

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024
TOWN OF SAWMILLS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
6:00PM**

COUNCIL PRESENT

Melissa Curtis, Mayor Pro Tem
Clay Wilson
Joe Wesson
Rebecca Johnson
Bobby Mosteller

STAFF PRESENT

Chase Winebarger
Julie A Good
Terry Taylor
Kelly Melton
Dustin Millsaps

COUNCIL ABSENT

Mayor Keith Warren

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

INVOCATION: Pastor Levi Addison gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Pro Tem Melissa Curtis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA: Mayor Pro Tem Melissa Curtis asked for a motion to adopt the October 15, 2024 Agenda.

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Bobby Mosteller seconded, to adopt the October 15, 2024 Agenda. All were in favor.

APPROVE SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Pro Tem Melissa Curtis asked for a motion to approve the September 17, 2024 regular meeting minutes.

Rebecca Johnson made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to approve the September 17, 2024 regular meeting minutes. All were in favor.

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

No one wished to speak.

RECOGNITIONS:

OCTOBER RECYCLE REWARDS WINNER: Mayor Pro Tem Melissa Curtis announced Benjamin Kohnle as the October Recycle Rewards Winner. A credit of forty dollars (\$40.00) will be added to the current sanitation bill.

No Council action was required.

DISCUSSION:

ADA TRANSITION PLAN: Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Town hired the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) to prepare an ADA Transition Plan for the Town, the proposed ADA Transition Plan is attached for your review.

Bobby Mosteller made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to have a public comment period for the proposed ADA Transition Plan. All were in favor.

FINANCE:

FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2024: Finance Officer Kelly Melton stated that as of September 30, 2024 that:

In the General Fund the Revenue Line item has used 17.04% (seventeen point zero-four percent) of the FY 2024/2025 budget and the Expenditures Line item has used 26.56% (twenty-six point fifty-six percent) of the FY 2024/2025 budget.

In the Water/Sewer Fund the Revenue Line item has used 16.05% (sixteen point zero-five percent) of the FY 2024/2025 budget and the Expenditures Line item has used 8.51% (eight point fifty-one percent) of the FY 2024/2025 budget.

In the Capital Project-Town Hall Line item Architect has used 18.31% (eighteen point thirty-one percent) of the FY 2024/2025 budget.

In the Capital Project-South Caldwell Sewer Pump Station Elevation Project Line item has used 11.14% (eleven point fourteen percent) of the FY 2024/2025 budget.

No Council action was required.

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

No one wished to speak.

UPDATES:

OCTOBER CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT: Town Code Enforcement Officer Curt Willis stated that there are three (3) 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 main contractor that the Caldwell County had hired was from Florida and had to go back due the second Hurricane that just landed there. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the contractor has subcontracted out the contract for the storm debris removal and that the new contractor should be going down all streets in Caldwell County for debris pick up. Town Manger Chase Winebarger stated that the debris removal should be taking place October through November 22, 2024. Town Manger Chase Winebarger stated that Sawmills Public Works will not be picking up storm debris unless the contractor does not pick it up.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that Public Works was going to add a equipment for brush removal in the FY 2025/2026 budget, however, with the latest storm and all the debris left from it, that staff has decided to try to get some of that equipment now.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the property on Lower Cedar Valley Road will no longer be developed into a neighborhood and has been put back up for sale.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that FEMA will be hosting an elected officials meeting on Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 5:30pm.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Veterans Park lights have all been installed and the Town is waiting on Duke Power to come finish connecting them. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that with the storm cleanup Duke Power is not certain when they can have the lights connected. With the delay, most of the ball games will have to continue to be played at Baird Park, which could push the season ending later.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he would like to commend County Manager Donald Duncan for the outstanding job that he did during and after the storm. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the County ran like clockwork and that Caldwell County Manager Donald Duncan kept all towns within the County up to date and in contact with everything that each Town needed.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he will be getting a list together of equipment that will be needed in case of another state of emergency.

- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that Public Works will start working on sewer rights-of-ways in the near future.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that staff is going to start looking at generators for all Town buildings.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that Josh with the Caldwell County Tax Office, will be at the December 17, 2024 Council meeting to discuss the Caldwell County Tax Revaluations that will be done in the next year and answer any questions Council may have.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that during the storm, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) lost most of their equipment due to flooding and debris, so Town in Caldwell County are signing a contract for debris removal with the NCDOT. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he has not signed the contract because he does not agree with some of the stipulations but will keep Council informed when he signs the contract.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Special Olympics softball tournament will be held at Baird Park on Saturday, October 26, 2024. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that there are seven (7) teams signed up.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that Autumn in the Park will be Saturday, October 19, 2024, with fireworks beginning at 7:30pm.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that Trunk or Treat will be Thursday, October 31, 2024, beginning at 5:30pm. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that there are four (4) churches participating this year, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Poovey's Chapel Baptist Church, Friendship Baptist Church and Harris Chapel Baptist Church.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that there has been a thirty percent (30%) increase in signups for flag football this year.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the property on the end of Kendell Place will be going up for auction October 29, 2024 at 11:00am at the Caldwell County Courthouse. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that if the property does not sell and reverts back to the Town that he would like to put a cul-de-sac at the end of the road and put the back part of the property up for sale.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he has a meeting with the architect and that he has been informed that the architect is very close to having plans finished.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

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

Joe Wesson wanted commend Town Manager Chase Winebarger on the great job he did during the storm. Joe Wesson wanted to invite everyone to the Town of Sawmills Veterans Observation on Saturday, November 9, 2024, beginning at 11:00am. Joe Wesson also wanted to thank everyone for coming and to remind everyone to vote in the November 5, 2024 election.

COUNCIL ADJOURN: Mayor Pro Tem Melissa Curtis asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:28pm.

Keith Warren, Mayor

Julie A. Good, Town Clerk