

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Wade met in regular session December 12, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. The location of the meeting was changed from the Wade Town Hall to the Clayton (Sam) House Community Center.

**Board Present**

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

**Visitors**

Reverend Michael Naylor, Wade Baptist Church  
Representative Diane Wheatley  
James Baker, Retired Cumberland County Assistant DA  
Reverend Joe Hickson, Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church  
Mr. Thomas Neville, Town Attorney  
Commissioner Elect Beth Ritchie  
Commissioner Elect Huell Aekins  
Approximately 35 Wade Citizens & Board Family Members

Mayor Joseph Dixon called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Reverend Michael Naylor of Wade Baptist Church opened the meeting 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 November 14, 2023 regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Reports**

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

**Water Department**

Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion seconded by Commissioner Herring to approve the November Water Report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Agenda Business Items**

### **Speakers from the Floor**

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

### **Special Presentation**

Mayor Dixon recognized Commissioner George Strater for his years of service to the Town of Wade. He then presented Commissioner Strater with a plaque and gift as a token of appreciation from the Town. Commissioner Strater stated that it was an honor to serve the Town and that he would find other avenues for service in the community. Commissioner and Mayor Elect Johnny Lanthorn commended Mayor Joseph Dixon for his 28 years of service to the Town as a Board Member and as Mayor. He congratulated and thanked him for his accomplishments and hard work. Commissioner Lanthorn read a Resolution of Appreciation in Honor of Mayor Dixon and his years of service. He presented a framed copy of the Resolution to Mayor Dixon. Commissioner Lanthorn also presented Mayor Dixon with an engraved clock and gift as a token of appreciation from the Town. Mayor Dixon thanked Board Members and made remarks to the Council and to all in attendance.

### **Announcements**

No were no announcements.

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Herring made a motion seconded by Commissioner Sawyer to adjourn the 2021-2023 Wade Town Council. The motion passed unanimously.

### **2023-2025 Wade Town Council – Oaths of Office**

NC House Representative Diane Wheatley greeted Board Members and their families. She then proceeded to administer the Oath of Office to Commissioners Kevin Herring, Johnny Sawyer, and Jennifer Weaver & to Commissioners Elect Huell Aekins & Beth Ritchie for the 2023-2025 term. Representative Wheatley then administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Elect Johnny Lanthorn for the 2023-2025 term. Representative Wheatley congratulated the newly sworn Mayor and Board Members.

### **Call To Order**

Mayor Lanthorn called the 2023-2025 Wade Town Council to order.

### **Charge to Council**

Mayor Lanthorn introduced retired Cumberland County Assistant DA James Baker to present the Charge to the Council as they begin their service to the citizens of the Town. Mr. Baker began by thanking Mayor Dixon for his dedicated service and by commenting on some of the things that had been accomplished in the Town during the 28 years he served on the Board. Mr. Baker encouraged the Board to fulfill their duties to the best of their ability and to lead by the example set by Mayor Dixon and others. He closed by thanking Board Members for their service.

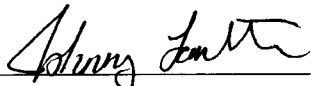
**Benediction**

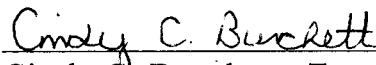
Reverend Joe Hickson of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church also thanked Mayor Dixon for his service to the Town and commented about the kind of person that he had noted him to be in the community and well as in church. Reverend Hickson closed the ceremony in prayer and offered a blessing over the refreshments.

**Adjournment**

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

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

  
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Johnny Lanthorn, Mayor

  
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Cindy C. Burchett, Town Clerk