

REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE  
NOVEMBER 10, 1998  
TUESDAY - 7:00 P.M.  
TOWN HALL

The Board of Aldermen held a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 1998. Members present were Mayor Henry Foy, Aldermen Gary Caldwell, Kenneth Moore, Sam Wiggins and James Williamson. Also present were Town Manager A. Lee Galloway, Town Clerk Phyllis McClure and Town Attorney Michael Bonfoey. Mayor Foy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of October 7 and October 13, 1998

Alderman Caldwell moved, seconded by Alderman Moore, to approve the minutes of the October 7 and October 13, 1998 meetings as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Committee to Review Grading and Land Filling Permit

Mayor Foy reported on his selection of members to serve on the committee to review the Grading and Land Filling Permit. They are as follows:

Pat Burgin, Gary McKay, Gary MacConnell, Ron Muse, Chuck Beemer and Gary Cochran. Town Engineer/Public Works Director Fred Baker will serve on the committee regarding the engineering aspect and Planning and Zoning Manager John Swift will serve on the committee to advise on the Town's ordinances.

Alderman Wiggins moved, seconded by Alderman Moore, to approve the appointment of committee members by Mayor Foy. The motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Fund Raising Committee for Recreation Purposes

A few months ago, the Board mentioned the need to form a Special Committee with the purpose of raising funds for the Recreation Center. A list of items has been developed, totaling \$250,000, to equip the Recreation Center. These costs would come out of local funds and would not be financed by the special Endowment Fund established by the Board in 1997. The following nominees have been contacted and have expressed a willingness to serve on this committee: Bob Brannon, Kathy Lance, Kenny Mull, Steve Brown, Mary Feichter and Andy Anderson.

Alderman Williamson moved, seconded by Alderman Moore, to appoint the nominees to serve on the Special Committee to raise money for the Recreation Center. The motion carried unanimously.

### Speed Limit - Smathers Street/Sulphur Springs Road

Alderman Wiggins asked that the Police Department review the speed limits which have been posted for Sulphur Springs Road and Smathers Street and to make any recommendations for changes which they felt appropriate. The Police Department has conducted an investigation of this area and recommends that the speed limit be raised to thirty-five (35) miles per hour from the intersection of Boyd Avenue to the intersection of Fourth Street. From Fourth Street to the intersection of Commerce Street, Smathers Street should continue to be posted at twenty (20) miles per hour. Along with raising the speed limit it is recommended that "Bridge Ahead" or "Slow for Bridge" signs be posted to warn motorists. If feasible, a "Sharp Curve" sign should be placed along with the bridge signs.

Alderman Moore moved, seconded by Alderman Wiggins, to adopt an ordinance to set the speed limit on Sulphur Springs Road and Smathers Street as recommended by the Waynesville Police Department. The motion carried unanimously. (Ord. No. 35-98)

### Discussion of Asheville Road

The Haywood County Commissioners recently voted to recommend that the entire length of the soon to be constructed Asheville Road be developed as a five-lane highway. The Board of Aldermen have expressed genuine concern about the impact the road will have upon the businesses and residences abutting the reconstructed road. Other concerns are for safety and to have an attractive northern entrance into Waynesville. The consensus of the Board of Aldermen has been for the construction of a three-lane road from Marshall Street to Ratcliff Cove Road, a four-lane divided road from Ratcliff Cove Road to Howell Mill Road and a five-lane road from Howell Mill Road to Liner Cove Road. There has been discussion about some sort of compromise that will work better for those abutting the stretch of road between Howell Mill Road and Francis Farm Road. Several people attended the meeting and the following persons spoke:

Philan Medford presented photographs of a four-lane divided highway in Asheville. Ms. Medford said that she recently attended a conference in Asheville, NC entitled "Traditional Neighborhood Development". Ms. Medford expressed concern that the Asheville Road be designed for safety and stressed the importance of traffic calming items such as trees, bike lanes, sidewalks and more narrow traffic lanes. Ms. Medford said that a design was needed which would meet the needs of this diverse community.

Voni D'Angio said that she has lived in this community for twenty (20) years and felt that this issue should be looked at carefully. Ms. D'Angio said that there were several issues which need to be considered: 1) commercial interest, 2) the residential area, and 3) the need to slow traffic down coming into Town. Ms. D'Angio said that she felt that a five-lane road could be located in one area so that big trucks can maneuver, then a four-lane with a median, and a three-lane continuing into Town. She said that she has seen what happens with a five lane highway, referring to the middle lane as "suicide lane". Ms. D'Angio said that the beauty of the entranceway into Waynesville should be preserved. She suggested that the Haywood County Commissioners and the Waynesville Board of Aldermen meet to discuss and make a decision on recommending the road design.

Tom Knapko, President of the Haywood County Chamber of Commerce, said that they were in the process of polling members and will then return with a consensus and statement to the community on what they feel would be the best for the community.

Mike Plemmons said he did not think that the Town had thought about how a four-lane highway with a divided median would affect some of the property owners and businesses along Business 23. Mr. Plemmons said that he had a petition with approximately 407 signatures of persons in favor of the five-lane highway. However, he said that he was willing to compromise with a highway which would allow access for customers and deliveries to the businesses.

David Eberhardt said that he owns a business in Waynesville. Mr. Eberhardt said that he attended the meeting of the Haywood County Commissioners when they recommended the five-lane highway, and that he also attended their meeting two weeks before when they would not make a recommendation. Mr. Eberhardt said that he could not understand how a D.O.T. Engineer could base his decision solely on a recommendation of the Haywood County Commissioners. He pointed out that only one of the former Haywood County Commissioners was re-elected. Mr. Eberhardt said that D.O.T. should go to the new Haywood County Commissioners for their recommendation. He applauded the Board of Aldermen, saying that they have led the way, and asked that they continue to do so. Mr. Eberhardt said that an aesthetically pleasing highway increases property values and he felt that a four-lane road would be safer.

Roscoe Wells said that he owns a business in Waynesville. Mr. Wells said that he had spoken with Mary Ann Enloe, newly elected Haywood County Commissioner, and she expressed her willingness to work with the Town of Waynesville regarding a compromise on the widening of the Asheville Road. Mr. Wells said that he attended meetings conducted by the N.C.D.O.T. and that he recognized some of Waynesville's Board Members who attended these meetings. Mr. Wells said that the Haywood County Commissioners did not attend these meetings and he was appalled and could not understand how they could make a recommendation regarding the widening of Business 23 without hearing the public input at these meetings.

Alan Shelton, of Shelton Transport, said that he has a business and also lives on the Asheville Highway. Mr. Shelton said that the Haywood County Commissioners were asked for their recommendation because they represented Haywood County and needed to consider the traffic in Haywood County. Mr. Shelton expressed concern with a traffic circle, adding that a median would interfere with traffic flow, but he felt that the project could be done with sidewalks and trees. Mr. Shelton felt that the Haywood County Commissioners and Town of Waynesville Board of Aldermen should meet to discuss this project.

Jerry Johnson said that he lives in Haywood County but owns a couple of businesses in Waynesville. Mr. Johnson felt that people who visit Waynesville like the Downtown area, but a five lane highway could "dump" more traffic into this area, creating a loss in pedestrian traffic and causing the downtown area to lose its liveliness.

Mark Javen, said that he lives in the one mile extraterritorial jurisdiction and he felt that the issue should be discussed further before a recommendation for a compromise is made.

Susie Johnson said that she lives in Haywood County but has a business in Waynesville. Ms. Johnson said that ideas should be blended, especially since this area consists of both residences and businesses. The needs of both local people and visitors should be considered.

James Francis said that his family would be impacted by the widening of this road more than any other person attending the meeting and he did not want to see a decision made at this time. He asked that the Board consider the most practical use for this highway. Mr. Francis said that his family was in favor of a five-lane highway extending all the way to Marshall Street, because eventually that is what will happen with more traffic on this road and more people living in this area. Mr. Francis was concerned with the upkeep of a four-lane highway with a median.

Jeff London, said that his son will attend Lake Junaluska Elementary School and he would like for him to ride his bicycle to school. With a five-lane highway it would be impossible to walk or ride a bike to school.

Alderman Wiggins said that he was and continues to be in favor of a four-lane road. Alderman Wiggins said that his first concern is for safety and that he could not visualize a five-lane highway in front of Lake Junaluska Elementary School. Because of the volume of traffic and new development underway, Alderman Wiggins was also concerned about safety at the intersection of the Asheville Highway and Industrial Park Drive. His second concern was for access to this road, without having to drive east or west, for people living along this road, especially in places such as Monte Vista Drive and Simms Circle. Alderman Wiggins said that his third concern is for a non limited access four-lane road which is aesthetically pleasing. Alderman Wiggins said that the State told the Town Manager that there would be no red lights with a five-lane road, but there would be with a four-lane road, pointing out that there was not a traffic light on the five lane road in Maggie Valley nor on the five lane road coming into Waynesville at Russ Avenue. Alderman Wiggins said that there was a consensus of the Board of Aldermen for a five-lane road from Lowe's to Howell Mill Road, a four-lane road from Howell Mill Road to Ratcliffe Cove Road, then a three-lane road continuing into Waynesville. Alderman Wiggins said he felt that a five-lane road was unsafe and would not protect the citizens, however, he was not an expert in road designs, which he felt should be done by N.C.D.O.T. He also said that safety should be the first priority, then aesthetics.

Alderman Williamson said that the Lake Junaluska Elementary School should be the first priority. Safety is needed not only at the school but along the entire road. He said that the N.C.D.O.T. held public hearings to get input from the public but a lot of people did not attend those meetings. Alderman Williamson felt that the Town and Haywood County should work together toward a compromise. Alderman Williamson said that he lives on this road and realizes that this is one of the busiest roads in Haywood County. He added that he would like to see the safest and most attractive road built in this area, one which will work the best for the people.

Alderman Moore expressed concern that the N.C.D.O.T. may decide to take the money appropriated for this road and build one somewhere else. Alderman Moore felt that safety should come first in the design of this road, whether it would be a five-lane, four-lane or three-lane. The road should be designed in a manner which would not deprive businesses and people from getting in and out on the Asheville Highway.

Mayor Foy said that Mr. Dan Burden, a nationally known traffic expert, came to this area to look at Waynesville's situation. Mayor Foy said that when Mr. Burden found out about the proposed widening of the Asheville Highway he urged the Town to stop the construction of a five-lane highway. At that time Mr. Burden proposed a charette in which the proposed road was shown to business and property owners for their input, working out each section separately. Mr. Burden offered to do this for \$30,000. However, the N.C.D.O.T. would not hear of this. Changes were made by N.C.D.O.T. regarding the aesthetic approach. In their meetings, the people of Waynesville spoke out and wrote letters. This is how the proposal of a five-lane/four-lane/three-lane came to be. Mayor Foy said that the Town's Board needed to look at the plans for the proposed widening of the Asheville Highway and recommend what they feel to be in the best interest of all persons concerned.

Alderman Wiggins moved, seconded by Alderman Caldwell, to instruct the Town Manager to contact Michael Paylor with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, requesting the plans at present for the proposed Asheville Highway project (Business 23) as soon as possible, in order for the Town to create a position regarding this project. At the present time the Board feels that a five-lane from Jerry Liner Road to Howell Mill Road, four-lane from Howell Mill Road to Ratcliff Cove Road and three-lane from Ratcliff Cove Road to Marshall Street would be the most appropriate design for the Asheville Highway. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Adjournment

There being no further business, Alderman Williamson moved, seconded by Alderman Caldwell, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

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Phyllis R. McClure  
Town Clerk

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Henry B. Foy  
Mayor