

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017
TOWN OF SAWMILLS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 PM**

COUNCIL PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Christopher Todd
Julie Good
Terry Taylor

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

INVOCATION: Pastor Rick Bowman 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 December 19, 2017 agenda.

Reed Lingerfelt made a motion, and Gerelene Blevins seconded, to adopt the December 19, 2017 agenda. All were in favor.

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

Joe Norman made a motion, and Keith Warren seconded, to approve the November 21, 2017 regular meeting minutes. All were in favor.

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

Dean Hall spoke about discharging firearms in the Sawmills Town limits. Mr. Hall stated that he has had to call the Caldwell County Sheriff's Department numerous times regarding his neighbor shooting a firearm, sometimes eight (8) to ten (10) hours a day and about 600 rounds at a time. On December 1, 2017, Mr. Hall stated that two (2) bullets struck his home with his wife and child inside. Mr. Hall would like for the Town to look over its current firearm policy.

Chief David Price with Sawmills Volunteer Fire and Rescue spoke about the fire department's November water bill. Chief Price stated that the fire department had a leaking toilet and would

ask that the Council look over the current policy regarding leaks and see if the policy can be changed to include leaky toilets, at least for nonprofit organizations.

RECOGNITIONS:

RECYCLE REWARDS WINNER: Mayor Joe Wesson announced Helen Benge, as the December Recycle Rewards winner. A credit of thirty-two dollars (\$32.00) will be added to her sanitation bill.

No Council action was required.

HONORING OF OUT GOING COUNCIL MEMBERS: Mayor Elect Johnnie Greene presented Mayor Joe Wesson, Councilwoman Gerelene Blevins and Councilman Reed Lingerfelt with a certificate for their service on Council.

No Council action was required.

OUTGOING COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Gerelene Blevins stated that she would miss sitting on the Town Council and she would miss the people, but she has a lot of health problems and just couldn't continue to sit on the Council. Gerelene Blevins also stated that she believes that the Town should treat everyone the same no matter the situation. Gerelene Blevins also stated that she hoped everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Reed Lingerfelt wanted to thank all the people for the chance to serve the last two (2) years. Reed Lingerfelt wanted to tell the incoming Council members to thank of all the people while making decision. Reed Lingerfelt also stated that he hoped everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mayor Joe Wesson stated that it has been an honor and privilege to serve the Town and the citizens of Sawmills. Mayor Joe Wesson wanted to congratulate Johnnie Greene, Clay Wilson and Rebecca Johnson again for the outcome of the election, and tell them the best advice he can give them is agree to disagree. Mayor Joe Wesson stated that he was first elected in 2002 and wanted to thank everyone for all the years that he has served. Mayor Joe Wesson also wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

Keith Warren made a motion, and Joe Norman seconded, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS: Town Clerk Julie A. Good administered the Oath of Office to incoming Mayor, Johnnie Green and incoming Council Members, Clay Wilson and Rebecca Johnson.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Johnnie Greene
Clay Wilson
Keith Warren
Jeff Wilson
Joe Norman
Rebecca Johnson

STAFF PRESENT

Christopher Todd
Julie Good
Terry Taylor

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Johnnie Greene called the meeting to order.

ADOPT AGENDA: Mayor Johnnie Greene asked for a motion to adopt the December 19, 2017 Agenda.

Keith Warren made a motion, and Joe Norman seconded, to adopt the December 19, 2017 agenda. All were in favor.

INVOCATION: Jeff Lambert Director of Ministries gave the invocation.

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

No one wished to speak.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS:

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS: Mayor Johnnie Greene asked Council to be seated as follows (from left to right):

- Joe Norman
- Keith Warren
- Rebecca Johnson
- Town Attorney
- Mayor
- Town Administrator
- Jeff Wilson
- Clay Wilson
- Town Clerk

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM: Mayor Johnnie Greene stated that as a result of the November 2017 election, Council would need to elect a new Mayor Pro Tem.

Keith Warren made a motion, and Joe Norman seconded, to appoint Clay Wilson as Mayor Pro Tem. All were in favor.

COUNCIL ETHICS AND CODE OF CONDUCT: Mayor Johnnie Greene stated that every Council member should have a copy of the Code of Ethics prepared by Town Attorney Terry Taylor and adopted by Town Council on August 17, 2010.

Mayor Johnnie Greene also stated that every Council member should also have the Standard of Conduct prepared by Town Attorney Terry Taylor. Mayor Johnnie Greene asked that each Council member read the form. Each Council member should be prepared to sign the Standard of Conduct form and return it to the Clerk.

No Council action was required.

STANDING COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: Mayor Johnnie Greene announced the attached new Standing Council Committees.

No Council action was required.

FINANCIAL:

ADOPT BUDGET WORKSHOP SCHEDULE: Mayor Johnnie Greene asked for a motion to adopt the proposed FY 2018-2019 budget workshop schedule.

Joe Norman made a motion, and Keith Warren seconded, to adopt the proposed FY 2018-2019 budget workshop schedule. All were in favor.

FY 2016-2017 AUDIT PRESENTATION: James Lowdermilk and Rick Hammer, with Lowdermilk, Church & Co., L.L.P., presented the Towns FY 2016-2017 audit to Council.

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

No Council action was required.

BANKING AND AP CHECK SIGNATURES: Mayor Johnnie Greene stated that due to recent changes on the Council, new signature cards will need to be on file at First Citizens Bank and CommunityOne Bank. The banks require a new signature card to be on file whenever there are changes in the staff and/or Council. The Town requires two (2) signatures for accounts payable checks and the safety deposit box.

The following Council and staff have authorization to sign on behalf of the Town with regards to banking transactions:

- Christopher Todd-Town Administrator
- Karen Clontz-Finance Officer
- Joe Norman-Councilman

Typically, the Mayor, one other Council member, Town Administrator and the Finance Officer are authorized to sign on behalf of the Town with regards to the bank.

Keith Warren made a motion, and Jeff Wilson seconded, to appoint Mayor Johnnie Greene and reappoint Councilman Joe Norman to the signature cards at First Citizens Bank and CommunityOne Bank authorizing Mayor Johnnie Greene and Councilman Joe Norman to sign on behalf of the Town with regards to banking transactions. All were in favor.

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

No one wished to speak.

UPDATES:

DECEMBER CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT: Town Planner Leslie M. Meadows stated that there are eight (8) code enforcement cases open:

- Teresa Annas Compton is the owner of a dilapidated house located at 4476 Sawmills School Road. A final Notice of Violation packet, setting an official hearing date for Ms. Compton for December 19, 2017, was sent from Town Attorney Terry Taylor's office. According to Ms. Compton's cooperation/intentions, the Town can move forward with contracting out abatement efforts (demo and removal), and require reimbursement in the form of a lien on the property. As of December 19, 2017, the Town held a hearing and is putting together findings of fact and sending a letter to Ms. Compton to abate;
- WNC Properties, LLC owner of 4209 Creekview Pl. Minimum housing complaint. Town Planner Leslie M. Meadows stated that she needs to verify complaint before arranging site visit with Caldwell County Building Inspector Mark Annas and current resident;
- David Graham (Landlord) owner of 4176 US Highway 321A. Minimum housing complaint. Town Planner Leslie M. Meadows stated that she needs to verify complaint before arranging site visit with Caldwell County Building Inspector Mark Annas and current resident;

- Carolyn Bray/Robyn Brittan, owner of 2570 Baker Cir. Abandoned mobile home. Town Planner Leslie M. Meadows stated that she has been unable to contact Ms. Brittan for an update, but financially, she has stated that she can not pay for removal, or any accrued fines. A final Notice of Violation packet from Town Attorney Terry Taylor to set a hearing date will be needed before the Town can contract out the abatement efforts (demo and removal), and require reimbursement in the form of a lien on the property;
- John “Jody” McRary and neighbors, Jody Drive. Outdoor storage/junk vehicles in ROW/freight container. This is a non-conforming use, Impressive Auto, encroaching on neighborhood and blocking street for Fire & Rescue/Trash Pick-up. Need to remove/replace non-conforming storage container. Town Planner Leslie M. Meadows stated that Mr. McRary came before Council on November 21, 2017, requesting permission to retain the shipping container if he modified the structure to resemble a traditional accessory storage structure (underpinning, siding, lean-to roof). Town Planner Leslie M. Meadows stated that she is currently researching possible code amendments to allow for such modifications. Town Planner Leslie M. Meadows also stated that other options are daily fines can be collected from the final deadline date of November 9, 2017, or the Town can initiate its own abatement process to remove the container at the owner’s expense, or in the form of a lien on the property;
- Sasser Family, LLC, owner 2526 Meadows Park Lane. Minimum housing complaint. Town Planner Leslie M. Meadows stated that she needs to verify complaint before arranging site visit with Caldwell County Building Inspector Mark Annas and current resident;
- Jose Montes, owner 4321 Cherokee Court. High grass/junk vehicles. Town Planner Leslie M. Meadows stated that there has been no change, took photographic documentation of tagged vehicles in cul-de-sac. Daily fines to begin from final deadline date of November 9, 2017, or Town can install driveway at owner’s expense. “No Parking” signs can now be posted to initiate a possible response;
- Janice Griffin, Trustee of Iona Griffin, 2148 Oaktree Ln. Abandoned, partially burned apartment building. Town Planner Leslie M. Meadows stated that a second Notice of Violation packet requesting demolition/repair and for all the ground level windows to be boarded up immediately, has been sent via Town Attorney Terry Taylor’s office with a deadline of December 15, 2017. Town Planner Leslie M. Meadows stated that she has gotten a response back from Janice Griffin and a contractor has been hired and removal and the rebuild is scheduled to begin after the first of the year.

No Council action was required.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENT: Town Administrator Christopher Todd asked if the Code Enforcement Committee was able to meet on December 28th, 2017 at 4:00 P.M. in Town Hall. All members agreed to meet and hold a meeting at the proposed date and time.

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

Joe Norman thanked everyone for coming and he appreciated all the hard work of the outgoing Mayor and Council members and looks forward to working with the new Mayor and Council members. Joe Norman also stated that he was proud of the Town for the good management of monies for the last few years. Joe Norman stated he hoped everyone enjoyed the upcoming holidays.

Keith Warren wanted to thank everyone for coming out. Keith Warren stated that it had been an exciting two (2) years and he has loved it and he loves the Town. Keith Warren also stated he hoped everyone continues to come to all the meetings and he hopes everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rebecca Johnson wanted to thank everyone for coming to the meeting and for all the support that she received during the election. Rebecca Johnson also stated she looked forward to working with everyone. Rebecca Johnson wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jeff Wilson wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Clay Wilson wanted to thank everyone for coming and all the support he received during the election. Clay Wilson also wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mayor Johnnie Greene stated it was good to be here. Mayor Johnnie Greene stated he appreciated all the outgoing Council and it was good to see young people on the Council. Mayor Johnnie Greene stated that neither himself or Council know what's needed until it's said. Mayor Johnnie Greene wanted to thank everyone for the support and he does realize that Council is not going to please everyone all of the time. Mayor Johnnie Greene stated that he is proud to be a part of the Town of Sawmills Council. Mayor Johnnie Greene wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

COUNCIL ADJOURN: Mayor Johnnie Greene asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

Johnnie Greene, Mayor

Julie A Good, Town Clerk