

03/18/22

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Wade met in regular session March 8, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. at the Clayton (Sam) House Community Center due to COVID-19 and to allow for social distancing.

Board Present

Mayor Joseph Dixon
Commissioner Johnny Sawyer
Commissioner Jennifer Weaver
Commissioner George Strater
Commissioner Kevin Herring
Commissioner Johnny Lanthorn

Visitors

Mr. Thomas Neville, Town Attorney
Ms. Delores Taylor, Cumberland County Community Development
Mr. Marion House, Community Watch President
2 Wade Citizens

Mayor Dixon called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

Agenda Adoption

Commissioner Sawyer a motion seconded by Commissioner Lanthorn to adopt the Agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Commissioner Sawyer made a motion seconded by Commissioner Lanthorn to approve the Minutes of the February 8, 2022 regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

Board Members reviewed the Reports and Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion to approve the Reports as presented. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Water Department

Board Members reviewed the Report and Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion to approve the February Water Report as presented. Commissioner Sawyer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Lanthorn questioned if testing for GenX had been performed on the Town wells. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett explained that the testing had not been done, but she was working with the representatives from Envirolink to get the testing completed. Commissioner Lanthorn also expressed interest in getting a paddle switch installed on the water tank. He explained that the switch would shut the wells down if the tank was overflowing and then would reset once the problem was corrected. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett agreed to contact Bill's Well Drilling about the cost and possible installation of the switch.

Agenda Business Items

Speakers from the Floor

Mayor Dixon informed the Board that no one had signed up to address the Board under the Speakers from the Floor agenda item.

Wade Community Watch

Mayor Dixon turned the meeting over to Mr. Marion House, president of the Wade Community Watch. Mr. House stated that he felt it was time to start having the Community Watch meetings again and that he would like some advice as to how to get the community more involved. He informed the Board that there had been reports of thieves in the area and the goal of the Community Watch was to make people feel safer. He asked the Board for ideas to get the program started back after COVID.

Commissioner Sawyer suggested using flyers announcing the meetings. Mr. House stated that flyers had been used in the past but did not seem to be successful.

Commissioner Lanthorn questioned if the group had a Facebook page or Neighbors page. Mr. House stated that the group did not use any type of social media. Mr. House stated that he would work on getting flyers out and that the meetings would again be the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Community Center. He also stated that he was looking at the meetings starting back in May. Commissioner Strater questioned if the sign at the Community Center could be used to advertise the meetings. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett explained that she would work with the maintenance employees to make sure the information was posted. Commissioner Strater also questioned if the Community Watch could have a link on the Town's webpage. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett stated that she could list the meetings as an event on the Town's page. Commissioner Lanthorn stated that in the past notice of the meetings were posted on the water bills. Mrs. Burchett agreed to continue to post meeting notices on the water bills. There was a general discussion about posting the flyers in different areas around Town.

Cumberland County Community Development

Mayor Dixon turned the meeting over to Mrs. Delores Taylor of Cumberland County Community Development. Mrs. Taylor explained that Community Development manages programs & projects that were funded through the US Department of Housing & Urban Development. She stated that each year they must prepare their Annual Action Plan that identifies projects that they plan to fund for the upcoming cycle. She informed the Board that the Town had a participation agreement with Community Development and so they liked to reach out to get input and provide updates on the programs that were being offered. Mrs. Taylor explained that each year the County received 1.2 million dollars in funding where 70% benefited citizens with income restrictions and the remaining 30% being used to eliminate slum areas or to meet urgent needs. She proceeded to explain the type of projects available to citizens -

Housing Rehabilitation Program which is a deferred forgivable loan for homeowners that can meet eligibility criteria; **Minor Repair Program** which is a grant up to \$10,000 that allows for minor repairs of a home with no payback; **Rental Rehab Program Level**

1 which is a low interest loan for the purchase of a home or repairs for property owners who serve as landlords to a low income tenant; **Rental Rehab Program Level 2** where property owners can apply for a forgivable loan if they agree to rent to special groups such as handicap or elderly; and **First Time Homebuyers** which gives up to \$25,000 for a down payment on a home.

Mrs. Taylor also stated that Community Development collaborates with builders to develop affordable housing as well as assisting with providing infrastructure & public services and special economic activities. She informed the Board that the County had programs for small businesses that have less than 250 employees where they can apply for a \$50,000 grant. Commissioner Lanthorn asked if there was a cap on income for the programs. Mrs. Taylor stated that as a homeowner there would be a cap based on the number of people in the household; however, a landlord that rented to low income did not have a cap. Commissioner Herring asked how a homeowner would apply. Mrs. Taylor stated that individuals could call Community Development or go to their webpage on the Cumberland County website. Commissioner Lanthorn asked if Wade residents had received any funding. Mrs. Taylor stated that Wade homeowners had received Housing Rehabilitation Program funding. Mayor Dixon questioned if municipalities could seek grant funds for projects at a Park such as a handicap swing. Mrs. Taylor stated that funding was available for municipalities to do Community Center and Park projects. She informed the Board that Community Development would continue to come back to the Board each year to provide updates and that her office was available anytime for questions & if there was not Community Development funding available then they would help search for other funding.

Committee Reports

Beautification – Mayor Dixon stated that the inconsistency with the weather made beautification efforts difficult and once the weather warmed up the flowers at the entrance of the Park would be planted.

Park - Mayor Dixon reported that maintenance employees were working on getting up limbs and once the weather changed, they would begin blowing and getting up the fallen leaves. He also reported that progress was being made with Parks & Recreation regarding the grant the Town received and the work that was needed to complete the multi-purpose field.

Streets – Mayor Dixon reported that the streets were in good condition. Commissioner Lanthorn questioned what could be done about the large amount of roadkill that was along the streets. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett stated that she has been trying to handle it by reporting the road debris to the NCDOT through their website as they require.

Community Center/Park Shelters

Board Members held a general discussion regarding taking paid reservations for the Community Center & shelters. Commissioner Lanthorn stated that he felt that with the mandates being lifted that the Town was at a point where reservations should be taken. Mayor Dixon stated that he would like to begin by allowing reservations for the shelters but to hold off a little longer on the building to see how things progressed. Commissioner Sawyer stated that he thought not just COVID but also people violating

the rental agreement for the building was the reason for stopping the building reservations. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett explained that the neighbors across from the building had agreed to assist with looking out for the building regarding rentals that went past 10:00 PM and the cleaning deposit was increased to \$250. She also stated that the agreement was reworded to help with some of the cleaning & other problems. Commissioner Strater stated that renters should be made aware that if the situation with COVID changed then reservations may not be honored. Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion to begin accepting reservations for the shelters and to wait until June to begin accepting reservations for use of the Community Center. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

2022 Founder's Day

Mayor Dixon explained that the Town had received funding from the Arts Council for Founder's Day. He also stated that he had spoken to Mr. Bullard about assisting with lining up vendors and that Mr. Bullard stated that other events that he had assisted with this year had been very successful. Mayor Dixon informed the Board that he was having difficulty lining up entertainment for the day and that he was considering cut the time back to 2:30 PM or 3:00 PM to stop the entertainment. He asked Board members assist with the different aspects of the event. Commissioner Weayer suggested posting information on social media and other public areas about needing vendors. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett stated that she would reach out to Mr. Bullard about the applications and the pricing and then vendors could get applications from Town Hall and then online. Mayor Dixon stated that he would work on spreading the word about Founder's Day through other media sources.

Announcements

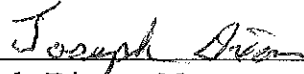
Commissioner Strater suggested using the Community Watch members to assist with Founder's Day.

Commissioner Herring suggested that the Town look into doing an updated and interactive website. He stated that eventually the Board could possibly live stream its meetings. There was a general discussion of the issue and how the Town could improve its website. Commissioner Herring agreed to assist with the website.

Adjournment

Commissioner Sawyer made a motion seconded by Commissioner Herring to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.



Joseph Dixon, Mayor



Cindy C. Burchett, Town Clerk