

**MINUTES OF THE
WHITE LAKE
TOWN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

**August 08, 2023
7:00 P.M.**

The White Lake Town Board of Commissioners met at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 08, 2023. Those present were Mayor H. Goldston Womble, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Riel, Commissioner Tim Blount, Commissioner Mike Suggs, and Commissioner Dean Hilton, Commissioner Tim Clifton, Commissioner Paul Evans, Town Administrator Sean Martin, and Pat Kennedy-Taylor served as Clerk to the Board. Also present were Police Chief Bruce Smith and Public Works Director Kevin Taylor.

Invocation

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Dean Hilton led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve Consent Agenda Items

Mayor Womble acknowledged there was an agenda and called for a motion to adopt the August 08, 2023, Agenda Consent Items (#1A-1E) as presented. Mayor Womble asked if there were any questions on the current consent agenda items as presented. There being no further discussion, Commissioner Paul Evans moved, seconded by Commissioner Mike Suggs TO ADOPT THE AUGUST 08, 2023 REGULAR MEETING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 1A-1E AS PRESENTED. (Unanimous in favor).

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Womble called for any corrections and/or additions to the minutes of July 11, 2023. There being no further discussion, Commissioner Paul Evans moved, seconded by Commissioner Mike Suggs TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 11, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED (Unanimous in favor).

July 2023 Utility Releases (1,155.49)

Utility releases (\$2,127.78) were presented for the Board's consideration. All leak release requests were approved by Public Works Director, Kevin Taylor. There being no discussion, Commissioner Paul Evans moved, seconded by Commissioner Mike Suggs TO APPROVE THE JULY 2023 UTILITY RELEASES AS PRESENTED. (Unanimous in favor).

July 2023 Tax Releases (\$272.81)

Tax releases (\$272.81) were presented for the Board's consideration. Reductions, refunds, and releases of tax claims are matters to be decided by the Town's governing body. By NC Statute, tax releases are not to be left to the discretion of the Tax Collector. Once a tax bill has been computed, it can only be released by specific authorization of the governing body [NC General Statute 105-380, 105-381(b), and 105-373(a) (3)]. All releases have been approved by the Bladen County Tax Administrator's office. There being no discussion, Commissioner Paul Evans moved, seconded by Commissioner Mike Suggs TO APPROVE THE JULY 2023 TAX RELEASES AS PRESENTED. (Unanimous in favor).

FY 2022-2023 (\$1.00) or under Tax Adjustment(s)

Total Adjustments(s) (\$25.58), Total Pre-Pay Adjustment(s) (\$6.39). This information is provided for informational purposes for the Town Board of Commissioners.

Administrative Matters

Lake Water Management Plan Update

Mayor Womble acknowledged Dr. Diane Lauritsen, LIMENOSCIENCES provided updates of activities and Sean Martin, Town Administrator presented. The updates will be posted on the Town's website www.whitelakewatch.com. No action was taken.

White Lake Streetscape Master Plan - USDA RBDG - PROJECT TIMELINE

Sean Martin, Town Administrator presented the update on the White Lake Streetscape Master Plan. No action was taken.

White Lake Stormwater Master Plan Project

Sean Martin, Town Administrator presented the update on the White Lake Stormwater Master Plan Project Timeline. No action was taken.

Water AIA Project Update

Sean Martin, Town Administrator presented the project update. No action was taken.

Charge to Collect 2023 Ad Valorem Taxes

NCGS 105-321 (b) states that a "municipal governing body shall adopt and enter in its minutes an order directing the tax collector to collect the taxes charged in the tax records and receipts." The order of collection shall have the force of the judgement and execution against the real and personal property. The charge to collect taxes directing the Tax Collector to collect the 2023 taxes charged in the tax records and receipts and enter them into the governing board's official Town minutes is provided for the Board's consideration. Total ad valorem taxes billed for 2023 as of July 31, 2023 is \$813,569.19, compared to \$817,453.23 in July of 2022. There being no further discussion, the mayor asked for a motion to adopt the 2023 charge to collect taxes as presented, Commissioner Dean Hilton moved, seconded by Commissioner Tim Clifton TO ADOPT THE 2023 CHARGE TO COLLECT TAXES. (Unanimous in favor).

ORDINANCE(S)

Grant Project Ordinance CPO2024-01

Pursuant to Section 13.2 of chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following Grant Project Ordinance hereby states that the Project authorized is the Water System Asset Inventory and Assessment (AIA) project (grant project number AIA-D-ARP-0089) to be financed by the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds awarded to the Town of White Lake by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Division of Water Infrastructure (DWI) in the sum of \$240,500. The ARPA Proceeds are appropriate for the project expenses of Engineering and Administration Services. There being no further discussion, the mayor asked for a motion to adopt Capital Project Ordinance CPO2024-01 as presented, Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Riel moved, seconded by Commissioner Paul Evans TO ADOPT GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE CPO2024-01. (Unanimous in favor).

RESOLUTION(S)

Resolution #2024-01 FY22 Water Asset Inventory and Assessment Grant of FY 22 American Rescue Plan Act Grant Project #AIA-D-ARP-0089

It is resolved that the Town of White Lake does hereby accept the ARAPA Grant offer of \$240,500. The Town of White Lake does hereby give assurance to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality that any Conditions of Assurances contained in the Award Offer will be adhered to, has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances applicable to the project and to Federal and State grants and loans pertaining thereto. There being no further discussion, the mayor asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #2024-01 FY22 Water Asset Inventory and Assessment Grant of FY22 American Rescue Plan Act Grant Project #AIA-D-ARP-0089, Commissioner Tim Blount moved, seconded by Commissioner Dean Hilton TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-01 FY22 WATER ASSET INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT GRANT OF FY22 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT GRANT PROJECT #AIA-D-ARP-0089. (Unanimous in favor).

Resolution #2024-02 Declaring Property as Surplus and Authorizing the Electronic Auction of Surplus Personal Property

It is resolved that the Town Administrator, Public Works Director, or designee is hereby authorized to dispose of the listed property described in Attachment "A" via electronic auction at www.GovDeals.com,

as per the terms and conditions in accordance with North Carolina G.S. 160A-270(c) and in compliance with the Town's Finance Policy. There being no further discussion, the mayor asked for a motion to adopt **Resolution #2024-02 Declaring Equipment Surplus and Authorizing the Electronic Auction of Surplus Personal Property as presented, Commissioner Mike Suggs moved, seconded by Commissioner Paul Evans TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-02 DELCARING EQUIPMENT SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING THE ELECTRONIC AUCTION OF SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY.** (Unanimous in favor).

Resolution #2024-03 Declaring Property as Surplus and Authorizing Disposition of Property by Sealed Bid

It is resolved that the Town Administrator, Public Works Director, or designee is hereby authorized to dispose of the vehicles, generators, and miscellaneous items described in Attachment "B" via the sealed bid process, as per the terms and conditions in accordance with North Carolina G.S. 160A-270(c) and in compliance with the Town's Finance Policy. There being no further discussion, the mayor asked for a motion to adopt **Resolution #2024-03 Declaring Equipment Surplus and Authorizing the Disposition of Property by Sealed Bid as presented, Commissioner Tim Blount moved, seconded by Commissioner Tim Clifton TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-03 DELCARING EQUIPMENT SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING DIPOSITION OF PROPERTY BY SEALED BID.** (Unanimous in favor).

Resolution #2024-04 Town of White Lake Stormwater Plan Review Commitment to Implementation

It is resolved that the Town of White Lake commits to implementation of a funding strategy to implement improvements identified in the comprehensive plan that may include grant funding, capital improvement financing, development of a stormwater fee, and/or establishing a stormwater utility as a result of repetitive problems related to failure of inadequate stormwater systems, being at risk of substantial flooding, especially from hurricanes, that could harm health, safety, or property. There being no further discussion, the mayor asked for a motion to adopt **Resolution #2024-04 Town of White Lake Stormwater Plan Review Commitment to Implementation as presented, Commissioner Dean Hilton moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Riel TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-04 TOWN OF WHITE LAKE STORMWATER PLAN REVIEW COMMITMENT TO IMPLEMENTATION.** (Unanimous in favor).

OTHER BUSINESS/PREVIOUS AGENDA ITEMS

Town Administrator Sean Martin presented the Departmental Reports.

Recognition of Henry Clifton Hester In Appreciation of His Years of Service

Mayor H. Goldston Womble, Jr. presented a plaque in recognition of Henry Clifton Hester as well as his name plate to the family for his excellent professional service for over 35 years with the Town of White Lake.

Recognition of Kevin Taylor, Public Works Director, for Obtaining Utility Management Certification

Mayor H. Goldston Womble, Jr. recognized Kevin Taylor, Public Works Director, for his outstanding certification completion in Utility Management, presented by the National Rural Water Association and North Carolina Rural Water Association.

Labor Day Holiday Schedule

Mayor H. Goldston Womble, Jr. recognized that the Municipal Complex and the Post Office would be closed on Monday, September 4th, 2023 for the Labor Day Holiday. Mayor Womble reminded the Commissioners and those in attendance that the Public Works Department would have an on-call person available in case of a water/sewer emergency.

Open Forum: Three (3) minutes per citizen.

- Bo Barefoot – complemented the Board on taking action around the Lake, complemented Kevin Taylor for resolving an incident involving dirty streets quickly, asked those dealing with the State to discuss increased oxygen levels in the Lake, shared an idea to recapture stormwater and repurpose said stormwater to increase the level of the Lake, and proposed a question of whether enough alum remained in the lake to continue to have an effect on flocking of the nutrients.

At approximately 7:53pm, Mayor Womble stated since there was no one to speak in the open forum he asked the Board to go into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS§ 143-318.11(a)(5). There being no further discussion, Commissioner Paul Evans moved, seconded by Commissioner Tim Clifton TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION AS PRESENTED. Unanimous in favor.

CLOSED SESSION: NCGS § 143-318.11(a)(5)

To establish, or to 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 (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease; or (ii) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract.

After being in Closed Session for about twenty-five (25) minutes or so, Mayor Womble asked that we go back into Regular Session. There being no further discussion, Commissioner Dean Hilton moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Riel TO OPEN THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING BACK UP. Unanimous in favor.


WASTE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL

There being no further discussion, the mayor asked for a motion to proceed with implementing the new proposal for Town sanitation and recycling for the next five year period as presented, Commissioner Dean Hilton moved, seconded by Commissioner Tim Clifton TO PROCEED WITH IMPLEMENTING THE NEW PROPOSAL FOR TOWN SANITATION AND RECYCLING FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEAR PERIOD. (Unanimous in favor).

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no other business to come before the White Lake Town Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Paul Evans moved and seconded by Commissioner Tim Blount TO ADJOURN MEETING TO NEXT REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023. (Unanimous in favor).

Respectfully submitted by:


Patricia Kennedy-Taylor, Town Clerk

Approved:


H. Goldston Womble, Jr., Mayor