

4/15/25

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Wade met in regular session April 8, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. at the Wade Town Hall.

**Board Present**

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

**Visitors**

Mr. Thomas Neville, Town Attorney  
2 Wade Citizens

Mayor Johnny 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 Aekins to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Minutes**

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2025 regular session. Commissioner Aekins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Reports**

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

**Water Report**

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the Water Report and Commissioner Aekins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. There was a general discussion concerning a leak at the Covington Lane tandem well site.

**Agenda Business Items**

**Speakers From the Floor**

Mayor Lanthorn informed Board Members 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 stated that the maintenance employees were working very hard on getting the Park cleaned up and ready for Founder’s Day. He also informed the Board that Parks & Recreation employees were working on completing the installation of the irrigation system on the multi-purpose field so that the sod could be installed.

**Streets**– Mayor Lanthorn reported that the streets were good shape.

## **Water Fund Budget Amendment No. 1-25**

Board Members reviewed the Amendment. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett explained that the Amendment was necessary because the Town performed testing on water samples for PFAs that were not covered by the normal testing conducted by Envirolink. Commissioner Aekins made a motion to approve Water Fund Budget Amendment No. 1-25. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

## **2025-2026 Budget**

Mayor Lanthorn stated that it was time to begin the discussion of the 2025-2026 budget issues. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett explained that she needed to have a preliminary budget ready for May and so it was necessary to know how the Board wished to proceed with key budget issues. Mayor Lanthorn explained that the Town was at the mercy of Cumberland County until the County tax rate was established. Based on this fact, Board Members agreed to move forward with the existing .32 cent tax rate. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett reminded Board Members that there was an overall 5-year plan to increase water rates each year by .10-cent per 1,000 gallons. She also informed the Board that the Impact Fee for water taps had been the same since it was implemented and that with new development this might be a way for the Town to generate additional revenue to update the system. Board Members held a discussion regarding this issue and the amount that should be considered for the increase. Board Members agreed to move forward with the .10-cent increase for water rates and a \$200 increase for Impact Fees across the Board. Following discussion of these issues, Town Clerk Cindy Burchett explained that she would use the current figures as well as the changes discussed to prepare a proposed budget for the May meeting.

## **Amendment To The Sales Tax Distribution Interlocal Agreement**

Mayor Lanthorn stated the Town, and other municipalities had been dealing with the issue of the distribution of Sales Tax for more than 10 years. Town Attorney Thomas Neville informed the Board that he had reviewed the document. Board Members reviewed and discussed the agreement. It was agreed that the Town had no choice but to approve the amendment in order to continue to receive any of the funds. Commissioner Aekins made a motion to approve the Amendment to the Sales Tax Distribution Agreement with Cumberland County. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

## **Proclamations**

Board Members reviewed Proclamations for the 56th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week and for the National Day of Prayer. Commissioner Herring made a motion

seconded by Commissioner Ritchie to adopt the Proclamations. The motion passed unanimously.

### **National Day of Prayer/Founder's Day**

Mayor Lanthorn stated that he had confirmed the participation of several ministers for the event, however he was still awaiting a response from some of the ministers he had contacted. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett informed the Board that the Wade Family Medical Center would be working closely with the Town for the event by decorating and assisting with the refreshments. She also stated that Mrs. Margaret Covington, CEO of Stedman Wade Health Services, had lined up a musical performer for the event.

Mayor Lanthorn reminded Board Members of the Founder's Day Committee meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. He stated that vendor applications were coming in and that the online app would hopefully soon be available.

### **Announcements**

Mayor Lanthorn presented the Board with a status report from Mr. Tony Porter from Mid-Carolina Regional Council for inspections & violations within the Town. A general discussion was held with Attorney Thomas Neville regarding fines, liens & judgements against properties with violations.

Commissioner Ritchie stated that she was glad that one of the roundabouts had been removed. She also stated that she was working on information for the next Founder's Day meeting.

Mayor Lanthorn stated that he was interested in purchasing a few pieces of equipment for the new budget including a pine straw rake and a rock bucket.

### **Adjournment**

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Cindy C. Burchett  
Cindy C. Burchett, Town Clerk

Johnny Lanthorn  
Johnny Lanthorn, Mayor