

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2014
TOWN OF SAWMILLS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 PM**

COUNCIL PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Seth Eckard
Susan Nagle
Terry Taylor
Elinor Hiltz

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

INVOCATION: Pastor Buford Pennell gave the invocation.

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

ADOPT AGENDA: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to adopt the agenda with the following changes: add Call for a Public Hearing for a CDBG Funding Application as agenda item 9C and correct the January 21, 2014 minutes to show Johnny Wilson as absent.

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Gerelene Blevins seconded, to adopt the agenda with changes. All were in favor.

APPROVE JANUARY 21, 2014 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to approve the January 21, 2014 regular meeting minutes with the following change to be made by Town Clerk Susan Nagle: change Johnny Wilson from Council present to absent.

Johnny Wilson made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to approve the minutes with the change. All were in favor.

APPROVE JANUARY 23, 2014 SPECIAL COFFEE WITH THE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to approve the January 23, 2014 Coffee with the Council special meeting minutes.

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

APPROVE FEBRUARY 11, 2014 SPECIAL ANNUAL COUNCIL BUDGET

RETREAT MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to approve the February 11, 2014 annual Council budget retreat meeting minutes.

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

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

The following persons spoke in support of restrooms at the Sawmills Veterans Memorial Park:

Jane Wesson
Jack Keller
William Eckard
Angie Woods
Kathy Soots
Buford Pennell

Sawmills Fire Chief David Price thanked the Public Works Employees, on behalf of the Fire Department, for all the hard work they did during the last storm stating they did a great job.

Residents on Elmore Drive, Michael Mull owner of Mullhaus Kennels and Roger Stout spoke in regards to paving Elmore Drive.

RECOGNITIONS:

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

No Council action was required.

PLANNING MATTERS:

CALL A PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT A TEXT AMENDMENT TO SECTIONS 153.190-153.197 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES: Town Planner Elinor Hiltz stated effective October 1, 2013 the state law has changed regarding Board of Adjustment procedures. Local governments must amend their zoning ordinances to match state law. The Planning Board reviewed sections 153.190-153.197 of the Code of Ordinances and recommends Council call for a public hearing.

Trena McRary Kirby made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to call for a public hearing on March 18, 2014 at 6:00 pm at the Sawmills Town Hall to discuss a text Amendment to sections 153.190-153.197 of the Code of Ordinances. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION:

ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT FOR THE W.P.C.O.G. INVESTING IN MANUFACTURING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM APPLICATION: Administrator Eckard asked Council to adopt a Resolution in support of a program application for investing in manufacturing communities.

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Jeff Wilson seconded, to adopt a Resolution in Support for the Western Piedmont Council of Governments Investing in Manufacturing Communities Program Application. All were in favor.

ADOPT A RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION FOR C.C.C. AND T.I.: Administrator Eckard asked Council to adopt a resolution recognizing fifty years of service for Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute.

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Trena McRary Kirby seconded, to adopt a Resolution of Recognition for Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute. All were in favor.

CALL FOR A PUBLIC HEARING FOR A CDBG FUNDING APPLICATION: Administrator Eckard stated the town is eligible to apply for another Community Development Block Grant for sewer infrastructure funding. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires Council hold two public hearings.

Jeff Wilson made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to call for a public hearing on March 18, 2014 at 6:00 pm at the Sawmills Town Hall to discuss a CDBG application for sewer infrastructure funding. All were in favor.

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

David Powell spoke in regards to restrooms at the Sawmills Veterans Memorial Park.

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 MONTHLY

UPDATE: Administrator Eckard stated in a memo from Lisa Helton, Program Administrator with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments, that the Town has received the release of funds letter from the Department of Commerce. This allows the Town to be reimbursed for expenses incurred from the sewer project. West Consultants, PLLC is finishing the required surveying work for the easements. When that process is complete the bidding process will start.

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.

A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR SAWMILLS: Administrator Eckard stated the enclosed Strategic Plan for the Town of Sawmills is for the next two years. Administrator Eckard asked Council to review plan, inform him if they wish to make changes and be prepared to adopt this at the March 18, 2014 regular Council meeting. Once adopted, staff will try to achieve the goals for the fiscal year 2014-2015 in the Strategic Plan. Staff will report to Council in six months, and then again in one year, to see how staff is doing at achieving those goals.

No Council action was required.

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

- Members of the Council will attend the Essentials of Municipal Government class in Hickory on Wednesday, February 19, 2014 and Thursday, February 20, 2014.
- Staff will have their yearly wellness day sponsored by the NC League of Municipalities on Friday, February 21, 2014 at the Sawmills Municipal Park on Baird Dr.
- The first budget workshop will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2014 in the Town Hall Council Chambers starting at 5:00 pm.
- Administrator Eckard congratulated Meghan Frick, Reporter with the News-Topic on her new position in Atlanta, Georgia. She will be working with the Department of Education, Public Relations.

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

Councilwoman Gerelene Blevins asked if Council is going to talk about paving Elmore Drive again in the budget since it was voted down already.

Councilman Joe Wesson thanked the fellow Council members for their commitment to the restrooms at Veterans Memorial Park.

Mayor-Pro-Tem Trena McRary Kirby thanked everyone for coming.

CLOSED SESSION: PERSONNEL MATTERS (NCGS §143-318.11): Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to go into closed session.

Gerelene Blevins made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to go into closed session. All were in favor.

Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to come out of closed session and return to the regular meeting.

Johnny Wilson made a motion, and Gerelene Blevins seconded, to come out of closed session and return to the regular meeting.

ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION: Jeff Wilson made a motion, and Johnny Wilson seconded to award Administrator Eckard a 1.5% salary increase effective beginning the next pay period. All were in favor.

ADJOURN: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

Susan Nagle, Town Clerk

Bob Gibbs, Mayor