Inspectors to investigate and follow-up on this complaint;
 - Casey Lynn Wallace, owner of 3950-1 Walters MHP Drive. Minimum housing complaint. Town Planner Leslie M. Meadows stated that she had learned that Minimal Housing Inspector Robin Soots had retired and she is working with the new/other Caldwell County Building Inspectors to investigate and follow-up on this complaint;
 - Tasco Properties owner of 2155 White Pine Dr #13. Minimum housing complaint. Town Planner Leslie M. Meadows stated that she had spoken with park manager Terry Fox on April 11, 2017. Town Planner Leslie M. Meadows stated that park manager informed her that he had to evict the disruptive family from mobile home #13, all repairs had been made and there are now new tenants in the mobile home. Case closed ;
 - Carolyn Bray, owner of 2570 Baker Cir. Abandoned mobile home. There has been no reply and no change in the status of this case. Last person to live in the mobile home was Carolyn's sister Betty's daughter Robyn Brittian;
 - Andrew Dehart, owner 4036 US Highway 321A. High grass and junked vehicles. High grass/weeds still need to be tended. Town Planner Leslie M. Meadows stated she had left a phone message with the local contact, Leslie Kenworthy, on March 23, 2017 and has had no response;
 - Cheney Carter, owner 4361 Sawmills School Road. Abandoned/dilapidated home. Town Planner Leslie M. Meadows stated that there has been no reply and no change in the case;
 - Rebecca Michael, owner 4393 Chantilly Drive. Outdoor storage/welding. Town planner Leslie M. Meadows stated that she had spoken to Mr. Setzer on April 11, 2017. Mr. Setzer stated that he is moving out of the home and the welding operation/outdoor storage should be removed within the next few weeks. Town Planner Leslie M. Meadows will follow up with owner on the junked car;
 - Edith Shatley, owner 2512 Crest Lane. Dwelling in outbuilding. Town Planner Leslie M. Meadows stated that it is difficult to verify this offense, but she has continued to spot check and has not caught sight of anyone on the premises, or any other evidence that someone is living on the outbuilding.

No Council action was required.

COUNCIL COMMENT: Mayor Joe Wesson asked if anyone on the Council had any questions or comments at this time.

Joe Norman stated the Town had a lot going on. Joe Norman also stated he was glad to

have Caldwell County Commissioner Jeff Brach come out to the meeting.

Keith Warren stated that it was good to be at the meeting and the Town had a good meeting. Keith Warren also stated that he appreciated Caldwell County Commissioner Jeff Branch and everyone who came out to the meeting. Keith Warren stated he hoped everyone had a safe trip home.

Gerelene Blevins stated that there was a good turnout for the meeting. Gerelene Blevins also stated that she was disappointed in the response to the letters sent out to the residents of Virginia Acres. Gerelene Blevins stated that she was glad to see everyone that came out and if the public doesn't come in and let Council know of their problems then Council cannot help. Gerelene Blevins stated that she hoped everyone had a good evening.

Reed Lingerfelt stated that he was glad to see a good crowd at the meeting. Reed Lingerfelt also wanted to thank Caldwell County Commissioner Jeff Branch for coming. Reed Lingerfelt stated that he would like to see more citizens come to the meetings. Reed Lingerfelt stated that he hoped everyone had a safe trip home.

Mayor Joe Wesson wanted to thank everyone for coming out. Mayor Joe Wesson wanted to thank Caldwell County Commissioner Jeff Branch for coming out. Mayor Joe Wesson stated that the Town has a good Council. Mayor Joe Wesson stated he wanted to commend Council and staff for the good job they do.

Mayor Joe Wesson stated that the Town's Easter Egg Hunt went good.

Mayor Joe Wesson stated that everyone needs to pray for the Town and the Community. Mayor Joe Wesson also stated that he hoped everyone had a safe trip home.

CLOSED SESSION: PERSONAL MATTERS: Mayor Joe Wesson asked for a motion to go into closed session.

Keith Warren made a motion, and Reed Lingerfelt seconded, to go into Closed Session at 6:47 pm. All were in favor.

Gerelene Blevins made a motion, and Reed Lingerfelt seconded, to come out of Closed Session at 6:53 pm. All were in favor.

OPEN MEETING ACTION ITEMS: After returning to open session, Mayor Joe Wesson stated that Council had discussed the annual performance evaluation for Town Administrator Christopher Todd.

Keith Warren made a motion, and Reed Lingerfelt seconded, to increase Town Administrator Christopher Todd's salary by four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per year. All were in favor.

COUNCIL ADJOURN: Mayor Joe Wesson asked for a motion to adjourn.

Jeff Wilson made a motion, and Gerelene Blevins seconded, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Joe Wesson, Mayor

Julie A. Good, Town Clerk