

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2013
TOWN OF SAWMILLS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 PM**

COUNCIL PRESENT

Bob Gibbs
Donnie Potter
Trena McRary Kirby
Joe Wesson
Jeff Wilson
Johnny Wilson
Gerelene Blevins

STAFF PRESENT

Seth Eckard
Susan Nagle
Terry Taylor

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bob Gibbs called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: Sawmills Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department Assistant Chief, David Price gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Gibbs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE NOVEMBER 19, 2013 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to approve the November 19, 2013 regular meeting minutes.

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Donnie Potter seconded, to approve the minutes. All were in favor.

APPROVE NOVEMBER 19, 2013 CLOSED SESSION MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to approve the November 19, 2013 closed session meeting minutes.

Johnny Wilson made a motion, and Jeff Wilson seconded, to approve the minutes. All were in favor.

RECOGNITIONS:

RECYCLE REWARDS WINNER: Town Administrator Seth Eckard announced Lloyd Carter as the December Recycle Rewards winner. A credit of twenty-eight dollars (\$28.00) will be added to Mr. Carter's sanitation bill and his certificate will be available at the Town Hall for pick up.

No Council action was required.

YARD OF THE MONTH WINNERS: Mayor Gibbs announced Jo and Ron Wilson, from the 28630 zip code, and Jeff and Beth Cook, from the 28638 zip code, as the December yard of the month winners. Mayor Gibbs stated that since the winners were not present, their certificates would be available at the Town Hall for pick up.

No Council action was required.

SOUTH CALDWELL HIGH SCHOOL JV FOOTBALL TEAM: Mr. Will Rudicil, JV Football Head Coach, thanked everyone for the support this past season. Over the past 2 1/2 years, the JV football team has had no losses and finished as conference champions with a 10-0 winning season. Mr. Rudicil introduced Sophomore Miller Kirkpatrick, who represented the JV football team.

No Council action was required.

RETIREMENT OF SAWMILLS VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT CHIEF: Mayor Gibbs announced that on December 31, 2013 Brian Church will retire as the Sawmills Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department Chief and will remain on the department as a regular member. Mayor Gibbs presented Chief Church with a plaque recognizing all of his hard work.

Chief Brian Church thanked the Town for working with the department and everything they have done.

No Council action was required.

OUTGOING COUNCIL: Mayor Gibbs asked outgoing Council member Donnie Potter if he would like to say anything.

Councilman Donnie Potter stated he has enjoyed working with the Council the last four years. Councilman Potter knew he always wanted to do something for his community stating it is a small community and he will still be involved. Councilman Potter would like to thank the town for their support, for being there and supporting the Council.

No Council action was required.

UPDATE:

SOUTH CALDWELL HIGH SCHOOL: Mayor Gibbs introduced Principal Michael Peake from South Caldwell High School.

Mr. Peake stated he has had the honor, privilege and blessing of serving South Caldwell High School for over nine years. This is Mr. Peake's tenth year at South Caldwell making him the longest serving high school principal in the history of South Caldwell and the longest serving principal in Caldwell County. The graduation rate when Mr. Peake came to South Caldwell was roughly 64 percent for a four-year graduation rate. Last year the graduation rate was 95.24 percent, putting South Caldwell High School in the top ten in the state among traditional high schools. The school's ACT, SAT and State ABC test scores have gone up. Mr. Peake thanked the Mayor and Council for the invitation to speak with them and giving him an opportunity to brag on South Caldwell High School.

No Council action was required.

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

There were no comments or questions.

ADJOURN: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Trena McRary Kirby made a motion, and Donnie Potter seconded, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS: Town Attorney Terry Taylor administered the Oath of Office to incoming Mayor, Bob Gibbs, and incoming Council members, Gerelene Blevins and Joe Wesson.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bob Gibbs called the meeting to order.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS:

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS: Mayor Gibbs asked that the Council members please take their seats stating, Joe Wesson will move to his left one seat, Gerelene Blevins will be seated to his right and all other Council members will remain as seated.

No Council action was required.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO-TEM: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to elect a Mayor Pro-Tem.

Gerelene Blevins made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to elect Joe Wesson as Mayor Pro-Tem. Those in favor were Gerelene Blevins and Joe Wesson. Those opposed were Trena McRary Kirby, Jeff Wilson and Johnny Wilson. The motion does not carry by a 2-3 vote.

Johnny Wilson made a motion, and Jeff Wilson seconded, to elect Trena McRary Kirby as the Mayor Pro-Tem. Those in favor were Trena McRary Kirby, Jeff Wilson and Johnny Wilson. Those opposed were Gerelene Blevins and Joe Wesson. The motion carries by a 3-2 vote.

STANDING COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: Town Administrator Eckard announced the attached new Standing Council committees appointed by Mayor Gibbs.

No Council action was required.

CODE OF ETHICS AND STANDARD OF CONDUCT: Attorney Taylor requested incoming Council to sign, for the record, the attached Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics adopted in 2010. The signed forms will be kept on file in the Clerk's office.

No Council action was required.

CALDWELL COUNTY RAILROAD COMMISSION MEMBER APPOINTMENT: The Caldwell County Railroad Commission has requested Council re-appoint Mayor Gibbs as a member of the Railroad Commission, or appoint a new member to represent the town.

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Gerelene Blevins seconded, to re-appoint Mayor Gibbs to continue as the Caldwell County Railroad Commission member representing the town. All were in favor.

ADOPT AGENDA: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Jeff Wilson made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to adopt the agenda. All were in favor.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

ADOPT BUDGET WORKSHOPS SCHEDULE: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to adopt the enclosed FY 2014-2015 budget workshops schedule.

Trena McRary Kirby made a motion, and Johnny Wilson seconded, to adopt the FY 2014-2015 budget workshops schedule. All were in favor.

FY 2012-2013 AUDIT PRESENTATION: Rick Hammer and James Lowdermilk, with Lowdermilk Church & Co., LLP, presented the Towns FY 2012-2013 audit to the Council.

Mr. Hammer stated that the Town received a clean audit and commended staff and Council on their efforts to maintain a strong fund balance.

No Council action was required.

APPROVE AUDITORS CONTRACT FOR FY 2013-2014: Town Administrator Eckard stated the current contract with the Town auditors Lowdermilk Church & Co., LLP needs to be renewed. The renewal contract will cover the period of July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

Jeff Wilson made a motion, and Gerelene Blevins seconded, to approve a renewal contract with the Town auditors Lowdermilk Church & Co., LLP in the amount of \$9,850.00. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Gibbs asked if anyone wished to speak during public comment.

There were no comments or questions.

UPDATES:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT MONTHLY STATUS REPORT: Administrator Eckard stated the enclosed monthly status report for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) shows that all requirements are on schedule for the Haystation, LLC.

No Council action was required.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT SEWER PROJECT UPDATE AND MONTHLY STATUS REPORT: Administrator Eckard stated Lisa Helton, Program Administrator with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments has enclosed an update on the Community Development Block Grant Sewer Project.

The enclosed monthly status report for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Sewer Project shows that all requirements are on schedule for the Duff Drive Area Sewer Project.

No Council action was required.

CODE ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT: Administrator Eckard stated the enclosed report shows an update of the progress made throughout the Town by Planner Elinor Hiltz.

No Council action was required.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Administrator Eckard made the following announcements:

- The Department of Transportation has fixed some stormwater issues on Sawmills School Road and White Pine Drive this week. (December 16th – 20th).
- The Town is currently working on a crack-sealing project in the Doe Run Subdivision.
- The Baird Drive resurfacing project is complete.
- The Woodland Drive project is about 50 percent complete.
- The Stamey Road Waterline Project is about 75 percent complete. There were some problems found while digging that is being fixed causing this project a little longer to complete.
- The newsletter will be out this week. (December 16th – 20th).
- There will be a feature article on recruitment for anyone interested in joining the Sawmills Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department.
- The Public Works Committee will meet on Thursday, December 19th at 10:00 am.
- The employees would like to express their appreciation to the Council for feeding them during employee appreciation week.
- He will meet with Caldwell County Schools Superintendent, Dr. Steve Stone to discuss the details of a grant that has been awarded to the County to fund School Resource Officers in elementary and middle schools.
- The engineers are still doing survey work for the Duff Drive area sewer project.
- Trena McRary Kirby will continue as the Western Piedmont Council of Governments Policy Board Delegate.

COUNCIL COMMENT: Mayor Gibbs asked if anyone on the Council wished to speak.

Councilman Joe Wesson thanked the citizens of Sawmills for their votes stating the issues he ran for he will stand for.

ADJOURN: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to adjourn.

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Johnny Wilson seconded, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Susan Nagle, Town Clerk

Bob Gibbs, Mayor