

**TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020
TOWN OF SAWMILLS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 PM**

COUNCIL PRESENT

Keith Warren
Clay Wilson
Melissa Curtis
Joe Wesson
Rebecca Johnson

STAFF PRESENT

Chase Winebarger via Zoom
Julie A Good
Terry Taylor

COUNCIL ABSENT

Mayor Johnnie Greene

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pro Tem Keith Warren called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00pm.

INVOCATION: Councilman Clay Wilson gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Pro Tem Keith Warren led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA: Mayor Pro Tem Keith Warren asked for a motion to adopt the July 21, 2020 agenda.

Clay Wilson made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to adopt the July 21, 2020 agenda. All were in favor.

APPROVE JUNE 16, 2020 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Pro Tem Keith Warren asked for a motion to approve the June 16, 2020 regular meeting minutes.

Clay Wilson made a motion, and Rebecca Johnson seconded, to approve the June 16, 2020 regular meeting minutes. All were in favor.

APPROVE JUNE 16, 2020 CLOSED SESSION MINUTES: Mayor Pro Tem Keith Warren asked for a motion to approve the June 16, 2020 closed session minutes.

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Melissa Curtis seconded, to approve the June 16, 2020 closed session minutes. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Pro Tem Keith Warren asked if anyone had any questions or

comments at this time.

Caldwell County School Resource Officer John Hawn informed Council that he was retiring from the Caldwell County Sheriff's Department and wanted to thank Council for standing by and supporting him during the six (6) years that he has been at Sawmills Elementary School, and wanted to introduce the new Sawmills Elementary School Resource Officer, Deputy James Curtis.

Deputy James Curtis told Council that he had been the School Resource Officer for Oak Hill School until Caldwell County closed the school down and looked forward to working with the Council during the upcoming school year.

RECOGNITIONS:

RECYCLE REWARDS WINNER: Mayor Pro Tem Keith Warren announced Mitchell Kadel, as the July Recycle Rewards winner. A credit of thirty-two dollars (\$32.00) will be added to the current sanitation bill.

No Council action was required.

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

No one wished to speak.

UPDATES:

JUNE CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT: Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that there are six (6) code enforcement cases open:

- Carolyn Bray/Robyn Brittan, owner 2570 Baker Circle. Abandoned Mobile Home/Garbage and Rubbish. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that he is working with Town Attorney Terry Taylor to abate the property. Town Planner Hunter Nestor also stated that he will treat this as a Junk and Debris and not minimum housing. If so, the Town can proceed to abate after thirty (30) days of notice. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that he got a quote that will demo entire trailer and haul off all debris including our equipment, labor and fees. Town Planner hunter Nestor stated that the quote is four thousand one hundred dollars (\$4,100.00);
- Teresa Annas Compton, 4486 Sawmills School Road. Abandoned Mobile Home/Garbage and Rubbish. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated he received a complaint on January 13, 2020. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that a NOV letter would be sent out on January 23, 2020 with a deadline of February 10, 2020. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that the trailer is not finished and located on the same

- property as the Compton house that the Town abated in 2018. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that staff will investigate and work with attorney for possible courses of abatement. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that one (1) of Ms. Compton's sons is scheduled to meet with staff in late February to work towards getting the property in his name and get the property cleaned up. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that staff has yet to speak with any representative of the property;
- Dale E and Debra Miller, 4434 Jess Dr. Garbage and Rubbish/Property Maintenance. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that a complaint was received on January 28, 2020. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that the complaint addressed two (2) separate properties and possible violations. A NOV letter was sent on February 13, 2020, with a deadline of March 4, 2020 for the Miller property. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that the Miller property is in violation for having high grass/vegetation and junk and garbage located around the property. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated another complaint was received on May 7, 2020 and a final letter was sent on May 13, 2020, with a deadline of May 31, 2020. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that on June 1, 2020, staff spoke with Mrs. Miller, who has a medical condition, and she asked for an extension and stated that she is working on getting the property cleaned up;
 - Denise Dotson/William S Annas, II, 4095 Gatewood Dr. Abandoned Mobile Home/Minimum Housing. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that a complaint was received on March 5, 2020, and a regular NOV letter and a certified NOV letter was sent on March 5, 2020, with a deadline of March 23, 2020. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that the mobile home has been sprayed painted and has an apparent tenant, however, the water meter has been pulled from the property. Property was cleaned up. However, Mr. Annas informed Town Planner Hunter Nestor that a new tenant has moved in the mobile home. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that a second NOV letter was sent on May 15, 2020 with a deadline of June 15, 2020 for additional garbage on property. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that staff will investigate and work with Town Attorney for possible courses of abatement;
 - Steve and Mary Hand, 2511 Baker Cir. Garbage and Rubbish/Property Maintenance. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that a complaint was received on April 20, 2020. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that the complaint states that the property is overgrown and consist of junk vehicles. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that a regular letter was sent on April 23, 2020, with a deadline of May 15, 2020. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that staff will investigate further;
 - James Thomas Bolick and Martha Bolick, 5247 Carl Dr. Zoning Violation. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that a complaint was received on May 4, 2020. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that the property owner had received a zoning permit from staff because staff was informed that a storage building was to be placed on a parcel and the applicant lived on the adjoining property. The applicant/property owner is not in compliance with the zoning ordinance with the placement of an accessory building on a vacant parcel. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that a regular letter was sent on May 8, 2020, with a deadline to remove the building by May 29, 2020. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that staff has tried to reach the property owner via email and telephone with no response. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated

that staff will continue to work towards abatement. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that staff met with property owner and the owner of the storage building on May 29, 2020 and new deadline was set for June 8, 2020. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that the building has been removed.

No Council action was required.

TOWN MANAGER UPDATES:

- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he was informed a few months ago about a “Road Modification” project slated for Cajah Mountain Road (Connelly Springs Road to US Highway 321A). Project STIP U-6157 was scheduled for ROW in 2022 and completion in 2024, but will more likely be pushed back. If the Town has a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in place then sidewalks can be added to DOT projects free of charge, but if not then the Town must pay five percent (5%) of the total cost. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he could possibly bring up a potential budget amendment at the August 18, 2020 regular scheduled Council meeting, to get the WPCOG to help the Town have a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in place before Project STIP U-6157 begins.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger wanted to inform Council that a boring crew was in Town running three (3) different conduit lines from Google to an undisclosed location. One (1) of the crews did hit a Town water line and have agreed to cover the cost of the repair. The damage occurred when the Town was short staffed and the Town had to pay Piedmont Utility (the crew working on Russell Drive) to assist with the repair.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that Russell Drive is complete except for the final inspection. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Engineer is out of the office and the inspection should be held the week of week of July 31, 2020.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Town has a list of about one hundred twenty five (125) meters that have not been installed yet. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that Keystone should be coming back in Town on July 27, 2020 to finish these installs and addressing any other issues. Keystone believes this process should take about one (1) week to complete.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that all citizens with additional carts had been contacted and all churches and businesses will be contacted by the end of the following week.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that Governor Roy Cooper elected not to extend his executive order prohibiting cutoffs for nonpayment. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that staff has already started contacting all citizens that have outstanding balances and are already seeing some accounts paid in full or payment plans set up.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Town had started running split shifts again about a month ago when the number of positive cases started raising again, and

he believes that it has saved the Town a tremendous amount. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he will continue to run split shifts until the local numbers, outside of Congregate Care Facilities, start to decline.

- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that Surface Pros and Laptops purchased with the first round of CRF monies should be up and running in the week of July 31, 2020. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that once they are up and running, he will get them to Council. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that Council will be able to access agendas and, if it is needed, get remote in Council meetings. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that some employees will be able to work remotely if circumstances require the need.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger wanted to remind Council that with rates increasing and new meters going in that the Council should be prepared to address citizen complaints for the next few months.

CLOSED SESSION: PURSUANT TO N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3) and (6) FOR PERSONNEL MATTERS: Mayor Pro Tem Keith Warren asked for a motion to go into closed session.

Melissa Curtis made a motion, and Clay Wilson seconded, to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.00(a)(3) and (6) at approximately 6:19pm. All were in favor.

Melissa Curtis made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to come out of closed session at approximately 6:38pm. All were in favor.

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:38pm.

Johnnie Greene, Mayor

Julie A. Good, Town Clerk