

03/18/25

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Wade met in regular session March 11, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. at the Wade Town Hall.

Board Present

Mayor Johnny Lanthorn
Commissioner Johnny Sawyer
Commissioner Jennifer Weaver
Commissioner Beth Ritchie
Commissioner Kevin Herring
Commissioner Huell Aekins

Visitors

Mr. Thomas Neville, Town Attorney
2 Wade Citizens

Mayor Lanthorn called the meeting to order and Commissioner Aekins opened with prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

Agenda Adoption

Commissioner Herring 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 Aekins to approve the Minutes of the February 11, 2025 regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

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

Water Department

Board Members reviewed the Report and discussed the unaccounted-for water percentage. Commissioner Aekins made a motion to approve the February Water Report as presented. Commissioner Sawyer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Business Items

Speakers from the Floor

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

Committee Reports

Beautification – No report was presented.

Park - Mayor Lanthorn informed the Board that Parks & Recreation had painted the outside of the Community Center. Commissioner Sawyer questioned if there was substantial wear and tear on the inside of the building with it being rented out. Mayor Lanthorn stated that the inside of the building was in good shape. He also reported that the maintenance employees were cleaning up the pine straw and debris that had fallen during the winter months. Mayor Lanthorn informed the Board that he had spoken to Commissioner Kirk Deviere about making an inquiry as to why the work on the multi-purpose field had not been completed. He explained that the tap for the irrigation was installed and so now workers must come and put the irrigation system in the field.

Streets – No report was presented.

Approval of Audit Contract

Board Members reviewed the Contract to Audit from S. Preston Douglas & Associates. Mayor Lanthorn informed the Board that the price for the audit had not increased from the previous year. Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the contract to perform the audit for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in the amount of \$14,500. Commissioner Aekins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Online Payments

Board Members reviewed a proposal from Howard Piland from Pilanet LLC for technology services to assist the Town in establishing the acceptance of online payments through Truist Bank. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett explained that Mr. Piland was the person who assisted the Town with hosting & maintaining the Town's website. She explained that Mr. Piland had been working directly with Truist and would be able to establish two different links through the same payment processor on the Town's website, one for utility payments and one for Founder's Day. Mrs. Burchett also stated that the cost of the service would be passed on to the customers and at present the proposed cost according to Truist would be 2%. Board Members held a general discussion of the issue and Commissioner Sawyer made a motion to accept the proposal from Pilanet LLC for \$960. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Staggered Term Limits

Mayor Lanthorn reminded Board Members that this issue had been discussed in May of 2024 with the idea that it would be addressed later. Board Members reviewed the information made available by Town Attorney Thomas Neville. Mr. Neville explained that the General Statutes allowed a Charter change for this purpose. He explained the process that would need to be followed to meet the necessary notice deadlines. He stated that he had prepared a Resolution of Intent that would allow for the election of the Mayor for a 4-year term and the election of the Commissioners to 4-years with staggered terms. Mr. Neville proceeded to explain how the initial and subsequent terms would be filled beginning with the 2025 election. Commissioner Aekins made a motion to approve the Resolution of Intent to Consider an Ordinance Amending the Charter for

the Town of Wade Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 160A-101, 102 and N.C.G.S. 160A-146. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

2025 Founder's Day

Mayor Lanthorn stated that the committee had met on February 27th. There was a general discussion concerning vendors. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett stated several departments from Cumberland County had expressed interest in being a vendor. She also stated that the vendor applications were available on the Town's website. Commissioner Ritchie stated that she would be emailing vendor applications to the vendors that were a part of the 2024 event. It was agreed that the next Founder's Day Committee meeting would be March 13th at 7:00 P.M. Mayor Lanthorn informed the Board that he had recruited three cake judges: Representative Diane Wheatley, Commissioner Kirk Deviere and Senator Tom McInnis.

Announcements

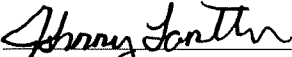
Mayor Lanthorn presented Board Members with information regarding the 2025 Property Revaluation. He informed the Board that it was his opinion that the County Commissioners were looking at lowering the tax rate. There was a general discussion concerning the issue.

Town Clerk Cindy Burchett reminded Board Members that the National Day of Prayer event would be May 1st at 11:00 A.M.

Adjournment

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

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.



Johnny Lanthorn, Mayor



Cindy C. Burchett, Town Clerk