

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025
TOWN OF SAWMILLS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
6:00PM**

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keith Warren
Clay Wilson
Rebecca Johnson
Bobby Mosteller
Melissa Curtis
Joe Wesson

STAFF PRESENT

Chase Winebarger
Julie A Good
Terry Taylor
Kelly Melton

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Keith Warren called the meeting to order at approximately 6:01pm.

INVOCATION: Chaplain John Abernathy gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chaplain John Abernathy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA: Mayor Keith Warren asked for a motion to adopt the January 21, 2025 Agenda.

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Rebecca Johnson seconded, to adopt the January 21, 2025 Agenda. All were in favor.

APPROVE DECEMBER 17, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Keith Warren asked for a motion to approve the December 17, 2024 regular meeting minutes.

Melissa Curtis made a motion, and Bobby Mosteller seconded, to approve the December 17, 2024 regular meeting minutes. All were in favor.

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

No one wished to speak.

RECOGNITIONS:

JANUARY RECYCLE REWARDS WINNER: Mayor Keith Warren announced Christopher Rodriguez as the January Recycle Rewards Winner. A credit of forty dollars (\$40.00) will be added to the current sanitation bill.

No Council action was required.

FINANCE:

FY 2023/2024 AUDIT PRESENTATION: James Lowdermilk and Rick Hammer, with Lowdermilk, Church & Co., L.L.P., presented the Towns FY 2023-2024 audit to Council.

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

Clay Wilson made a motion, and Rebecca Johnson seconded, to receive the FY 2023/2024 Audit from Lowdermilk, Church & Co., L.L.P. All were in favor.

AMENDED FY 2023/2024 AUDIT CONTRACT: Finance Officer Kelly Melton stated that during the February 6, 2024, Town of Sawmills Council special meeting, a contract from our current auditing firm, Lowdermilk, Church & Co., L.L.P., in the amount of thirteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$13,500.00), and covering the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, was approved. Due to the effects of Hurricane Helene on September 27, 2024, and then a ransomware/cyber attack on October 15, 2024, Lowdermilk, Church & Co., L.L.P. have been unable to do any significant work for the Town of Sawmills, and was unable to submit the Town of Sawmills Audit to the LGC on the original contract date of October 31, 2024. Lowdermilk, Church & Co., L.L.P. would like to modify the date of the submission of the Town of Sawmills Audit to the LGC from October 31, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

Clay Wilson made a motion, and Rebecca Johnson seconded, to amend the contract with Lowdermilk, Church & Co., L.L.P. by changing the audit submission date of the Town of Sawmills Audit to the LGC from October 31, 2024 to December 31, 2024. All were in favor.

APPROVE AUDITOR CONTRACT FOR FY 2024-2025: Finance Officer Kelly Melton stated that the current contract with the Town of Sawmills Auditors, Lowdermilk, Church & Co., L.L.P., needs to be renewed. The renewal contract will cost approximately thirteen thousand eight hundred fifty dollars (\$13,850.00) and will cover the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Clay Wilson made a motion, and Rebecca Johnson seconded, to approve a renewal contract with the Town auditors Lowdermilk, Church & Co, L.L.P. in the amount of thirteen thousand eight hundred fifty dollars (\$13,850.00), will cover the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. All were in favor.

BUDGET AMENDMENT: Finance Officer Kelly Melton stated that On January 8, 2025,

the Town received a Youth Sports Grant from North Carolina Amateur Sports in the amount of nine thousand five hundred dollars (\$9,500.00). The grant application specifies that the funds be used to purchase equipment for the indoor facility such as L-Screens, Baseball and Softball Caddies, Hitting and Pitching Mats and Benches. The estimated cost for these items is fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00).

Finance Officer Kelly Melton stated that a fund balance appropriation is needed to purchase the remaining equipment not covered by the grant plus furniture, cameras, security system infrastructure and other miscellaneous items to allow the facility to become operational.

Rebecca Johnson made a motion, and Clay Wilson seconded, to accept the North Carolina Amateur Sports grant in the amount of nine thousand five hundred dollars (\$9,500.00). All were in favor.

Bobby Mosteller made a motion, and Melissa Curtis seconded, for a fund balance appropriation in the amount of eighty-six thousand eight hundred dollars (\$86,800.00) to purchase the remaining equipment for the indoor facility not covered by the North Carolina Amateur Sports grant. All were in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024: Finance Officer Kelly Melton stated that as of December 31, 2024 that:

In the General Fund the Revenue Line item has used thirty-four point thirty-seven percent (34.37%) of the FY 2024/2025 budget and the Expenditures Line item has used fifty-one point fifty-four percent (51.54%) of the FY 2024/2025 budget.

In the Water/Sewer Fund the Revenue Line item has used thirty-one point seventy-five percent (31.75%) of the FY 2024/2025 budget and the Expenditures Line item has used twenty-six point forty-five percent (26.45%) of the FY 2024/2025 budget.

In the Capital Project-Town Hall Line item Architect has used twenty-three point forty-two percent (23.42%) of the FY 2024/2025 budget.

In the Capital Project-South Caldwell Sewer Pump Station Elevation Project Line item has used fifteen point thirty-two percent (15.32%) of the FY 2024/2025 budget.

No Council action was required.

DISCUSSION:

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD: Parks and Recreation Director Tanner Greene stated that the prior Parks and Recreation Advisory term has expired, and a new Parks and Recreation Board needs to be named. Parks and Recreation Director Tanner Greene stated that he has sought out residents that he believes would best fit in advising the Parks and Recreation Department and Town Council. Parks and Recreation Director Tanner Greene stated that he has spoken to and would like to appoint the following people to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Benny Townsend, Jody Deal, Tucker Price, Gene

Davis and Jason Dancy.

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Bobby Mosteller seconded, to appoint Benny Townsend, Jody Deal, Tucker Price, Gene Davis and Jason Dancy to the Town of Sawmills Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a term of three (3) years as set for in the Town of Sawmills Ordinance Book Section 32.32. All were in favor.

PLANNING:

ORDINANCE DIRECTING TOWN OFFICIALS TO DEMOLISH THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED AS AN IMMINENT DANGER TO THE PUBLIC AND DIRECTING THAT A NOTICE BE PLACED THEREON THAT THE SAME MAY NOT BE OCCUPIED: Mayor Keith Warren stated that Town Code Enforcement Officer Curt Willis has served the Owner(s) of 7011 Spartan Drive regarding the minimum housing complaints. Mayor Keith Warren stated that Town Code Enforcement Officer Curt Willis has drafted an Ordinance Directing Town Officials to Vacate and Close 7011 Spartan Drive As An Imminent Danger To The Public And Directing That A Notice Be Placed Thereon That The Same May Not Be Occupied.

Clay Wilson made a motion, and Bobby Mosteller seconded, to approve the Ordinance Directing Town Officials to Vacate and Close 7011 Spartan Drive As An Imminent Danger To The Public And Directing That A Notice Be Placed Thereon That The Same May Not Be Occupied as written. All were in favor.

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

No one wished to speak.

UPDATES:

JANUARY CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT: Town Code Enforcement Officer Curt Willis stated that there are sixty-eight (68) code enforcement cases that are open.

No Council action was required.

TOWN MANAGER UPDATES: Town Manager Chase Winebarger had the following updates:

- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Town of Sawmills Budget Retreat will be on February 4, 2025 beginning at 9:00am in the Town of Sawmills Council Chambers.

- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that there Town of Sawmills Public Works has started picking up the debris from Hurricane Helene and is taking the debris to Baird Park for the Caldwell County debris removal company to pick up and take to their drop off site. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Cadwell County debris removal company will then dispose of the debris that is picked up.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he has heard only good reviews regarding the speed humps on Waterworks Road. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he will check the Flock cameras once spring sports start at Veterans Park to see how the speed humps affects the traffic on Waterworks Road.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the indoor facility is coming along. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that wrestling mats are still needed for the facility.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that staff is still working on the debris removal for Veterans Park. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that staff is getting quotes and should be turning those into FEMA within the next week.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the telehandler has been delivered to public works. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the telehandler was used during snow plowing and it worked very well.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Bobby Mosteller wanted to thank everyone for coming to the meeting.

Melissa Curtis wanted to thank everyone for coming to the meeting.

Rebecca Johnson wanted to thank everyone for coming to the meeting.

Joe Wesson wanted to thank everyone for coming to the meeting.

Clay Wilson told everyone to “Stay Frosty”.

Mayor Keith Warren wanted to thank everyone for coming to the meeting.

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO N.C.G.S. §143.318-11(A)(3): Mayor Keith Warren asked for a motion to go into closed session.

Clay Wilson made a motion, and Rebecca Johnson seconded, to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143.318-11(a)(3) at approximately 6:52pm. All were in favor.

Clay Wilson made a motion, and Rebecca Johnson seconded, to come out of closed session at approximately 7:22pm. All were in favor.

COUNCIL ADJOURN: Mayor Keith Warren asked for a motion to adjourn.

Clay Wilson made a motion, and Rebecca Johnson seconded, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:22pm.

Keith Warren, Mayor

Julie A. Good, Town Clerk