

07/26/2022

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Wade met in regular session July 12, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. at the Wade Town Hall.

Board Present

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

Visitors

Mr. Thomas Neville, Town Attorney
2 Wade Citizens

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

Agenda Adoption

Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion seconded by Commissioner Herring 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 June 14, 2022, public hearings & regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

Board Members reviewed the Reports. Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion seconded by Commissioner Sawyer to approve the Reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Water Department

Board Members held a general discussion concerning the increase in the unaccounted-for water loss percentage. Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion seconded by Commissioner Herring to approve the Report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Business Items

Speakers from the Floor

Mayor Dixon informed the Board that Felicia Swann, had signed up to address the Board under the Speakers from the Floor agenda item. Mayor Dixon turned the meeting over to Mrs. Swann. Mrs. Swann explained that she lived on Wade-Stedman Rd. outside of Townand that her family was the victim of crime in June. She stated that a trailer full of lawn equipment was stolen. She also informed the Board of another break-in that

happened in the same general area. She explained both instances were under investigation however, it took 6 days for them to be contacted by a Sheriff's Detective. Mrs. Swann stated that with very little police presence in our area, the safety of everyone was in the hands of the community, so it was imperative that awareness be brought to the citizens through a rock-solid Community Watch. She stated that having a formed concerned group would let criminals know that they were being watched. She also stated that she was disappointed when she showed up for the June Community Watch meeting only to find out that it was cancelled. Mrs. Swann stated that she was also disappointed that she left contact information so that she could be informed about the July meeting and was not contacted. She requested that options be provided for a way to publicly announce the Community Watch through a private group email or social media page. Mayor Dixon stated that he agreed with Mrs. Swann that people needed to get involved with what was happening in Wade and the surrounding area.

Commissioner Strater stated that he was the vice-president of the Community Watch and that he agreed with her comments. He explained that was working with the president of the group to correct problems and address some of her suggestions. He stated that the Community Watch group was dwindling, and they were working on revitalizing the group when COVID hit and stopped the progress. Commissioner Strater stated that the next meeting would be August 16th. He asked Mrs. Swann to put this date on her calendar and to encourage others to attend the meeting. Board Members & Mrs. Swann held a general discussion about the crimes that had been taking place and the progress in identifying possible suspects. Mrs. Swann stated that she would be willing to work & help with the Community Watch in any way possible. Board Members asked Mrs. Swann to please provide any information and pictures that she had regarding the instances that took place. Commissioner Herring stated that this type of information could be shared with the Community Watch so that citizens could be on the lookout. Mayor Dixon thanked Mrs. Swann for her input.

Committee Reports

Beautification – No report was given.

Park – Mayor Dixon reported that the Park was in good shape. There was a general discussion concerning the operation of the splash pad.

Streets – Mayor Dixon informed the Board that streets were still in good condition.

Mileage Reimbursement Rate

Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion to approve an increase in the 2022 IRS Mileage Reimbursement Rate from .58 ½-cent per mile to .62 ½-cent. Commissioner Sawyer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Clayton (Sam) House Community Center Rental

Mayor Dixon explained that Parks & Recreation staff had suggested that the rental for the Community Center was too low. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett explained that there was a problem with renter's not cleaning the building despite paying a \$250.00 cleaning deposit. There was a general discussion concerning how to correct this issue. Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion to charge a \$450 cleaning deposit & \$300 rental for in-town residents and \$325 for out-of-town residents for the Community Center. Commissioner Strater expressed concern with increasing the fees drastically because it

may make people not want to rent the facility and the increase in fees still may not get people to clean. Commissioner Lanthorn expressed concern with the amount of time that Town maintenance employees would have to spend cleaning the building if there was a drastic problem. Following discussion, the motion made by Commissioner Lanthorn failed due to lack of a second for approval. Commissioner Lanthorn then amended his motion to state that the Town would continue the \$50 key deposit, raise the cleaning deposit to \$300 & raise the rent to \$300 for in-town and \$325 for out-of-town. Commissioner Sawyer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Board Members agreed that the changes would be effective immediately.

Announcements

Mayor Dixon informed the Board that they were being presented with amended copies of the Town of Wade Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance which included the changes the Board requested regarding the zero-lot line component and the 160D changes to the Zoning Ordinance that the Town was required to approve. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett explained that the Board received the information so that they could be prepared for the public hearing regarding the changes to these documents that would be held in August. She asked that Board Members review the documents prior to the meeting and get back to her with any questions or concerns. Town Attorney Thomas Neville also agreed to review the documents and offer his opinion and concerns if necessary. There was a general discussion of the issue.

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
Joseph Dixon, Mayor

Cindy C. Burchett
Cindy C. Burchett, Town Clerk