

Minutes of Special Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.
Joint Meeting with Town of Weddington

The Union County Board of Commissioners provided notice, in accordance with the North Carolina General Statutes, that it would hold a joint meeting with the Weddington Town Council on Monday, March 9, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. at the Weddington Town Hall located at 1924 Weddington Road, Weddington, North Carolina 28104. The following were

PRESENT: Vice Chair Kim Rogers, Commissioner Tracy Kuehler, and Commissioner A. Parker Mills, Jr. (joined the meeting at approximately 6:32 p.m.)

ABSENT: Chairman Lanny Openshaw and Commissioner Allan Baucom

ALSO PRESENT: Al Greene, County Manager, and Lynn G. West, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, members of the press, and interested citizens

PRESENT FROM
TOWN OF

WEDDINGTON: Mayor Nancy D. Anderson, Councilmembers L. A. Smith, Tommy Price and Jerry McKee, Town Attorney Anthony Fox, Finance Officer Leslie Gaylor, and Town Administrator/Clerk Amy S. McCollum

ABSENT FROM
TOWN OF

WEDDINGTON: Mayor Pro Tem Robert Gilmartin

Mayor Anderson called the March 9, 2009, Special Town Council Meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m., and a quorum was established.

A quorum of the Board of Commissioners was not present at this time.

Mayor Anderson presented the Commissioners present with a packet of information which included contact information for the Council and staff and history of the Town.

The Town Council began its presentation of the Town's goals and short-term plans which included development of a Local Area Regional Transportation Plan (LARTP) and development of downtown core with library as the anchor. There was discussion about the establishment of a Union County Transportation Advisory Board and its purpose.

Commissioner Mills joined the meeting at approximately 6:32 p.m., at which time a quorum of the Board of Commissioners was established, and Vice Chair Rogers called the special meeting of the Board to order at this time.

Councilmember Smith stated that the consensus of Weddington's Downtown Committee appears to be a possible connection road from Highway 16 to Weddington-Matthews Road.

Vice Chair Rogers asked if there would be anything required of the County in order to have the connection road. Mayor Anderson responded about the need for water and sewer and the Town's desire for a library.

Commissioner Mills mentioned briefly that the County is pursuing a Conditional Use Permit with the Town in the near future for a possible water tower.

Councilmember Smith stated that the biggest way that the County could help the Town would be through construction and development of a library. Mayor Anderson said they want to build what they can afford.

Councilmember Price stated that the Town has worked very hard to maintain its residential rural character and the set aside of open space. He shared that the Town has sent out several surveys and the results returned show that the biggest draws to Weddington are low taxes, rural character, and good schools.

Mayor Anderson said that fire districts are a topic that comes up every year for the Town. She said she knows there have been starts and stops on fire districts. She asked the Board of Commissioners for its comments.

Commissioner Kuehler responded that the County has commissioned a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a fire study that should come before the Fire Commission on March 31st and then to the Board of Commissioners. She said the fire study should address what is the best course of action. She said that they are looking at June of 2010 for any implementation.

Councilmember Price stated that one of the Town's issues is that many of its residents are paying twice for fire service. He said that Providence Fire Department and the Town's Police Department are two of the town's biggest expenditures of property taxes.

Mayor Anderson said that the goal of the town officials is to provide the best possible fire service and for the volunteer fire departments to cooperate rather than to compete.

Commissioner Kuehler stated that it has been requested that the study address adequate service, appropriate funding, and adequate fire lines.

Mayor Anderson stated that the next agenda item is discussion on suggestions for county process improvements that will assist the Town of Weddington. She stated that when the Town calls the County's staff, they receive excellent response. She said the County staff has always been professional and courteous. Further, she stated that she finds the MCIC meetings to be very helpful. She said that the Town would like to be notified when County utilities are being run into the Town.

She said that water and sewer had been mentioned tonight, and she hoped that the County is looking at water conservation issues such as the purple pipe technology and the use of reclaimed water. She said that she had talked with Public Works several times about a water tank versus a water tower. She said that she thought if it were a ground level tank, it would be much easier to deal with.

Commissioner Mills explained that the elevated tanks take the pumps off line. He said that if a major pump is lost, the service area would be without water three to four days while the pump is being replaced.

Vice Chair Rogers said that she did not have an opportunity to comment at the beginning of the meeting since there was not a quorum of the Commissioners present, but the purpose of these meetings is for the Board to come to listen to the Towns. She said the first step is for the Board of Commissioners to understand the Town's issues and how the County can help. She stated that the joint meeting was really not for the Board of Commissioners to speak but for it to listen to the Town and to come away from the meeting with some issues that the Board of Commissioners can work on and come back to the Town. She said that what she had heard tonight was their mention of transportation with the Local Area Regional Transportation Plan (LARTP), and the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB).

Further she said that she heard discussion from the Town about parks and libraries. She said they had mentioned fire districts, the fire study, and better communications.

Commissioner Kuehler said that there are some pressing issues that will force the Board of Commissioners and the Town to work together in the future.

Commissioner Mills apologized for being late to the meeting but said that he had strong ties to Weddington.

Vice Chair Rogers said that she would type up notes from this meeting and send to the Town. She asked that if she had missed any of the issues or if there are other comments that the Town wanted to add to the list, to please do so. She stated that the Board of Commissioners was not going to drop these discussions, and, hopefully, some of these matters would come to fruition.

Mayor Anderson stated that she had one other comment about when the sewer allocation policy was formed and the capacity at Six-Mile Creek was taken from Weddington, which she understands the land is not being developed and is being foreclosed, and sent elsewhere in the County. She asked if the allocation stayed with the property. Commissioner Kuehler responded that this matter was being studied.

With there being no further discussion, at approximately 6:55 p.m., Commissioner Mills moved to adjourn the special meeting of the Board of Commissioners. The motion was passed by a vote of three to zero. Vice Chair Rogers, Commissioner Kuehler, and Commissioner Mills voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Openshaw and Commissioner Baucom were not present.

Councilmember McKee moved to adjourn the March 9, 2009, Special Town Council Meeting. The motion passed with the votes recorded as follows:

Ayes: Councilmembers Smith, Price and McKee

Nays: None