

June 23, 2014
Wendell Town Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

The Wendell Town Board of Commissioners held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, June 23, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioner's Meeting Room with Mayor Timothy A. Hinnant presiding. Present at the meeting were Commissioners Sam Laughery; Virginia Gray; Jon Lutz; James Parham; and John Boyette; Manager Teresa Piner; Town Clerk Jonnie Driver; Finance Director Butch Kay; Police Chief Bill Carter; Public Works Director Alton Bryant; Planning Director David Bergmark, Planner Patrick Reidy; and IT Administrator Tamah Hughes.

Mayor Hinnant called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed the guest.

Police Chief Bill Carter led the Pledge of Allegiance and Reverend Bob Al Britton of Wendell United Methodist Church led the invocation.

Adjustment and approval of the agenda

Commissioner Parham made a motion to approve the agenda as written. The vote was unanimous 5-0.

Item 1 – Public Comment Period

No public comments were made.

Item 2 – Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the Minutes from Tuesday, June 3, 2014 Special Called Meeting.
- b. Approval of the Wake County Tax Report for April 2014
- c. Approval of the Minutes from Monday, June 9, 2014

Commissioner Parham made a motion to approve the consent agenda as written. The vote was unanimous 5-0.

Item 3 – Approval of the Town of Wendell FY 2014-2015 Budget

Manager Piner stated the information for the budget was included in the agenda packets for the commissioner's, but she would be glad to answer any questions.

Commissioner Laughery said the amount we are taking out of the Fund Balance is \$125,000 which includes the upgrades to Town Hall and the electronic message board. Mrs. Piner said that is correct. He asked what the estimated Fund Balance for the end of the year was. Mrs. Piner said approximately 45% of the total expenditures which is unaudited, but when the audit starts we will know more.

Commissioner Parham made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget as presented. The vote was unanimous 5-0.

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Item 4 – Review and approval on a budget amendment on the FY 2013-2014 Budget.

Mrs. Piner said for audit purposes, the town will need to adopt the proposed budget ordinance amendment for FY 2013-2014 to true-up the various line items within each department. The amendment is used to eliminate the negative line items within each department. This is the normal end of the year process to help prepare for the annual audit.

Mrs. Piner stated there was an increase in General Fund Revenues for the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 by \$256,380. These increased revenues came from DMV Tax Revenue, Privilege Licenses which were not included in the budget due to the legislative talks about doing away with the privilege license, Local Option Sales Tax has continued to slowly increase and the Grant for the U-5323TIA project that was not completed in this fiscal year so it will carry over to the next fiscal year.

Mrs. Piner stated there were expenditures that were not accounted for the HVAC Units at the Community Center, Windows at Town Hall, Computers, Legal Fees, snow removal, the welcome sign, employee one-time payouts and the Harvest Festival Band.

Commissioner Parham made a motion to approve the FY 2013-2014 Budget Ordinance Amendment. The vote was unanimous 5-0.

Item 5 – Review and discussion of the revised memorandum of understanding between CAMPO and the Town of Wendell

Planning Director David Bergmark stated the board is asked to review this information, it will be on the July 14, agenda for action. He said the capital areas boundary was expanded further into Johnson County to include Archer Lodge, Federal Transit Administration and Federal Rail Administration were also invited as stakeholder agencies so we have to update the Memorandum of Understanding to include those new parties.

Item 6 – Review and discussion of potential Locally Administered Project Program (LPP) for the Town of Wendell.

David said the Wendell Planning Department staff submitted a highway project during the FFY 2014 LAPP program to address the operation and safety concerns of the Wendell Boulevard/Selma Road/Old Wilson Road intersection. He said due to budgetary constraints, the Town Board decided in February of 2013 to withdraw its LAPP project submittal from consideration.

David said I have included three potential projects to see what kind of feedback the board might give

- (1) 231/Wendell Blvd. Intersection Improvement (alternative 2)

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- (2) Sidewalk Installation on Wendell Boulevard from Academy to IGA
- (3) Wendell Boulevard/Buffalo Street Intersection Improvements

Mayor Hinnant said he thought the project at Wendell Boulevard and Buffalo Street would require the least amount of Town Funds. David said that is correct.

Commissioner Laughery said I think thy also recommended the closing of Wall Street. David said correct. Commissioner Laughery said I had asked David to look at the DOT TIP list and see if there was a project to put a road between 231 and 264. David said it was not on the TIP, but it was on the MTP which is their long range plan and this connection is in the post 2040 which is in the far distance.

There was no further discussion and everyone was in support of recommending Buffalo Street/Wendell Boulevard.

Commissioner Laughery said in some of the information that they have a tendency to prefer projects that include bike lanes. He said I don't know if there is any way to fit a bike lane in that area or not, but if that gets us a better chance of getting approval on this project it is worth looking at it. David said we can certainly look at things that we might be able to recommend.

Commissioner Gray said would it be possible to take part of that road and put down the decals with the bike and arrow. David said it is no problem to include it in the project, but I don't know if it would actually score you points to put you in another category I would have to explore into that more.

Item 7– Discussion on a proposed Policy regarding outdoor dining.

Planner Patrick Reidy said at a recent Economic Development Committee meeting, members asked that the Town of Wendell adopt a formal outdoor dining policy in anticipation of additional restaurants opening up in town. He said the policy is designed for downtown restaurants; however, the regulations could be applied to anywhere in town that a restaurant directly abuts a public sidewalk. Mr. Reidy said staff spoke with the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (ABC) regarding their requirements for serving alcohol on sidewalks and incorporated them into the proposed policy. He said the applicant will still be required to request permission from the Board of Commissioners to serve alcoholic beverages prior to obtaining approval.

Mr. Reidy said 6 pre-requisites that a restaurant must meet to be eligible for outdoor dining are outlined in the policy. He said many of the pre-requisites are required for a restaurant to operate in Wake County regardless of whether or not they have outdoor dining. Three pre-requisites that were added for the benefit to Wendell include: a sketch plan, a one million dollar insurance

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policy naming the Town of Wendell as additionally insured under the policy, and an indemnity agreement with the town.

Mr. Reidy stated two additional regulations to the policy are proposed for aesthetic purposes. He said the first regulation states that no plastic or upholstered furniture is permitted and the second regulation states that no vinyl umbrellas are permitted.

Mr. Reidy stated the policy provides for a turnaround time of three business days for approval or denial once a completed application is submitted, unless alcohol is proposed to be served and then it would be placed on the next Board of Commissioners agenda.

Mr. Reidy said staff spoke with the owners' of Primo Pizza, Aubrey's and Peedie's Grill, and the Wendell Tap Room and all expressed an interest in participating in outdoor dining program. As a way to encourage participation in the program, it is recommended that a fee not be associated with the application. He said the City of Raleigh Charges \$150.00.

Commissioner Gray said did your say that the ABC Commission required that the applicant receive permission from the Town or is that something we are asking them for. Patrick said we are asking them for that. Commissioner Gray said if they are meeting the requirements set by the ABC Board and they are meeting our policy to serve food and beverages and we have insurance why are we going to make them ask our permission to serve alcohol. Patrick said in the past couple of months the policy was that any event serving alcohol needed to ask for permission and it is on town right-of-way. Commissioner Gray said I want to be cautious that we don't create a policy that we are going to put so many hurdles that they just say forget it. She said the things you need to submit to the town where it says photo's brochure or an architectural drawing of proposed furniture and umbrella showing the style type and color of material. I think the opportunity is there for us to be difficult or not be and I want to make sure that we are not difficult. Mayor Hinnant said we should not be more stringent that what other places in Wake County are. Commissioner Gray said I was very happy when I read about the turnaround time. Mayor Hinnant said it sounds like me and Commissioner Gray would like for this to be looked at and see if we can make it less prohibited. Commissioner Laughery said I agree we need to keep it simple. Commissioner Laughery said you were talking about requiring the one million dollar insurance policy, do you have any idea what the cost of that would be. Patrick said he did not know. Commissioner Laughery said it would be nice to have that information.

Commissioner Lutz said you referred to having a barrier, what kind of barrier are you talking about. Patrick said the ABC Commission requires a barrier between the tables and the sidewalk; it could be anything from ropes to a movable fence. Commissioner Lutz said with the tables and barriers in place would that still meet the four foot clearance required by the ADA. Patrick said he thought that it would.

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Commissioner Boyette said I agree will the other commissioner's that we should keep it as simple as possible. He asked if there was any language in the policy that would limit a business to only putting tables in front of their own property. He said if a restaurant abuts another business and wanted to put out tables beyond their store front is there anything that would prohibit that. Patrick said as long as he had permission from the store front it would be fine. Commissioner Boyette asked if there was a process where the town could recognize it has or has not been agreed to. Patrick said he thought that would be an agreement between the two store front owners. Mayor Hinnant said I think Commissioner Boyette has a very valid point. He said my recommendation if we do work this out would be to come up with language that states you cannot go any further than the perimeters of your own store front. Commissioner Boyette said I think we should come up with a way to allow them to use another store front if they agree.

Item 8 – Economic Development Committee update.

Planning Director David Bergmark said on June 10, 2014 members of the Economic Development Committee, Board of Commissioners, town staff and other guest attended a meeting at Carolantic Realty's office in Raleigh. David said the purpose of the meeting was to receive Carolantic's perspective on the Town's initiatives to promote growth and development. Carolantic gave a presentation which they highlighted what they saw as the highest priorities for Wendell in terms of business development and growth. He stated the conversation centered around gaining access to high speed fiber, providing wireless access to downtown Wendell, pursuing diverse educational opportunities, improving road connectivity, and improving recreational opportunities.

David stated at the close of the meeting, Steve Stroud of Carolantic Realty said he would contact a consultant who could give the Town additional information about opportunities for connecting to high speed fiber.

Commissioner Gray asked if the town had been contacted about the high speed fiber. David said no, he had contacted Mr. Stroud's office and the lady was supposed to be getting the information for him, but that he had not heard back from her. We will gather all the information and bring it back to the board. Commissioner Gray asked if there was a time frame for bringing the information back to the board. David said as soon as we can get the information we will bring it back.

Item 9 – Review and discussion regarding Lake Myra Lights for the 2014 holiday season.

Manager Piner said the Christmas Light Show has been held at the East Fourth Street and Hollybrook Road for the past two holiday seasons and Mr. Greene has an offer to buy the property and it can no longer be held there. She said the town incurred expenses totaling \$6,321.18 for the 2012-2013 holiday season and \$3,100 for the 2013-2014 holiday seasons.

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Manager Piner stated Mr. Williams and Mr. Hunter with Lake Myra Lights met with Alton Bryant and me regarding the possible relocation of Lake Myra Lights to the Town Square and Woman's Club properties. Mr. Williams would like to use both properties for the light show.

Mrs. Piner said if approved, setup would begin on October 5th following the Harvest Festival, with the lights being turned on November 22, 2014. She stated Lake Myra lights is looking to have civic and school groups to assist them in putting up sections of the lights at a time.

Mrs. Piner stated Lake Myra Lights has asked to set up their trailer and the Central Baptist's trailer in the gravel area beside the alley for the duration of the event. This would put the trailers to the side and not distract from the display.

Mrs. Piner said the town has been asked to assist with the insurance, porta-johns, and to light the fence, stage, gazebo and trees along Cypress Street as we have in the past. Public Works hopes to start on the gazebo repairs in July. Lake Myra would like to install their donation boxes and sale Lake Myra Christmas items on site, at the event.

Manager Piner stated surrounding businesses and the Woman's Club would need to be contacted to coordinate holiday events. The police department would need to evaluate the traffic flow for the area. She said Third and Cypress Streets are State Maintained and cannot be closed for an extended period of time.

Manager Piner stated Mr. Hunter said the Chamber has scheduled December 5, 2014 as the Lighting of the Square event. She said if holding the event at this new location is approved by the Town Board, the need to meet and establish details with the chamber, police, Woman's Club and businesses would need to be scheduled in July.

Mrs. Piner said the town has spent \$3,600 for new lights and bows for the trees and street lights on Main and Third Street for the 2014 Holiday season.

Mrs. Piner said Lake Myra Lights has agreed to have all lights and ancillary equipment removed by January 31, 2015.

Commissioner Laughery said he was in favor of the Christmas Lights at the Square, but asked if the Woman's Club had been contacted. Mrs. Piner said no, we wanted to make sure that the board was ok with the location and schedule and then we will move forward with talking with everyone. Commissioner Laughery said the Woman's Club has quite a few functions during the Holiday season, do we know the setup of the lights. Teresa said we discussed that and as we have in the past we will make sure that half of that parking pad remains open at all times.

Mayor Hinnant said I would like to see some type of agreement that the lights will be removed by January 31, 2015. He said I know some of the problems last year were because Mr. White's building was not ready, but because this is in the downtown area we cannot let it set for 30, 60,

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or 90 days. We need to come up with an agreement that the lights be removed by the 31st or the town can go in and remove them and charge Lake Myra Lights for the removal.

Commissioner Gray said starting the set up October 5th when in the past they have started in August, are they going to have enough time. Mrs. Piner said we discussed that and that is why they are getting the different civic organizations to help them put up sections at a time. Mr. Williams said he thought they would be fine with help. Commissioner Gray asked if there was any way a couple of the employees might be able to help out. Mrs. Piner said we are lighting the stage, fencing and trees as well as when we rent the lift to put up our decorations we will provide that for them. Commissioner Gray said do they need some help from us with their show besides what we are going to do. Mr. Williams said probably so.

Commissioner Parham said is there a liability for the town when are going to use civic and school groups to assist them. Mrs. Piner said we will look at having additional insurance because it will be on property that we own.

Commissioner Lutz said he loved the location and idea, but with the lighting of the Lake Myra Lights and two weeks later doing the Chamber event, the Chamber Event will be more in the square and the Lake Myra lights more toward the Woman's Club is that correct. Mrs. Piner said that is something that we will need to look into. The Chamber has asked to do some different things this year with their Lighting of the Square event, so we will need to get additional information on that.

Commissioner Gray said there has been some talk that if this does happen changing the Chambers lighting of the Square to something like Santa coming on the fire truck and not about turning on the lights. Commissioner Lutz said I think doing it all at one time would be a good idea, that way we would not have two lightings.

Commissioner Boyette said the lights are now about five miles away from Lake Myra and there has been some talk in the past to change to name to something more Wendell centric. He asked if the parties were opened and interested in that, or has it even been discussed. Mrs. Piner said we have advertised it in the past as Wendell Wonderland sponsored by the Lake Myra Lights. She said as far as them removing their name totally we have not discussed that.

Commissioner Gray said I would like for the manager to start thinking about one or two employees that have an interest in helping put up the lights with Lake Myra.

Commissioner Parham said just remember as you prepare for the January 31st removal of the lights that sometimes emergencies do happen and build that into what it is you are going to do.

Mrs. Piner said we will bring this back to the board at the July meeting.

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Item 10 – Review and discussion on a recommendation by the Wendell Planning Board on front yard parking regulations

David Bergmark stated this was an item that had been to board before and on April 14, 2014 the Town Board adopted ordinance 0-3-2014 (Attachment A) which incorporated changes to the definition of nuisance vehicles and created more flexibility in how utility trailers and recreational vehicles were addressed in residential areas.

Mr. Bergmark said the Town Board chose to remove the language which would have addressed parking on prepared surfaces in residential areas. He stated the original proposal moved the ‘Residential Parking Area ‘standards from section 10.4,k,1 of the UDO to section 24-95(b)(5) of the Wendell Code of Ordinances and amended the language so that parking on prepared surfaces was only required in the front yard. It also limited the number of vehicles which could be parked in the side or rear yard on a non-prepared surface to 5 vehicles.

Mr. Bergmark said April 14, 2014 meeting, concern was expressed by the Town Board over how the ordinance addressed parking on prepared surfaces. He said there was no clear consensus on how the language should be changed, but there was a desire to see an alternative proposal. He said after the April 14th meeting staff did receive comments from Mayor Hinnant and Commissioner Gray regarding this item.

Mr. Bergmark said the current language to Section 10.4,k,1 of the UDO is:

1. Residential Parking Areas: Parking for single family residences shall be on prepared surface only. Prepared surfaces include concrete, asphalt, brick, gravel or other similar materials, but shall not include landscaped areas or dirt. Parking areas must be properly prepared and maintained, as determined by the Administrator. No more than 25 percent of the yard or width or two parking spaces (20 feet), whichever is less, may be used for motor vehicle parking. This provision shall apply to all existing development, with the exception of driveways, and all new development within the corporate limits of the Town.

Mr. Bergmark stated at the May 19th meeting, the Planning Board reviewed and discussed three additional text amendment options for addressing parking regulations. Each alternative option represents a trade-off between protecting personal property rights vs. protecting neighborhood property values. Each option provided below represents a less restrictive standard than the original proposal submitted to the Town Board.

1. OPTION 1: Delete section 10.4,k,1 of the UDO. Amend Section 24-95(b)(5) to include language stating “unless on a prepared surface, no vehicles are to park between the front entrance and the edge of pavement”

This language was proposed by Mayor Hinnant. The up-side of this proposal is that the language is clear and simple, but would allow parking in the front yard on a non-prepared surface so long

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as they were not parked directly in front of the front entrance. This proposal would not limit parking in the side or rear yard.

2. **OPTION 2:** Delete section 10.4,k,1 of the UDO. Amend Section 24-95(b)(5) to include language stating “unless on a prepared surface, vehicles shall not park in the front yard of a dwelling unless located between the driveway and the side property line closest to that driveway.

This language is also clear and simple, but would be more restrictive than the first proposal. Some lots have driveways on the very edge of their property lines, leaving insufficient room to park a vehicle between the driveway and the side property line within the front yard. In those cases, the property owner would have to park additional vehicles in the side or rear yard. No limit on the number of vehicles which may be parked in the side or rear is included. Enforcing this option would be difficult in those few situations where the existing driveway is dirt and is not well delineated.

3. **OPTION 3:** Delete Section 10.4k,1 of the UDO and do not create any alternative language.

This option would simply remove the parking standard as it relates to parking vehicles on prepared surfaces. Residents would be able to park anywhere on their property without restrictions.

The Planning Board voted to recommend approval of the text amendment described in “Option 1”. Those who voted against the motion did not think Option 1 was restrictive enough. The motion passed 6-3 in favor of Option 1.

Mr. Bergmark said if the Town Board supports the text amendment described in ‘Option 1’, staff recommends adding an appropriate limitation on the number of vehicles which may be parked on non-prepared surfaces in the front yard.

Commissioner Gray said as clear as the Planning Board thought this was, it is not real clear to me. What is the edge of the pavement, what pavement are you referring to. Mr. Bergmark said the road in front of the house.

Commissioner Lutz said we talked about the clarity of the ordinance to help our compliance office out and I am not sure what it means when it says front entrance. He said is that the front door. David said yes the front door. Commissioner Lutz said there is still a lot of vagueness to the statement so I am not sure we have helped him out any. David said we could change it to say front entrance rather than front door. Commissioner Lutz asked if there was any consideration given to the corner lots as far as parking restrictions. We need something stating that corner lots facing both streets will have a restriction on both areas. David said we can look at adding those standards for corner lots.

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Commissioner Gray said does it mean that you can park in the front yard as long as you do not block the front door. You can park short of the door or past the door as long as you do not block the door. She said the intent was not to allow parking in the front yard and this knocks the legs out from under the intent. Mayor Hinnant said I suggested this option and the intent was to be able to allow someone depending on how their yard is configured to park in the side yard. The one thing we need to remember is in three days we had 400 people we sent a compliance letter to and we stopped that. We cannot have an ordinance that puts the whole town out of compliance, there is no way possible to enforce that.

Commissioner Boyette said the compliance officer was here the last time this came up and I remember him saying that 95% of the parking issues could be resolved with the junk vehicles, unsafe vehicles and expired tags. Is the front yard parking a continued problem in the town, is it really a big issue. David said we have not been enforcing this rule, but I think it might have helped some issues.

Mayor Hinnant said we are supposed to try and fix things when we have problems, not create problems and if you make this ordinance to restrictive you are going to be creating a problem. He said if we are a governing body; less government is good government not more. If we don't watch it we are going to be a Home Owners Association and this is not what we are here for.

Commissioner Gray asked if it were possible to get some information from Mr. Hales about some of the questions we have asked and where we are now that we have dealt with the junk car issues. Maybe we should ask him as he rides around town to take notice if he sees a big problem with front yard parking. It could be that what we have already done has taken care of the biggest part of the problem.

Mayor Hinnant said it should be pointed out that the three Planning Board members that voted against this ordinance change are out-of-town representatives that would not have to comply with a more restrictive ordinance.

Mr. Bergmark said if the board were to choose the option that is focused on the front door, you could still place some kind of number in the front yard since it does leave a fair amount of flexibility open for people to park in the front yard.

Mayor Hinnant said it looks like the consensus of the board is to put this back on the next work session. Commissioner Parham said we need to come to some compromise that does not put a burden on a lot of people.

Item 11 – Discussion and scheduling of community input regarding the Unified Development Ordinance.

Mr. Bergmark stated the Town Board indicated a desire to have a public comment period regarding the Town's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). The stated purpose of this

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comment period would be to allow developers, citizens, and other interested parties to voice any concerns or desired changes to the Town's current development regulations.

David said staff is seeking direction from the Town Board regarding the time, structure and desired advertising for the public comment period. He said we could open a public comment period to discuss this item at the July work-session or, we could hold a special called meeting outside of the regular board meeting. He said if additional time beyond the one meeting was desired, the public comment period could be left open for 30 days allowing individuals to continue to submit comments to the Wendell Planning Department. He said staff could present a list to the Town Board of all comments received and once reviewed by the board it could be determined which items warranted further investigation and direct the Planning Board to review those specific sections of the code.

Mayor Hinnant said I think we want to get this process started and ended. He said I think thirty days would be sufficient. Commissioner Laughery said my concern is that we get this information out to the right people. He said we want to make sure all of the developers have all the information they need and are aware of what we are doing. We can worry about how long to leave it open later. Commissioner Boyette said he agreed with Commissioner Laughery, I think staff has inside track on interested parties as far as contacting them. He said I think some of the issues we are going to be confronted with will be complicated in nature, they take explaining and if we do it like a regular meeting and you give someone three minutes it would not be enough time. He said I was thinking that if anyone wanted to make a comment, they could submit it to the town and staff, and they could group them into commercial, residential, environmental and different places. Commissioner Laughery said if staff could come back at the next meeting with some type of mechanism that they would be using to make sure the right people are being contacted, then we could set up some dates. Commissioner Gray said she would also like to see it opened to the citizens and let them tell us what they think. Commissioner Parham asked if the Planning Department had a list of builders that come into town often. David said we could easily compile a list. Commissioner Gray asked was the Planning Department still keeping a log of complaints about the UDO. David said we are, but a lot of those things do not relate to the contractors. But we could include those complaints also.

Item 12 – Review and action on citizen board applications received following the June 9, 2014 board meeting.

Mrs. Piner stated since the June 9th meeting Mr. Lucius Jones has submitted an application to serve on the Board of Adjustment. He is an in-town resident.

Commissioner Parham made a motion to suspend the ballot voting and vote by voice. Commissioner Gray said in this instance I do not have a problem with suspending the ballot, but I think our last meeting turned into a mess. It was a name missing from our application, an applicant that may or may not eligible and I think that we need to do better. I am not in favor of

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suspending the ballot when there are more applicants than spots, every person that takes time to apply needs the courtesy of being voted up or down. I don't think we need to make motions if there are four spots for four people at one time. She said we had some people last time that did not even get considered because they were not in that group. She said I was bothered by how the meeting went last time, it was chaotic, disorganized and we can do better. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Parham made a motion to appoint Lucius Jones to the Board of Adjustment. Commissioner Gray said I have some concerns about Mr. Jones application. She said I think that he is a builder and the Board of Adjustment is the place where builders come when they have a problem and want to be heard regarding a problem and I just don't think we should put builders in that group, I think it opens the door and sets us up for some potential problems down the road. Commissioner Parham said I think people who are experts in the field should be on the Board of Adjustment. He said a lot of mistakes are made when you don't have these type people on the boards. He said they are able to give advice because they have been there and done it themselves. Commissioner Gray said in most places I would completely agree that we need people with expertise, but the board of adjustment is a quasi-judicial board and they have a hearing and this is a big deal and I don't think that people that are in that field who use the board of adjustment should be allowed to sit on that board. I think there are people who have the ability and common sense to make those decisions without someone who uses the board. The motion passed with a 4-1 vote with Commissioners Laughery, Lutz, Parham and Boyette voting in the affirmative and Commissioner Gray voting Nay.

Item 13 – Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Laughery stated he would like to remind everyone to support our local businesses.

Commissioner Lutz said the Saturday meeting that we had we discussed and brain stormed a lot and now that we have our budget approved I would like for us to start using those funds on the things we talked about. I would like to encourage all board members to look back and see the things that we noted and start to push those things forward and be an advocate for those things that we felt were important for the town.

Commissioner Parham said I don't think this board is as chaotic as some may think. I think things went well at the last meeting, there were two things that happened and I think the application that was not included was a mistake and mistakes happen. Also whether it is a ballot vote or voice vote that doesn't make voting chaotic, it is just a quicker way to do things rather than going through each individual in my opinion. He said however, if all the commissioner's agree we can go back to the ballot vote. I did not think it was chaotic.

Commissioner Boyette said I would like to say we should support our local businesses and I have been supporting my local alignment shop due to the train tracks on Buffalo Street. He said they

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are getting out of hand and I understand the manager has been in contact with Carolina Railroad and we are spinning our wheels there. He said I do not know what it will take to get those rails fixed. He stated he visited the Farmer's Market on Saturday, and there were numerous fresh vegetables and some really good hot pepper jelly. We have a lot of talent in our local horticulturist.

Commissioner Gray said it is funny how people measure their reality, to me the meeting was very chaotic. There was no opportunity for opposing views, an application was missing, an uncertainty about a person. She said sometimes these criticisms are hard to take, but they took place. She said in my opinion when we have more than one spot, it does not take any longer to vote by ballot and we deserve to give those people that are willing to serve the courtesy of hearing their name chosen and voted up or down. She said it is no wonder that we are begging people to serve on these boards. I feel like we can do a better job and it was messy. If others did not think it was messy I am glad they could leave with a good feeling about it, but I could not, I have been stewing over it for two weeks. She said this is the last town board meeting we will have before Brinkley Wagstaff retires and I want to take a moment and thank him for his many years of service to the town and citizens of Wendell. He has been a vigilant servant for the town and citizens and I appreciate it. We will miss him and I wish him a happy retirement. I would also like to invite everyone to attend the Historical Society July 4th Parade and Celebration. The parade will line up at 11:15 in front of Aubrey and Peedies Grill and there will be veterans, who will be honored, free hot dogs and drinks and the Wendell Farmers Market will be giving away free water melon. She said there will also be a band playing until 2:00pm so bring a chair and enjoy the day.

Item 14 – Mayor's Comments

Mayor Hinnant said as a point of clarity the Town Board will allow the individual citizens boards to select their own Chairperson and Vice Chairperson is that correct. Mrs. Piner said the Town Board has been appointing those chairs, it was discussed to allow them to select their own, but it would have to be an ordinance amendment. She said we have that ready to bring back to the board in July for discussion, because if the board decides to change the ordinance, it will have to be scheduled for a public hearing and go before the Planning Board.

Mayor Hinnant said since we have approved the budget, I know that we had money allocated for the employee's to receive a small increase. He said when those raises have been given to the employees if there are extra funds, I would like to ask the manager to bring that amount back to the board. He said there are a couple of employees that have inequities in their pay, and they are doing the same thing basically that the ones in other departments are doing. He said we need to see if we can alleviate those inequities.

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Timothy A. Hinnant, Mayor

Attest:

Jonnie S. Driver, Town Clerk