

**MINUTES OF THE
WHITE LAKE TOWN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2023
7:00 P.M.**

The White Lake Town Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 1879 White Lake Dr., White Lake, North Carolina. Those present were Mayor H. Goldston Womble, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem Tim Blount, Commissioners Paul Evans, Mike Suggs, Dean Hilton, Jake Womble, Terri Hawley, Town Administrator Sean Martin, and Police Chief Bruce Smith. Pat Kennedy-Taylor, Town Clerk was absent.

Mayor H. Goldston Womble, Jr. declared a quorum, called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Paul Evans led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Womble asked everyone to please keep Pat Taylor, Town Clerk who is battling cancer and could not physically be here tonight. Mayor Womble thanked former Commissioner Tim Clifton who chose not to run for re-election for his years of service.

Mayor Womble stated there will be a reception on January 9, 2023 at 6pm for the outgoing Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Riel and Commissioner Tim Clifton before the town board meeting at 7:00pm on January 9, 2023.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Oaths of Office – Cristin Hursey, Bladen County Clerk of Court administered the oath of office to Mayor H. Goldston Womble, Jr., Commissioner Dean Hilton, Commissioner John Hugh Womble, Jr., and Commissioner Terri Hawley.

Consider Approval of Mayor Pro-Tempore

Commissioner Dean Hilton made a motion to nominate Commissioner Tim Blount, seconded by Commissioner Mike Suggs. (Unanimous in favor).

Agenda Adoption

Mayor Womble acknowledged there was not an agenda supplemental and called for a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 1A-1F and adopt November 14, 2023 minutes as presented. Commissioner Paul Evans moved, seconded by Commissioner Mike Suggs TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 1A-1F AS PRESENTED (Unanimous in favor). Said agendas are listed as Exhibit "A." Supporting materials are hereby incorporated by mention and are made a part of these minutes. (Unanimous in favor).

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Womble called for any corrections and/or additions to the November 14, 2023 minutes. Supporting materials are hereby incorporated by mention and are made a part of these minutes. Commissioner Paul Evans moved, seconded by Commissioner Mike Suggs TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 14, 2023 MINUTES AS PRESENTED (Unanimous in favor).

November Utility Release(s) (\$1,496.97)

November Utility releases were provided for the Board's consideration.

November Tax Release(s) (\$738.67)

November tax refunds were provided for the Board's consideration.

November Tax Refund(s) (\$53.54)

November tax releases were provided for the Board's consideration.

2019 Statutes of limitation for collection of delinquent Utility Accounts (\$919.20)

Five Utility Accounts (2019) have exceeded the NC Debt Setoff Program, a three-year statute of limitations for collection and the four-year statute of limitations (N.C.G.S.25-2-725(1) for collection were provided for the Board's consideration.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

Project Update(s)

White Lake "Lake" Water Management Project Update

Dr. Diane Lauritsen, Ph.D., LIMNOSCIENCES'S monthly report as information. Sean Martin, Town Administrator presented the update.

Water AIA Project Update

Sean Martin, Town Administrator, presented the update.

Storm Water Master Plan Update

Sean Martin, Town Administrator presented the project update.

Appointment of FY 24/25 Budget Officer and Budget Committee

General Statute §159.9 requires each local government and public authority to appoint a budget officer to serve at the will of the governing board. Cities not having a manager form of government may impose the duties of the budget officer on any city officer or employee(s), including the mayor if he agrees to undertake them. Mayor Womble has served as the budget officer in previous years with the Board serving as the budget committee. Mayor Womble made a motion to appoint the Town Administrator as the new Budget Officer. Mayor Pro-Tem Tim Blount questioned the Town Administrator being the Budget Officer. Town Administrator, Sean Martin addressed his question. There being no further discussion Commissioner Mike Suggs moved, seconded by Commissioner Paul Evans TO APPROVE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, SEAN MARTIN AS BUDGET OFFICER AND THE TOWN BOARD AS THE BUDGET COMMITTEE AS PRESENTED FOR THE FY 24/25 BUDGET. (Five votes in favor, one vote against).

First Bank Signatory

Sean Martin, Town Administrator, presented this to remove Amber Glisson as signature, update Mayor Pro-Tem to Tim Blount.

There being no further discussion Commissioner Jake Womble moved, seconded by Commissioner Dean Hilton TO APPROVE ADDING MAYOR PRO-TEM TIM BLOUNT AND REMOVE AMBER GLISSON AS AN AUTHORIZED SIGNER AS PER THE BOARD'S RECOMMENDATIONS. (Unanimous in favor).

RESOLUTION(s)

RESOLUTION #2024-08 Authorizing the disposition of certain personal property by sale or donation of a 2006 Ford Crown Royal, Vin#2FAFP71W56X102654 with 153,353 miles as surplus property and authorizing the donation to Bladen Community College. There being no further discussion on this matter, Commissioner Dean Hilton made a motion and seconded by Jake Womble TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2024-08 AS PRESENTED. (Unanimous in favor).

RESOLUTION(s)

RESOLUTION#2024-09 Declaring equipment surplus and authorizing the electronic auction of surplus personal property (Dump Truck-1996 Chevy Silverado 3500 HD., 6.5, Vin#1FBKC34F9SJ114225 with 102,273 miles), a Lawn Mower-Gravley 2T60, Model#991084, Serial#003409, Engine hours 890, and a Lawn Mower-Hustler Fast Track Super Duty, 60-inch cut, Model#930164, Serial#12081456, Engine hours 1132.5.

There being no other discussion on this matter, Commissioner Jake Womble made a motion and seconded by Paul Evans TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2024-09 AS PRESENTED. (Unanimous in favor).

OTHER COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS/PREVIOUS AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Tim Blount commented that maybe next year the town could use someone local to cater for the employee appreciation event, rather than going out of town. Mayor Womble made the comment that we do plan to move from place to place.

White Lake Water Festival – Commissioner Jake Womble stated that we are going in a different direction this year. The Elizabethtown Chamber of Commerce will not be helping with the Water Festival any longer. Commissioner Jake Womble stated that he has been helping Commissioner Terri Hawley and Town Administrator Sean Martin.

Commissioner Jake Womble cares about the town, he is invested in it. His family has been invested in the Town of White Lake for over 100 years. Commissioner Womble stated that Uncle Goldston has been Mayor for 38 years and has never missed a meeting, his Uncle Jack was the first Mayor of White Lake and his Grandfather Mr. Harry Womble served on the Town Board.

Commissioner Terri Hawley stated that she is trying to get the paratroopers to do a practice jump. Commissioner Terri Hawley thinks it would be great to get the Paratroopers to be the Grand Marshalls for the parade. Commissioner Hawley says her heart swells with patriotism when she sees them jump and she would like for the people that come to the Water Festival to be able to experience this. Commissioner Terri Hawley says the Water Festival is going great. So much support from business owners and citizens to pick up the slack where the Elizabethtown Chamber of Commerce stopped helping.

Commissioner Hawley asked Town Administrator, Sean Martin why the November 2023 video has not been posted yet? Town Administrator, Sean Martin stated he was working on it. Commissioner Hawley stated that when the office is going to be closed maybe send out a text message, so everyone is informed. She stated that not everyone is getting a text message from the Town. Town Administrator, Sean Marting stated we are working on that.

Mayor Womble stated that Camp Clearwater is hosting a Chamber of Commerce After Hours event. Everyone is invited to go. They will announce the winner of the Lighting of the Lake contest. Commissioner Tim Blount stated he has been on the LRCOG Board for a long time, and he would like another commissioner to take that position.

Mayor Womble thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

Departmental Briefings/Reports The following departmental reports were provided as information:

- Town Administrator's Report
- Tax Collector's Report
- Post Office Report
- Police Department Report
- Police Department Fuel Report
- Fire Department Fuel Report
- Public Works Department Fuel Report

Recognition of Employee(s)

Correspondence from Paul Carmichael with Bladen County Schools and transportation recognizing Sergeant Bert Harris for his diligence in helping one of their bus drivers in dire need of assistance. We hold our precious children in our care, and it is shown by your action that you are living up to your dedication to your community. We are grateful and thankful for all you do.

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION LUNCHEON WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023, AT CAPE FEAR WINERY.

Ethics for Elected Official Webinar or Classes

As a reminder, newly elected officials are required to take two (2) hours of ethics training if newly elected or reappointed. As information, there will be opportunities to take the class online, however I have newly elected Commissioners John Hugh Womble, Jr. and Terri Hawley scheduled for January 18th and January 19th, 2023, for Essentials of Municipal Government in Wilmington.

Holiday Observances

In accordance with the Town's Personnel Policy, the municipal complex will be closed on Monday, December 25, Tuesday, December 26, and Wednesday, December 27, 2023, in observance of the Christmas Holidays. In case of a water/sewer emergency, please dial 910-862-8141 (central communications), give your name, phone number and location of problem and the water/sewer on-call person will respond. An on-call person will be available in case of water/sewer emergencies.

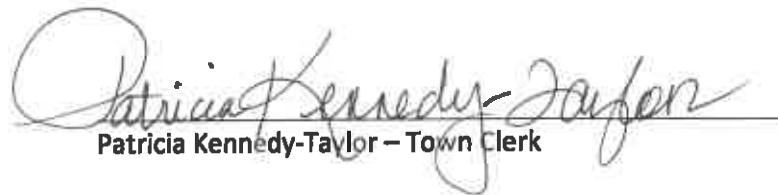
The municipal complex will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2024, in observance of the New Year's Holiday. In case of a water/sewer emergency, please dial 910-862-8141 (central communications), give your name, phone number and location of problem and the water/sewer on-call person will respond. An on-call person will be available in case of water/sewer emergencies.

Town Administrator, Sean Martin presented the Lead and Copper Rule Plumbing Assessment Customer Survey.

OPEN FORUM: Three (3) minutes per citizen. Should state name and address.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted by:



Patricia Kennedy-Taylor – Town Clerk

Approved:



H. Goldston Womble, Jr., Mayor