

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**August 24, 2021**

**THE WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN** held a regular meeting on Tuesday August 24, 2021 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 6:02 pm with the following members present:

Mayor Gary Caldwell  
Alderman Anthony Sutton  
Alderman Jon Feichter  
Alderman Chuck Dickson

Mayor Pro Tem Julia Freeman was absent.

The following staff members were present:

Rob Hites, Town Manager  
Jesse Fowler, Assistant Town Manager  
Eddie Ward, Town Clerk  
Martha Bradley, Town Attorney  
Police Chief David Adams  
Julie Grasty Asset Services Manager  
Jeff Stines, Public Services Director

The following media representative was present:

Becky Johnson, The Mountaineer

1. Welcome/Calendar/Announcements

Mayor Gary Caldwell welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded them of the upcoming events including the Hazelwood Baptist Car show on August 28, and the Labor Day Holiday on Monday September 6.

Mayor Caldwell asked for a moment of silence for the people of the Clyde, Canton, and Cruso communities who lost lives and properties in these areas.

Town Manager Rob Hites told everyone that the Town has offered aid to these communities, and employees from the Police Department, Inspectors from the Development Services Department, and Public Services with equipment, have been in the area helping with the massive amounts of

debris and clean up. He said the Town is recording the hours that employees work and will continue to be of assistance if needed.

## **B. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Peggy Hannah  
Hemlock Street  
Waynesville, NC**

Ms. Hannah thanked the Public Service and Police staff for their efforts in working in the Cruso in the aftermath of the floods on August 17, 2021.

## **C. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- i. Adoption of minutes of the August 10th regular meeting
- ii. Adoption of minutes of the August 11th special called meeting
- iii. No Parking Sign Street Name Addendum
- iiii. Special Event Permits – Tuscola Band Day

***A motion was made by Alderman Jon Feichter, seconded by Alderman Anthony Sutton, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **D. PRESENTATION**

2. Presentation by Dr. Peter Bates (Forest Stewards) on prescribed burns
  - Rob Hites, Town Manager

Manager Hites told the Board that Dr. Bates and the North Carolina Forest Service had been in discussion concerning the need for controlled burns in several areas of the watershed. These places have too much undergrowth for the large hardwood forests that covered the watershed in the past. He said that fire promotes the germination of certain hardwoods.

Dr. Bates explained how the prescribed burning will be conducted by the North Carolina Forest Service at no charge to the Town. He said there are significant portions of the watershed where very little burning has been in the past eighty years. The prescribed burning will manage fuels

to prevent catastrophic wildfires in the future. The area that will be burned is a small area (12 acres) has been designated for an initial burn.

The Board had several questions including if there has ever been a prescribed burn get out of control. Dr. Bates said that is a rarity because the Forest Service takes into consideration the weather conditions, wind, and dryness of the property before it is burned.

Alderman Feichter asked Dr. Bates if he and the Forest Service could do a presentation for the public before the initial burn. That will be scheduled soon.

***A motion was made by Alderman Anthony Sutton, seconded by Alderman Chuck Dickson, to approve controlled burning in specific locations. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **E. NEW BUSINESS**

### **3. Greenview Drive Traffic Study**

- Jesse Fowler, Assistant Town Manager

Assistant Town Manager Jesse Fowler told the Board that the Town had been approached by a resident of Greenview Drive concerning speeding on that street. He said the 20 mile per hour sign had been posted in the past but has since been taken down sometime between 2013 and the present.

J. M. Teague Engineering completed a traffic study on Greenview Drive and found that the most vehicles are traveling between 25 – 35 miles per hour. That drive is narrow and winding with limited sight distances, the Engineer recommends that the posted speed limit be no greater than 25 miles per hour.

**Bess Crider  
Greenview Drive**

Ms. Crider spoke to the Board and said there are a lot of pedestrians on the street and that she has had to pull off on the side many times in order not to be sideswiped by other cars. She asked that the Board also look at Country Club – Longview section, and possibly put signs there too.

***A motion was made by Alderman Jon Feichter, seconded by Alderman Anthony Sutton, to post the speed limit of Greenview Drive at 20 miles per hour. The motion passed unanimously.***

**Dick Young  
Meadow Street**

Mr. Young spoke and indicated the same had happened to the Meadow Street where he lives. There was a sign there for 20 miles an hour but was taken down with no explanation. He asked the Board to consider replacing that sign with a new 20 mile an hour speed limit.

After much discussion, the consensus of the Board was to add Meadow Street to the Ordinance as a 20 mile an hour street. Signs will be placed on the street.

***A motion was made by Alderman Chuck Dickson, seconded by Alderman Anthony Sutton, to post the speed limit of Meadow Street at 20 miles an hour. The motion carried unanimously.***

4. Award Janitorial Contract for Town Facilities.

- Julie Grasty, Asset Services Manager

Julie Grasty, Asset Services Manager, brought before the Board a janitorial contract for Town facilities. She said that the current janitorial service had give notice of termination of contract for the end of August. An RFP had been sent out to eight different firms, and the lowest bid received was from Reliable Facility Group in the amount of \$68,964.00 annually.

***A motion was made by Alderman Jon Feichter, seconded by Alderman Anthony Sutton, to award the Janitorial Contract to Reliable Facility Group with the contract ending June 20, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.***

**F. COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF**

5. Manager's Report

- Jesse Fowler, Assistant Town Manager

Scheduling a closed session to conduct the annual review of the Town Manager

Assistant Manager Fowler asked the Board to schedule a closed session at the next regularly scheduled meeting to conduct the annual review of the Town Manager.

***A motion was made by Alderman Chuck Dickson, seconded by Alderman Jon Feichter, to schedule a closed session to be held at the next regularly scheduled meeting to conduct the annual review of the Town Manager. The motion carried unanimously.***

6. Golden Leaf Grant for Countywide Water Interconnection

- Town Manager, Rob Hites

Manager Hites explained to the Board that McGill and Associates has completed a Countywide study that makes the case for the Towns and Water Districts to be interconnected for fire

protection and short-term emergency water issues. The Towns do not have the storage capacity to handle a major fire or line failure without the help of neighboring municipalities. He said that currently Waynesville is interconnected with Maggie Valley, Lake Junaluska and Junaluska Sanitary District but our storage capacity limited. On a regular workday water demand at Champion, HCC, Haywood Hospital, and that area of Clyde can draw down the Tuscola Tank and reduce the water pressure in that entire area. The study recommends several improvements to the system with the most important being the interconnection of Canton with our extended water system.

Manager Hites asked to aid the County and Towns in drafting a Golden Leaf Grant request to improve the water situation around Tuscola High School. The area is about to experience substantial growth and further burden the Tuscola Tank. As for funding, the Town will not be expending its own funds in the project.

***A motion was made by Alderman Chuck Dickson, seconded by Alderman Anthony Sutton, to permit the Town staff to aide in drafting a grant for improvements to the Countywide emergency water system. The motion carried unanimously.***

7. Town Attorney Report

- Town Attorney, Martha Bradley

Attorney Bradley had nothing to report

**G. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND BOARD**

Alderman Feichter commended Alderman Sutton for the work he has done in the reorganization of the DWA. The rest of the Board agreed that he had put in a lot of time and effort in this process.

Mayor Caldwell asked Assistant Manager Fowler to begin working on the gazebo on Miller Street, the project on Depot Street, bump-outs, and a pavilion at the Recreation Center. He asked Mr. Stines to have a Tuscola High School Mountaineers banner placed on the Municipal Building.

Alderman Feichter asked about the progress of the bathrooms at the OK Park. Assistant Manager Fowler stated that the plans from Civil Design Engineers will be coming shortly. He asked Public Service Director Jeff Stines about the timeline for paving on Pigeon Street. Mr. Stines stated that the award for the contract would be this year, and paving would begin in spring 2022.

Manager Hites told the Board that Mountain Creek Plaza, formerly the Bilo store, had submitted plans for building permits for the apartment complex.

**H. ADJOURN**

***With no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Anthony Sutton, seconded by Alderman Chuck Dickson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm. The motion was approved unanimously.***

ATTEST:

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Robert W. Hites, Town Manager

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Gary Caldwell, Mayor

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Eddie Ward, Town Clerk