

**TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019
TOWN OF SAWMILLS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 PM**

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Johnnie Greene
Keith Warren
Rebecca Johnson
Joe Norman
Clay Wilson

STAFF PRESENT

Christopher Todd
Terry Taylor
Julie A Good

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

INVOCATION: Pastor Jeff Lambert gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Johnnie Greene led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA: Mayor Johnnie Greene asked for a motion to adopt the May 21, 2019 Agenda.

Joe Norman made a motion, and Rebecca Johnson seconded, to adopt the May 21, 2019 Agenda. All were in favor.

APPROVE APRIL 16, 2019 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Johnnie Greene asked for a motion to approve the April 16, 2019 regular meeting minutes.

Rebecca Johnson made a motion, and Keith Warren seconded, to approve the April 16, 2019 regular meeting minutes. All were in favor.

APPROVE APRIL 16, 2019 CLOSED SESSION MINUTES: Mayor Johnnie Greene asked for a motion to approve the April 16, 2019 closed session minutes.

Joe Norman made a motion, and Keith Warren seconded, to approve the April 16, 2019 closed session minutes. All were in favor.

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

Jo Ann Miller came and thanked the Council for the generous donation that was given to the American Legion Post 392.

RECOGNITIONS:

RECYCLE REWARDS WINNER: Mayor Johnnie Greene announced Mr. Michael Rabon as the May Recycle Rewards winner. A credit of thirty-two dollars (\$32.00) will be added to his sanitation bill.

No Council action was required.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

PRESENTATION OF FY 2019-2020 BUDGET AND CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING:

Town Administrator Christopher Todd presented to Council a proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. Town Administrator Christopher Todd stated that the budget is balanced as required by the NC Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act. The Town's overall budget for FY 2019-2020 totals three million ninety-eight thousand seven hundred eight dollars (\$3,098,708.00). A few highlights of the proposed budget include no property tax increase; zero (0%) increase of the sewer rates; an appropriation of Water and Sewer Fund reserves will be made this fiscal year; reduces current level of service by discontinuing curbside recycling collection; maintains current levels of benefits for employees. The Town will also maintain its current levels of service to the citizens. Council must hold a public hearing on June 18, 2019, to adopt the budget.

Clay Wilson made a motion, and Joe Norman seconded, to hold a public hearing on June 18, 2019, to adopt the budget for FY 2019-2020. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION:

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK LEASE: Town Administrator Christopher Todd stated that the Town of Sawmills currently lease the property known as Veteran's Memorial Park through an agreement with Duke Energy. Duke Energy offers this agreement in order to meet its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requirements as an energy provider.

FERC and Duke Energy entered into a new forty (40) year agreement outlining Duke Energy's requirements to operate as an energy provider in 2015. Since 2015, Duke Energy and FERC have been working to draft lease agreements that met the new requirements. The new lease between Duke Energy and the Town of Sawmills addresses their current FERC requirements and would be effective until the year 2055. The new lease would allow the Town to continue to operate the park as currently designed and would not change the general operations of the facilities. Additionally, by having more than twenty (20) years on the lease, the Town would become eligible for more recreation-based grants at Veteran's Memorial Park.

Included in this lease is the construction of a walking path encircling the park property, which will be provided and paid for by Duke Energy. This project is expected to begin in 2020-2021.

Joe Norman made a motion, and Keith Warren seconded, to adopted the drafted lease with

Duke Energy until the year 2055. All were in favor.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR RESIGNATION: Town Administrator Christopher Todd stated that he had accepted a new position as Town Manager with the Town of Laurel Park effective July 15, 2019. Town Administrator Christopher Todd stated that his last day with the Town of Sawmills would be July 12, 2019.

No Council action was required.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one wished to speak.

MAY CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT: There are six (6) code enforcement cases open:

- Chaney Carter, owner of 4361 Sawmills School Rd. Overgrown vegetation. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that a letter was sent on July 19, 2018, with a deadline of August 3, 2018. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that the nuisance was abated by the Town on August 10, 2018. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that a lien will be placed on the property for the cost of the mowing. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that a hearing was held on September 6, 2018, and Ms. Carter did not show so Town will proceed to demolish house;
- Jessie Kristian Smith, 4215 Trojan Ln. Fowl running loose. Town Planner Hunter Nestor received a written complaint from adjacent property owner stating that resident at 4215 Trojan Ln had approximately one (1) to fifteen (15) chickens and six (6) ducks running loose. Traveling public along Trojan Ln are consistently having to stop to wait on ducks to cross the road or sunning in the road. School buses have needed to blow horns to get them to move. Also, the chickens are digging up the neighbor's property. Town Planner stated that a certified letter was sent to home owner on February 21, 2019. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that the site was visited and there were fowl running loose in the back yard and roosting. There are also materials accumulation surrounding the home, which looks as though property owners are building a fence. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that a second notice was sent on April 16, 2019, with a deadline of April 27, 2019;
- Carolyn Bray/Robyn Brittian, 2570 Baker Circle. Abandoned mobile home. Town Planner Hunter Nestor states that he is working with Town Attorney Terry Taylor to abate;
- Horror Fields, Kiser-Sawmills, Helena St. Fence/buffer. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that a complaint was received on April 10, 2019. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that the property is not in compliance with the conditions set in CUP. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that a NOV letter was sent out on April 11, 2019, with a deadline of May 10, 2019;

- Rent to Own Properties, LLC, 4011 Baird Dr. Discharging firearm near residential structures. Town Planner Hunter Nestor received a written complaint on April 16, 2019. As of May 7, 2019, no new complaints and activity has ceased;
- John Wilcox, 2322 Ellen St. Overgrown vegetation. Town Planner Hunter Nestor received a written complaint on April 22, 2019. Town Planner Hunter Nestor sent a NOV letter with a deadline of May 5, 2019. Town Planner Hunter Nestor visited the site on May 7, 2019. No improvement had been made. Town Planner Hunter Nestor sent another NOV letter.

No Council action was required.

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:21pm.

Johnnie Greene, Mayor

Julie A. Good, Town Clerk