

05/18/22

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Wade met in regular session May 10, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. at the Wade Town Hall.

**Board Present**

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

**Visitors**

Town Attorney Thomas Neville  
Mr. Marvin Price, FTCC  
2 Wade Citizens

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

**Agenda Adoption**

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

**Minutes**

Commissioner Sawyer made a motion seconded by Commissioner Herring to approve the Minutes of the April 12, 2022 regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Reports**

Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion seconded by Commissioner Strater to approve the Reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Water Department**

Board Members reviewed the April Water Report and Commissioner Sawyer made a motion to approve the Report as presented. Commissioner Lanthorn seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**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.

**FTCC H.O.P.E. Initiative**

Mayor Dixon turned the meeting over to Mr. Marvin Price, Director of Strategic Community Initiatives for FTCC. Mr. Price informed the Board that there was a new initiative at FTCC called Hope, Opportunity, Prosperity through Education. He explained that the goal of the program was to bring resources to the citizens of the County and to

help eliminate barriers to access to resources in rural areas. Mr. Price stated that he had met with various representatives from different agencies, and it was decided that resources should be taken to the communities by creating job training programs to help citizens gain better skills and job opportunities. Mr. Price explained that the purpose in his attendance was to start the dialogue and listen to Wade to discover the needs of both individuals and employers to help build the programs that were needed in the area. He stated that the current classes were for framing, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, property management and that welding would be added at a later date. Mr. Price explained that the 9-to-11-week classes were put together for people who worked during the day and then they could get training at night to help get a boost in pay or position. He explained that FTCC works with employers to train people for positions where employees were needed. He also stated that FTCC would be reaching out to other local municipalities to establish communication to develop overall programs for the entire area. He explained that case management was a component that helped individuals determine what they would like to do by doing career assessments based on their strengths. Mr. Price stated that there was also an adult learning center to help identify adults who may have been out of school for a while and needed financial assistance. He explained that there was a program to assist with tuition and fees and may require the completion of some community service. Mr. Price informed the Board that there was a survey available through a QR code that citizens could complete in order to determine the needs of the community. Mayor Dixon invited Mr. Price to participate in Founder's Day so that he could reach more citizens and share information about the program. Board Members and Mr. Prices held a general discussion concerning the H.O.P.E. Initiative.

### **Committee Reports**

**Beautification** – Mayor Dixon informed the Board that the maintenance workers had planted the flowers at the Park entrance and were working of mulching the Park & Town Hall in preparation for Founder's Day.

**Park**–Mayor Dixon informed the Board that the issue of the work that was not being completed had been addressed with Parks & Recreation employees.

**Streets** – Mayor Dixon informed the Board that the maintenance works were working on spraying the streets for grass.

### **Don & Donna Steele Annexation**

Town Clerk Cindy Burchett presented the Board with the Certificate of Sufficiency for the Petition Requesting A Contiguous Annexation of the property owned by Don & Donna Steele as described in said petition. Board Members reviewed the information and Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion to accept the Certificate of Sufficiency. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Board Members reviewed a Resolution Fixing Date of Public Hearing on Question of Annexation Pursuant to G.S. 160A-31. Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion seconded by Commissioner Herring to approve the Resolution fixing the date of the public hearing for the Don & Donna Steele Annexation for June 14, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Recreation Service District Resolution**

Mayor Dixon explained to the Board that the Resolution was needed because the Town of Spring Lake had asked to be included in the Fayetteville-Cumberland Parks & Recreation District instead of providing their own district. Commissioner Lanthorn stated that he had attended a meeting where it was explained that there were some grey areas in the existing agreement so it was agreed that each town should adopt this resolution. Town Attorney Thomas Neville stated that the Resolution was a clean-up document to tie up loose ends and prevent future problems. Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion to adopt the Resolution Ratifying All Prior Actions Taken By The Governing Boards of Cumberland County And The Town Of Wade To Include The Town Of Wade In The Cumberland County Recreation Service District. Commissioner Sawyer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Water Fund Budget Amendment**

Town Clerk Cindy Burchett explained that the Amendment was needed to clean up Budget line items for the end of the fiscal year. Board Members reviewed the Amendment and Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion to approve Water Fund Budget Amendment 2-22. Commissioner Strater seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Tax Rate/Water Rate Increase**

Town Clerk Cindy Burchett explained that the numbers generated for the possible increases were based on the request of the Board from the April meeting. Board Members reviewed the information regarding the finances of the Water System and proposed options for rate increases. Commissioner Lanthorn stated that the age of the Water System as well as the lack of revenue previously put the System in a distressed category according to the State and so the Town's only option was to bring the revenue level up. Commissioner Sawyer expressed a concern over the rate of inflation and the possible impact on the system. Board Members held a general discussion concerning what exactly would be best. Commissioner Lanthorn stated that he knew an increase was necessary, but he would also like to be somewhat conservative. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett stated that NORCRESS was also going to do a rate increase. Board Members held a general discussion concerning this issue. Attorney Thomas Neville reminded the Board that with only \$5,000 in revenue over expenses any problem could send the Town back into the distressed category and the ramifications for the distinction would be great. Commissioner Strater stated that there were so many unknowns. Commissioner Weaver stated that the Board needed to be concerned about the future of the system. Following discussion of the issue, Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion to increase the base rate for all customers by \$2. Commissioner Sawyer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Board Members reviewed information regarding options for a tax rate increase. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett reminded the Board that out of the current .32-cent rate only .19-cent goes to the Town and the other .13-cent goes the Wade Community Fire Department. The Board held a general discussion and Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion to maintain the current .32-cent tax rate. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and motion passed unanimously.

**2022-2023 Budget**

Board Members reviewed & discussed the proposed budgets for both the General Fund and Water Fund. Following discussion of the proposed figures, Board Members advised Town Clerk Cindy Burchett to move forward with the proposed budget with the approved water rate increase.

**Founder's Day 2022**

Commissioner Strater agreed to help Town Clerk Cindy Burchett with the press and promotion of the event with the various media outlets. Commissioner Strater stated that there had been discussion about buying polo shirts for the Board Members. He explained that they could be worn at Founder's Day but also at meetings and other events when Board Members were representing the Town. He stated that the shirts would let citizens know exactly who was on the Board. A discussion was held regarding what to do with the existing T-shirts. It was agreed that selling the shirts had not been successful in the past and that perhaps they could be used as a give-a-way item at Founder's Day. Mayor Dixon stated that Eastover Trading donated a Stihl Weed Eater to use to sell raffle tickets. Mayor Dixon stated that he had finally been in contact with the South River Tractor Club, and they agreed to bring tractors to the event. Commissioner Weaver questioned the number of vendors that had signed up. Mayor Dixon stated that Mr. Bullard had not given him a definite number. Board Members agreed to have a final meeting of the Founder's Day Committee on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

**Adjournment**

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

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

*Joseph Dixon*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Dixon, Mayor

*Cindy C. Burchett*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy C. Burchett, Town Clerk