

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022
TOWN OF SAWMILLS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
6:00PM**

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keith Warren

Clay Wilson

Rebecca Johnson

Bobby Mosteller

Joe Wesson

Melissa Curtis

STAFF PRESENT

Chase Winebarger

Julie A Good

Terry Taylor

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

INVOCATION: Landon Hines gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Landon Hines led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA: Mayor Keith Warren asked for a motion to adopt the October 18, 2022 Agenda.

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Rebecca Johnson seconded, to adopt the October 18, 2022 Agenda. All were in favor.

APPROVE SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Keith Warren asked for a motion to approve the September 20, 2022 regular meeting minutes.

Rebecca Johnson made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to approve the September 20, 2022 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:

SEPTEMBER RECYCLE REWARDS WINNER: Mayor Keith Warren announced Kalie Caldwell 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.

PUBLIC HEARING: VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION FOR PARCEL NCPIN 2765859216

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Keith asked for a motion to open the public hearing.

Rebecca Johnson made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to open the public hearing. All were in favor.

STAFF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS: Mayor Keith Warren stated that the Town of Sawmills has received a petition for Voluntary Annexation from Austin Moore and Sydney Moore for one (1) parcel: NCPIN 2765859216.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one wished to speak.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Keith Warren asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

Rebecca Johnson made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to close the public hearing. All were in favor.

COUNCIL ACTION: Rebecca Johnson made a motion, and Melissa Curtis seconded to adopt the Annexation Ordinance for Austin Moore and Sydney Moore for one (1) parcel NCPIN 2765859216 to be effective October 19, 2022. All were in favor.

PLANNING:

ORDINANCE DIRECTING TOWN OFFICIALS TO VACATE AND CLOSE 4565 MILLSTONE CREEK PLACE AS 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 met with the owner of 4565 Millstone Creek Place regarding the minimum housing complaints and held a hearing for the complaints. Mayor Keith Warren stated that

Town Code Enforcement Officer Curt Willis has drafted an Ordinance Directing Town Officials to Vacate And Close 4565 Millstone Creek Place As An Imminent Danger To The Public And Directing That A Notice Be Placed Thereon That The Same May Not Be Occupied.

Rebecca Johnson made a motion, and Melissa Curtis seconded, to approve the Ordinance Directing Town Officials to Vacate And Close 4565 Millstone Creek Place 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.

DISCUSSION:

TOWN HALL POSITION (ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT): Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that since routine operations have resumed, post COVID, that he is unable to complete his more important tasks because he is constantly doing more “Administrative” tasks. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he would like to create a new full-time Administrative Position and free up a full-time position to work part-time at the front window and part-time doing the more “Administrative” duties that he is currently finding himself doing.

Bobby Mosteller made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to hire a full-time Administrative Assistant. 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:

SEPTEMBER 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 during his most recent conference, the most sessions that were covered were centered around the homeless population. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the WPCOG and Caldwell County are going to try address the current homeless population and the first meeting was held on October 7, 2022.

- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Town's Trunk or Treat event will be held Monday, October 31, 2022, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that everyone participating will need to be in place and ready for the children by 5:45pm. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that all participants are asked to bring candy and the Town will refill their candy until we run out. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Town will give out one thousand (1,000) hot dogs and have bouncy houses.
- Town Manager stated that he wanted to make Council aware that he has started giving the schools donations out of the advertising budget line item instead of having them fill out request forms and wasting Council time. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he will only do this to time sensitive donations and donations from the schools that receive them from the Town every year.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the BRIC grant will not be awarded until approximately early 2023, and the Town is still in the running for the BRUC Grant for monies for the South Caldwell Sewer Pump Station repairs.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that it has been a couple months since the Town agreed to change the contract with the WPCOG from a single Planner/Code Enforcement Contract to two (2) separate contracts, and Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he thinks it is working out very well.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Christmas Decorations will be here and in place before the next Council meeting on Tuesday, November 15, 2022. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that is the layout doesn't work that the Town will adjust it next year. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Tree Lighting and Christmas in the Market will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2022, beginning at 2:00pm.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Town will have Christmas Decorations on the light poles past Sawmills Hardware.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that construction on the inside of the new public works building has started and should be completed in the next couple months.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Town currently has eight (8) FLOCK cameras deployed and functioning. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Council has budgeted for two (2) additional FLOCK cameras and the best locations for the additional two (2) cameras are being looked at.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the materials for the Baird Park parking lot lights will be on site by the end of October. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Town is waiting on an estimate for lights to cover the T-Ball field. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the parking lot lights may cover the T-Ball field, but if not, then the Town is looking at approximately one (1) additional pole to cover the T-Ball field and Playground equipment. The light for the Playground equipment will be left on til approximately 10:00pm every night.
- Town Manger Chase Winebarger stated that in the past, the Council has picked the top five (5) business that had past due property taxes and sent them letters to get payment, but have not addressed residential properties. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that if there is a nuisance or problem property in the Town, that he

would like for the Town to start foreclosure proceedings if the properties are three (3) to five (5) or more years behind in taxes. Council agreed to start looking at residential foreclosures on a case by case basis.

- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that Parks and Recreation Director Tanner Greene gave him stats on the Park and Recreation ball programs and that there has been a one hundred and fifty-six percent (156%) increase in registrations from Spring 2021 to Fall of 2022 ball programs.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Joe Wesson wanted to encourage everyone to come out to the Town's Veterans Celebration on Saturday, November 12, 2022, beginning at 11:00am. Joe Wesson also wanted to thank Pat Greene and Kelly Price 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 Joe Wesson seconded, to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143.318-11(a)(3) at approximately 6:28pm. All were in favor.

Melissa Curtis made a motion, and Bobby Mosteller seconded, to come out of closed session at approximately 6:59pm. All were in favor.

TOWN MANAGER CONTRACT: Mayor Keith Warren asked for a vote to renew the Town Manager Contract.

Melissa Curtis made a motion, and Clay Wilson seconded, to approve the Town Manager contract with the correction of vacation time.

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00pm.

Keith Warren, Mayor

Julie A. Good, Town Clerk