

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016
TOWN OF SAWMILLS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 PM**

COUNCIL PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Christopher Todd
Julie Good
Terry Taylor

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

INVOCATION: Associate Pastor Randy McCall 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 January 19, 2016 Agenda.

Jeff Wilson made a motion, and Keith Warren seconded, to adopt the January 19, 2016 agenda. All were in favor.

APPROVE DECEMBER 15, 2015 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Joe Wesson asked for a motion to approve the December 15, 2015 regular meeting minutes.

Reed Lingerfelt made a motion, and Gerelene Blevins seconded, to approve the December 15, 2015 regular meeting minutes. All were in favor.

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

No one wished to speak.

RECOGNITIONS:

RECYCLE REWARDS WINNER: Mayor Joe Wesson announced Mr. Bill Absher, as the January Recycle Rewards winner. A credit of twenty-eight dollars (\$28.00) will be added to his sanitation bill. Mayor Joe Wesson stated that his certificate would be available at the

Town Hall for pick up.

No Council action was required.

SAWMILLS VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT AWARDS: Mayor Joe Wesson, on behalf of the Town Council, presented plaques of appreciation to the following:

Firefighter of the Year: Grant Newton

First Responder of the Year: Grant Newton

Officers of the Year: Bruce Austin
Keith Gibbons

No Council action was required.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

CALDWELL COUNTY GOVERNMENT CHANNEL CONTRIBUTION: Mayor Joe Wesson stated that the Town received a request from the Caldwell County Government Channel for a contribution to support the cost of upgrading and repairing the recording and broadcasting equipment. Caldwell County estimates the project cost of approximately one hundred seventy-one thousand dollars (\$171,000) for the upgrades and repairs. Currently, Sawmills appears in approximately two percent (2%) of the total programming on the government channel, as estimated by the County.

Louanne Kincaid with the Caldwell County Government Channel was present to speak about the upgrade and answer any questions. Mrs. Kincaid stated that the Caldwell County Government Channel first started broadcasting in 2002 and all the equipment is the original equipment. All of the station's equipment needs to be updated. Most of the equipment does not work with any new equipment.

Mrs. Kincaid stated that the Caldwell County Commissioners have set aside one hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$160,000) for this expense in this budget year. Mrs. Kincaid also stated that there is approximately eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000) from the cable finance fund from when the station was started that will be used for this expense. Ms. Kincaid stated that the Town of Hudson and the Town of Granite Falls have agreed to contribute toward the expense of upgrading the equipment. The City of Lenoir has stated they will also contribute.

Joe Norman made a motion, and Jeff Wilson seconded, to contribute four thousand dollars (\$4,000), after a budget amendment has been made and approved, to the Caldwell County Government Channel to help with the cost of upgrading and repairing the recording and broadcasting equipment. All were in favor.

DEPUTY FINANCE OFFICER APPOINTMENT: Mayor Joe Wesson stated that in the event that the Finance Officer, Karen Clontz, is not available the Town will need a Deputy Finance Officer to fulfill her duties pursuant to NCGS § 159-25 (b).

Jeff Wilson made a motion, and Reed Lingerfelt seconded, to appoint Town Administrator, Christopher Todd, as Deputy Finance Officer. All were in favor.

BANKING AND AP CHECK SIGNATURES: Mayor Joe Wesson 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:

- Joe Wesson-Mayor
- Christopher Todd-Town Administrator
- Karen Clontz-Finance Officer

Mayor Joe Wesson stated that typically there is an additional Council member authorized to sign on behalf of the Town with regards to banking transactions.

Reed Lingerfelt made a motion, and Jeff Wilson seconded, to add Councilman Joe Norman to the signature cards at First Citizens Bank and CommunityOne Bank authorizing Councilman Joe Norman to sign on behalf of the Town with regards to banking transactions. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION:

STANDING COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: Mayor Joe Wesson announced the attached new Standing Council Committees.

With the appointment of Councilman Jeff Wilson and Councilman Reed Lingerfelt to the Intergovernmental Committee, Councilman Jeff Wilson is the delegate and Councilman Reed Lingerfelt is the alternate to the WPCOG Policy Board.

Reed Lingerfelt made a motion, and Gerelene Blevins seconded, to approve the attached Standing Council Committees including the appointments to the WPCOG Policy Board. All were in favor.

TOWN OF SAWMILLS PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY: Mayor Joe Wesson stated that the Town of Sawmills wishes to encourage public participation and promote opportunities for public engagement. As such, the Town Attorney prepared a Public Comment Policy, which is attached for Council review and approval.

Joe Norman made a motion, and Gerelene Blevins seconded, to approve the attached Town of Sawmills Public Comment Policy. All were in favor.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS VACANCY: Mayor Joe Wesson stated that with the appointment of Reed Lingerfelt to Council, there is now a vacancy for an alternate on the Board of Adjustments.

Keith Warren made a motion, and Gerelene Blevins seconded, to appoint Johnnie Greene as an alternate to the Board of Adjustments. All were in favor.

UPDATES:

SBEA DECEMBER PROGRESS REPORT: Town Administrator Christopher Todd stated that Sherry Long, from the Western Piedmont Council of Governments, has enclosed a progress report for the SBEA project 12-C-2443.

No Council action was required.

JANUARY CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT: Town Planner Elinor Hiltz stated that there are two (2) code enforcement cases open:

- Steven Killian at 4801 Helton Road has removed two (2) of the three (3) vehicles that he was required to remove from his property. Mr. Killian currently was issued a civil citation at \$50.00 (fifty dollars) a day back dated to December 14, 2015, until the last vehicle is removed. Town Planner Elinor Hiltz has forwarded the file to the Town Attorney for the final citation letter to be sent.
- Wendy Hadchin is the owner of a dilapidated house located at 4476 Sawmills School Road. A petition with the required five (5) signatures has been returned to the Town. Town Planner Elinor Hiltz stated that she sent a letter to the owner advising her that the Town received a petition to reopen the case to condemn the house.

No Council action was required.

COMPERHENSIVE STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT: Town Planner Elinor Hiltz stated that she has enclosed a status report from the January 5, 2016 Steering Committee meeting.

No Council action was required.

DUFF DRIVE SEWER PROJECT REPORT: Town Administrator Christopher Todd stated that Lisa Helton, from the Western Piedmont Council of Governments, has enclosed a progress report for the Duff Drive Sewer project.

No Council action was required.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sue Hall stated that she has not seen any improvement to the property at 4803 Helton Road. Ms. Hall stated that it did not look like anything had been moved off the property and, if anything, it looked like the residents had moved more items on the back porch. Ms. Hall informed Council that the occupant of 4803 Helton Road had stated to her renters that he did not have to clean up his property nor did he have to listen to the Code Enforcement Officer. Ms. Hall also stated that two (2) of the neighbors of 4803 Helton Road stated that the property had a smell as if something had died.

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

Joe Norman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and stated that the Town is looking positive.

Keith Warren wanted to thank everyone for coming out and hoped everyone has a safe trip home. Keith Warren also was pleased that it was a very good meeting.

Gerelene Blevins stated that it was good to see everyone at the meeting and stated that it was a very good meeting.

Jeff Wilson stated he hoped everyone had a good holiday.

Reed Lingerfelt wanted to thank everyone for coming and for everyone to be careful going home. Reed Lingerfelt also stated that he was on Sawmills Volunteer Fire and Rescue for twenty-five (25) years and this is the best group of guys. The Volunteers will go above and beyond to help in the community.

Mayor Joe Wesson wanted to thank everyone for coming and we had a good meeting. Mayor Joe Wesson stated that there will be a Festival Committee meeting on January 21, 2016 at 4:00 pm. There will also be the "Coffee with the Council" meeting on January 21, 2016 beginning at 6:00 pm. Mayor Joe Wesson stated that the Council is looking forward to citizen input at the "Coffee with the Council" and that the meeting will not have any issues to resolve, but rather for citizens to bring ideas for the new budget. Mayor Joe Wesson stated that the best ideas come from the citizens.

CLOSED SESSION: ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGE: Mayor Joe Wesson asked for a motion to go into closed session.

Reed Lingerfelt made a motion, and Joe Norman seconded, to go into Closed Session at 7:06 pm. All were in favor.

Gerelene Blevins made a motion, and Reed Lingerfelt seconded, to come out of Closed Session at 8:23 pm. All were in favor.

OPEN MEETING ACTION ITEMS: After returning to open session, Mayor Joe Wesson asked for a motion for a Special Meeting, “Coffee with the Council”, on January 21, 2016 at 6:00pm at Sawmills Town Hall with a Closed Session for attorney/client privilege matters.

Reed Lingerfelt made a motion, and Joe Norman seconded, to approve the Special Meeting Agenda for the meeting on January 21, 2016 at 6:00pm. All were in favor.

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

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

Julie A Good, Town Clerk

Joe Wesson, Mayor