

**TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024  
TOWN OF SAWMILLS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
6:00PM**

**COUNCIL PRESENT**

Mayor Keith Warren  
Clay Wilson  
Joe Wesson  
Rebecca Johnson  
Melissa Curtis

**STAFF PRESENT**

Chase Winebarger  
Julie A Good  
Terry Taylor

**COUNCIL ABSENT**

Bobby Mosteller

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

**INVOCATION:** Pastor James Wilfong gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Councilman Joe Wesson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPT AGENDA:** Mayor Keith Warren asked for a motion to adopt the May 21, 2024 Agenda.

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Rebecca Johnson seconded, to adopt the May 21, 2024 Agenda. All were in favor.

**APPROVE APRIL 16, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:** Mayor Keith Warren asked for a motion to approve the April 16, 2024 regular meeting minutes. Melissa Curtis made a motion, and Rebecca Johnson seconded, to approve April 16, 2024 regular meeting minutes. All were in favor.

**APPROVE MAY 7, 2024 BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES:** Mayor Keith Warren asked for a motion to approve the May 7, 2024 budget workshop minutes.

Rebecca Johnson made a motion, and Melissa Curtis seconded, to approve May 7, 2024 budget workshop 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:**

**MAY RECYCLE REWARDS WINNER:** Mayor Keith Warren announced John McRary as the May Recycle Rewards Winner. A credit of forty dollars (\$40.00) will be added to the current sanitation bill.

No Council action was required.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

**PRESENTATION OF FY 2024-2025 BUDGET AND CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING:**

Town Manager Chase Winebarger presented to Council a proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Town Manager Chase Winebarger 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 2024-2025 totals four million five hundred three thousand eight hundred sixty-seven dollars (\$4,503,867.00). A few highlights of the proposed budget include no property tax increase; two-point five percent (2.5%) increase in water and sewer rates; no increase in sanitation fees; maintains current levels of services to citizens. Council must hold a public hearing on June 18, 2024, to adopt the budget.

Rebecca Johnson made a motion, and Melissa Curtis seconded, to hold a public hearing on June 18, 2024, at 6:00pm, to adopt the budget for FY 2024-2025. All were in favor.

**RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR SAM'S CREDIT CARD:** Finance Officer Kelly Melton stated that the Town of Sawmills (the "Town") intends to apply for a Sam's Club credit card for the purpose of making purchases for Concession Stand supplies and other materials and supplies that are for the official use of the Town. There is no annual fee. There are no interest charges pursuant to the account being paid in full each month. The credit line amount to be requested is \$5,000.

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Rebecca Johnson seconded, to authorize Finance Officer Kelly Melton to apply for a Sam's Club Credit Card for the purpose of making purchases for the Town of Sawmills Concession Stand supplies and other materials and supplies that are for the official use of the Town of Sawmills.

**PLANNING:****ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN ANNEXATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN**

**THE TOWN OF SAWMILLS AND TOWN OF HUDSON:** Mayor Keith Warren stated that the property owners of 4016 and 4054 Lower Cedar Valley Road has petitioned for an annexation to be part of the Town of Sawmills. 4016 and 4054 Lower Cedar Valley Road does not fall within the statutory jurisdiction of the Town of Sawmills to allow for voluntary annexation. The property is located within the statutory jurisdiction for the Town of Hudson. The Town of Hudson and Town of Sawmills will need to enter into an Annexation Agreement whereby the Town of Hudson would not seek to voluntarily annex the parcel located at the intersection of Lower Cedar Valley Road and Hickory Boulevard, addresses of 4016 Lower Cedar Valley Road, specifically identified at NCPIN: 2776185163 consisting of 16.43 acres and 4054 Lower Cedar Valley Road, specifically identified at NCPIN: 2776179748 consisting of 7.11 acres, and located in the current Extraterritorial Zoning Jurisdiction of the Town of Hudson.

Rebecca Johnson made a motion, and Melissa Curtis seconded, to approve the Ordinance Establishing and Annexation Agreement Between the Town of Sawmills and Town of Hudson as written. All were in favor.

**CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING FOR ANNEXATION FOR NC PIN 2776185163**

**AND NC PIN 2776179748:** Mayor Keith Warren stated that the Town of Sawmills had received a petition for Voluntary Annexation from Ruth K. Bolick Property, LLC, address of 4016 Lower Cedar Valley Road, specifically identified at NCPIN: 2776185163 consisting of 16.43 acres and Voluntary Annexation from Mark H. Terry, and wife, Heidi H. Terry, address of 4054 Lower Cedar Valley Road, specifically identified at NCPIN: 2776179748 consisting of 7.11 acres

The Town Council must hold a public hearing in order to annex the parcel. Staff proposes the public hearing be set for the next regularly scheduled Town Council meeting on June 18, 2024.

Rebecca Johnson made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to hold a public hearing for the Voluntary Annexation for parcels NCPIN 2776185163 and NCPIN 2776179748 during the next regularly scheduled Town Council meeting on June 18, 2024. All were in favor.

**DISCUSSION:****RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION****INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION AND**

**MATCHING FUNDS:** Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Federal Highway Administration has developed the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program Planning and Design Grant Program. The Federal Highway Administration is asking for support with the Planning Grant Application to study the feasibility of creating a trail along the Caldwell Railroad that would provide connections to other municipalities in Caldwell

County and to the City of Hickory and is asking for the Town of Sawmills to provide matching funds in the amount of three thousand five hundred seventy-five dollars (\$3,575.00). Trails and greenways have a significant impact on the economic viability of the community through increased levels of tourism as well as the ability to attract and retain businesses such as restaurants, outfitters, lodging, and entertainment. Trails and greenways offer quality of life benefits to all by providing accessible alternative transportation to community destinations and places of work, as well as sites for social and cultural activities, as outdoor workshops for education, as tools for economic revitalization, and as resources for healthy recreation. Parks, greenways, trails and natural areas in our community provide a common ground for people of all ages and abilities to socialize and gain access to our natural, cultural, and historic resources.

Melissa Curtis made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to approve the Resolution of Support For Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program Planning Grant Application and Matching Funds as written and provide matching funds in the amount of three thousand five hundred seventy-five dollars (\$3,575.00). All were in favor.

**RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE CHARLOTTE INTERBASIN TRANSFER REQUEST:**

Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that North Carolina Environmental Management Officials are currently reviewing a request from the City of Charlotte to increase the water it transfers from the Catawba River Basin to the Rocky River Basin, a tributary of the Yadkin/Pee Dee River, from thirty-three million (33,000,000) gallons per day to sixty-three million (63,000,000) gallons per day.

Charlotte/Mecklenburg has previously approved certificate of thirty-three million (33,000,000) gallons per day interbasin transfer to the Rocky River in 2002; and Concord and Kannapolis has previously approved certificate of ten million (10,000,000) per day interbasin transfer to the Rocky River in 2007, which is a total of forty-three million (43,000,000) which is currently being transferred from the Catawba River Basin to the Rocky River Basin. If approved the increase would result in a total increased usage of seventy-three million (73,000,000) gallons per day from the Catawba River Basin to the Rocky River Basin.

The Catawba River Basin and its tributaries are not an unlimited supply of water as evidenced by previous years of drought conditions experienced most notably by the Upper Catawba Basin and the entire State of North Carolina.

Rebecca Johnson made a motion, and Melissa Curtis seconded, to approve the Resolution to Oppose Charlotte Interbasin Transfer Request 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:**

**MAY CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:** Town Code Enforcement Officer Curt Willis stated that there are nine (9) 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 he has been working with Dustin regarding a text amendment for accessory structures on lake front properties. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that as soon as the text amendment will be taken in front of the Town of Sawmills Planning Board and then it will be brought to Council.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he had met with the President of the Homeowners Association (HOA) for the gated Edgewater Community, off Liberty Road, in the Town of Sawmills ETJ. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Edgewater Community falls within the Town of Sawmills planning jurisdiction. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the President of the HOA asked that the Town allow their homeowners to put accessory structures on properties without a primary structure. The Town of Sawmills Zoning Ordinances will not allow accessory structures on properties without a primary residence. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he had read a copy of the HOA rules and they are much stricter than our ordinances. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he would work with Town Planner Dustin Millsaps to see if there is anything that can be changed.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that South Caldwell High School has given an open invitation to all elected officials to attend the 2024 South Caldwell Graduation Ceremony, Thursday, May 24, 2024, at 7:30pm. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that himself and the mayor would be attending, and if any other Council Member would like to attend, just to let him know.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that there have been some issues on Trojan Lane. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that there has been a dirt bike being ridden at all hours of the day and some of the night and that residents of Trojan Lane have called him personally and have also called the Caldwell County Sheriff's Department. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he had been informed that the Caldwell County Sheriff's Department had stated they could not do anything on a street that was maintained by the Town of Sawmills. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that Town Attorney Terry Taylor and himself had gone through the Code of Ordinance Book and located the ordinances that allowed the Caldwell County Sheriff's Department to be able to handle this matter. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he will be scheduling a time with the Caldwell County Sheriff's Department to go to Trojan Lane to speak with the offender and give them the options that are available.

- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that Special Olympics have a new shirt design this year, and that he would like for Council and all town employees to give him a size so the Town can order everyone a new shirt.
- Town Manger Chase Winebarger stated that Town Attorney Terry Taylor and himself had met with CBSA Architects regarding the new Town Hall project. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that they addressed concerns and a new timeline for the project. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he has received another invoice from CBSA Architects and that he informed the architect that it would be paid as soon as Town Manager Chase Winebarger receives the correct paperwork with the reflection of the project then the Town will pay the invoice with the understanding that the architect firm pays the engineering firm for services already rendered.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

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 and remind everyone of the Town of Sawmills Memorial Day Observance Ceremony on Monday, May 27, 2024, beginning at 11:00am at the Town of Sawmills Veterans Park.

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

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00pm.

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Keith Warren, Mayor

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Julie A. Good, Town Clerk