



## Town Council Regular Meeting - Minutes

Monday, February 24, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, 30 S. Main St. Weaverville, N.C.

The Town Council held a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, February 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers at Town Hall, 30 S. Main Street, Weaverville, N.C.

### 1. Call To Order

Mayor Fitzsimmons called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Councilmembers present: Mayor Patrick Fitzsimmons and Vice Mayor John Chase, Councilmembers Doug Jackson, Michele Wood, Peter McGuire, and Dee Lawrence. Council Member Cordell was absent.

Staff members present: Town Attorney Michael Frue, Interim Town Manager Scottie Harris, Planning Director James Eller, Public Works Director Dale Pennell, Water Plant Superintendent Randall Wilson, Finance Director Tonya Dozier, Town Clerk Tamara Mercer, Planner Graham Crawford, Community Center Director Mike DeSerio, and A/V Coordinator Lauren Ward.

### 2. Public Hearing

Mayor Fitzsimmons opened the public hearing for proposed amendments to Town Code Chapter 20 concerning parking requirements, tree conservation, and setbacks.

No one in attendance offered any comment on the matter and no online submissions were made.

Mayor Fitzsimmons declared the public hearing closed without objection.

### 3. Approval/Adjustments to the Agenda

Mayor Fitzsimmons asked if anyone had any adjustments to the agenda. There being none the Mayor called for action to approve the agenda.

*Motion to approve the agenda as presented*

*Moved by:* John Chase

**Aye** Peter McGuire, Doug Jackson, Dee Lawrence, Patrick Fitzsimmons, John Chase, and Michele Wood

**Carried unanimously. 6-0**

### 4. Conflict of Interests Statement

Mayor Fitzsimmons stated that it is the duty of the Mayor and every Town Councilmember to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts. No member had any known conflict of interest

or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters on the agenda for tonight's Town Council meeting.

## 5. Consent Agenda

Interim Town Manager Scottie Harris reviewed the consent agenda.

*Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, but with a correction to the minutes under item 4.4.*

*Moved by:* Doug Jackson

**Aye** Peter McGuire, Doug Jackson, Dee Lawrence, Patrick Fitzsimmons, John Chase, and Michele Wood

**Carried unanimously. 6-0**

- 4.1 Minutes of Town Council Regular Meeting Dec. 16, 2024 – *approved as presented*
- 4.2 Minutes of Town Council Special Called Meeting Jan. 17, 2025 - *approved as presented*
- 4.3 Minutes of Town Council Regular Workshop Meeting Jan. 21, 2025 - *approved as presented*
- 4.4 Minutes of Town Council Regular Meeting Jan. 27, 2025 - *approved as amended to state that the NDO was adopted but enforcement mechanism is to be brought back*
- 4.5 Minutes of Town Council Special Called Meeting Jan. 28, 2025 - *approved as presented*
- 4.6 Minutes of Town Council Special Called Meeting Jan. 29, 2025 - *approved as presented*
- 4.7 Minutes of Town Council Special Called Meeting Jan. 30, 2025 - *approved as presented*
- 4.8 Minutes of Town Council Special Called Meeting Feb. 1, 2025 - *approved as presented*
- 4.9 Monthly Tax Report, Refunds/Releases - *approved as presented*
- 4.10 Budget Amendment - Public Works and Police - *approved as presented*
- 4.11 Response Letter to LGC – Water Asset Depreciation – *approved as requested*
- 4.12 Law Enforcement Mutual Assistance/Aid Agreements - *resolution adopted and agreements approved as presented*
- 4.12 Storm Debris Removal – Amendment #1 and #2 to SDR Agreement - *approved as presented*
- 4.13 Uniform Guidance Procurement Policy and Micro-Purchase Resolution – *approved and adopted as presented*
- 4.14 Code Amendments to Ch. 20 – MultiFamily – *public hearing set for 3/24/25 at 6 pm*
- 4.15 Proclamation Honoring Black History Month - *approved as presented*

## 6. Interim Town Manager's Report

Interim Town Manager Harris provided his report which included updates or information on the following:

- Arbor Day Celebration
- Federal Funding Request for Community Projects
- Citizens Academy
- Budget Calendar
- Dry Ridge Historical Museum Report
- MSD Weaverville Pump Station Update
- Parking Lot Paving
- FEMA Recovery Center and Private Property Debris Removal (PPDR)
- Water Wheel Update

## 7. Public Comment

Jeff McKenna, Town resident on Yost Street, addressed the non-discrimination ordinance considered at the February Council meeting, further concerns of his included: other municipalities that have adopted NDOs; responsibility and costs to small businesses; the Town's enforcement mechanisms and administrative costs; and coverage and liability for unexpected circumstances.

Judy Craggs, Chair of the Dry Ridge Historical Museum and Town resident, addressed the Town's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and noted future commemorative events are planned for the summer. She welcomes suggestions and funding. She added that Roberta Flack, who is related to the Flacks of Weaverville, passed away today.

Phil Barnett, Chair of the WEDAC and Town resident, indicated that a subcommittee has been working with Keith Davis, the owner of 115 Reems Creek Road (formerly Balcrank) on some potential new uses/tenants for the building including an artist consortium/enclave, Grail Moviehouse Theatre, and Dreams Center for a warehouse distribution center. Contamination evaluation of the property appears to only be a de minimus amount of contaminants and will likely lead to it being released from further environmental monitoring, stated Mr. Barnett.

## 7. Discussion & Action Items

### 7.1 Town of Weaverville's 150 Year Anniversary

Mayor Fitzsimmons read a proclamation for the Town's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its original incorporation on March 16, 1875 and indicated that the Dry Ridge Historical Museum is already planning some events/activities to help Weaverville mark this milestone.

### 7.2 WBA St. Patrick's Day Event – Road Closure and Social District Approvals

The WBA has planned a St. Patrick's Day event to be held on Sunday, March 16, from 2 pm to 6 pm. To accommodate their planned activities they are requesting a road closure of a portion of Florida Avenue and a portion of Merchants Alley and a social district for this event.

*Motion to adopt the Road Closure Ordinance and the Ordinance Creating an Event-Specific Social District for the WBA St. Patrick's Day Event to be held on March 16, 2025*

*Moved by: Dee Lawrence*

**Aye** Peter McGuire, Doug Jackson, Dee Lawrence, Patrick Fitzsimmons, John Chase, and Michele Wood

**Carried unanimously. 6-0**

**7.3 Fire Department Quarterly Report**

Deputy Fire Chief Michael Hunter provided the Fire Department's quarterly report, highlighting the incident numbers, overlapping call volumes, and response times as a indicating the increasing demand on the Fire Department. Deputy Chief Hunter answered a question regarding quick response vehicles (like an SUV) and said that they are useful in certain situations but they do require personnel to drive them. 50% of their call volume is medical calls that could be handled with a quick response vehicle, but with limited staffing that would pull personnel off of the larger trucks rendering them unusable for a secondary call. WFD continues to work with the Reems Creek Valley Fire Department in looking for ways to provide emergency services in that area.

**7.4 Police Department Quarterly Report**

Police Chief Oberlin presented the Police Department's quarterly report. She noted that there is normally a decrease in activity around the holidays and when it is bitterly cold. She provided an update on the investigative findings of the District Attorney and the SBI concerning the officer involved shooting which cleared the officer and allowed him to return to duty. A mental health care professional has been embedded in the Department and has supported this officer and others. She shared that the Riley Howell award was recently presented to Derek Woodbury of Publix for his quick actions, bravery, and heroism that likely saved someone from bodily harm or death in the Publix parking lot. Lastly, she provided a brief update on a shooting death in the Walmart parking lot involving juveniles and used that example to highlight the resilience of WPD employees and her gratitude for the WFD and all of the many other agencies that provided assistance during the recent extraordinary circumstances.

**9. Closed Session**

Attorney Frue requested that Town Council go into closed session as allowed by: N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3), to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged; N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(5), to establish or instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract; and N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6), to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee.

*Motion to enter into closed session citing N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3), N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(5), and N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6) at approximately 6:45 p.m.*

*Moved by:* John Chase

**Aye** Peter McGuire, Doug Jackson, Dee Lawrence, Patrick Fitzsimmons, John Chase, and Michele Wood

**Carried unanimously. 6-0**

**[CLOSED SESSION]**

*Moved to exit closed session and to re-enter open session at approximately 7:35 p.m.*

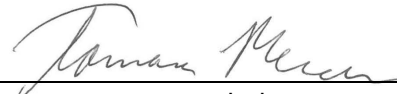
*Moved by:* John Chase

**Aye** Peter McGuire, Doug Jackson, Dee Lawrence, Patrick Fitzsimmons, John Chase, and Michele Wood

**Carried unanimously. 6-0**

**10. Adjournment**

There being no further business and without objection, Mayor Fitzsimmons adjourned the regular meeting at 7:36 p.m.



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Tamara Mercer, Town Clerk



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Patrick Fitzsimmons, Mayor