

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
December 12, 2023

THE WAYNESVILLE TOWN COUNCIL held a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 6:00 pm. in the Town Hall Board Room located at 9 South Main Street Waynesville, NC.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gary Caldwell called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

Mayor Gary Caldwell
Mayor Pro Tempore Chuck Dickson
Councilmember Jon Feichter
Councilmember Anthony Sutton
Councilmember Julia Freeman

The following staff members were present:

Rob Hites, Town Manager
Jesse Fowler, Assistant Town Manager
Candace Poolton, Town Clerk
Elizabeth Teague, Director of Development
Sr. Lt. Chris Chandler
Misty Hagood, Finance Director
Assistant Fire Chief Chris Mehaffey
Police Chief David Adams
Assistant Police Chief Brandon Gilmore
Jeff Stines, Public Services Director
Lt. Billy Benhart

Members of the Media:

Becky Johnson, The Mountaineer

A. CALL TO ORDER MEETING- Mayor Gary Caldwell

Mayor Gary Caldwell called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and asked Councilmember Chuck Dickson to introduce Chief District Court Judge Roy Wijewickrama, who will be administering the oaths of office. Councilmember Dickson said that Judge Wijewickrama is a resident of Waynesville and his mother used to work for the Town.

B. MAYOR'S OATH OF OFFICE

Chief District Court Judge Roy Wijewickrama administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Gary Caldwell.

C. COUNCILMEMBERS' OATHS OF OFFICE

Chief District Court Judge Roy Wijewickrama administered the Oath of Office to Councilmembers Julia Freeman, Anthony Sutton, Jon Feichter, and Chuck Dickson.

1. Appointment of Mayor Pro Tempore

A motion was made by Councilmember Julia Freeman, seconded by Councilmember Anthony Sutton, to appoint Councilmember Chuck Dickson as the Mayor Pro Tempore. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Dickson thanked the citizens of Waynesville for their trust. He said he appreciates that each Councilmember brings something different to the table, and that they all work together. He promised that Council will work as hard as they can for the Town citizens. He stated that their goals include repairing aging infrastructure, affordable housing, maintaining small town heritage while navigating inevitable growth, and becoming more energy efficient. Councilmember Dickson said another reason he loves this Council is because they lift each other up, they love their neighbors, and they treat others with respect. He thanked all of the Waynesville staff for all the work they do and said Council couldn't do it without them.

The other Councilmembers and Mayor thanked the citizens, Council, and staff.

2. Calendar/Announcements

Mayor Gary Caldwell announced that Town offices will be closed the 25th, 26th, and 27th for the Christmas holiday. He said the next Council meeting will be January 9th, 2024.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

All items below are routine by the Town Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Councilmember so requests. In which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered with other items listed in the Regular Agenda.

- a. Motion to approve the November 14th, 2023, Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes
- b. Motion to approve Key Card Budget Amendment Ordinance No. 11
- c. Motion to approve the Agreement to purchase a portion of property known as 234 W. Marshall Street, 8616-40-7478,
to provide greenway access between the Mountain Creek greenway and Vance Street Park.
- d. Motion to amend the Town of Waynesville Fee Schedule to include a \$100 fee for application for the Town of Waynesville's Solar Interconnection Electric Fee Rate Rider.

e. Motion to approve the purchase of the utility trailer and to approve the budget amendment as presented.

A motion was made by Councilmember Anthony Sutton, seconded by Councilmember Chuck Dickson to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

E. PRESENTATION

4. Resolution Awarding Badge and Duty Weapon (handgun) to retiring Sr. Lieutenant Christopher Chandler.

- Police Chief David Adams

Mayor Gary Caldwell thanked Sr. Lt. Chris Chandler for his work with the Town and for being there for him in a time of need.

Police Chief David Adams read the resolution awarding Sr. Lt. Chris Chandler his badge and duty gun.

Lt. Sr. Chris Chandler thanked the Council for their support and said it's been an honor to serve the Town of Waynesville.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

G. COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF

5. Manager's Report

- Town Manager, Rob Hites

Nothing to report.

6. Town Attorney Report

- Town Attorney, Martha Bradley

Nothing to report.

H. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Councilmember Sutton reported that he went to Raleigh the day prior and they announced that a feasibility study will be conducted for passenger rail will going from Raleigh to Asheville. He added that he will be presenting to Council on behalf of the MPO in January and February.

I. **ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Councilmember Freeman, seconded by Councilmember Sutton, to adjourn at 6:25pm. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Gary Caldwell, Mayor

Robert W. Hites, Jr. Town Manager

Candace Poolton, Town Clerk