

**TOWN OF NORTH WILKESBORO  
COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MONTHLY  
MEETING JULY 6, 2021**

**5:30 p.m.**

**HELD AT THE NORTH WILKESBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BOARD ROOM**

**Zoom online platform:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83089812534>

**And YouTube:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7NdWfFjwMjbLuarfqHDemg>

THERE WERE PRESENT:

Robert L. Johnson, Mayor  
Andrew Palmer, Commissioner/Mayor Pro-Tem  
Angela Day, Commissioner  
Debbie Ferguson, Commissioner  
Bert Hall, Commissioner  
Michael Parsons, Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT:

Wilson B. Hooper, Town Manager  
Debra Pearson, Town Clerk  
Daniel Johnson, Town Attorney  
Meredith Detsch, Town Planner  
Crystal Keener Tourism Director  
Interim NWP Chief Rob Thornburg

**CALL TO ORDER**

**I. II. III. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:27 p.m. and delivered the Invocation. Mayor Johnson asked Interim Chief Rob Thornburg to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**IV. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda-** *There were no additions or deletions to the agenda, although there are some supplements to Item B. Closed session agenda has changed from three items to 4.*

**V. Approval of Agenda-** **Mayor Johnson called for a motion to approve the agenda as stated. Motion to approve the agenda was made by commissioner Parsons and seconded by Commissioner Ferguson. Motion unanimously carries.**

**VI. Public Comments-** *Mayor will acknowledge no more than 5 speakers. Speakers have five-minute limit.* North Wilkesboro town resident Martha Nichols signed in to speak and expressed the following opinion to the board. Mrs. Bauguess asked the board to seriously consider working as a team with Wilkesboro and County government to improve the chances of redeveloping the North Wilkesboro Speedway property. She wanted to remind everyone of the crowds that came into North Wilkesboro when NASCAR Racing and Brushy Mtn. Apple Festival were held the same weekend in November. Mrs. Bauguess states the towns and county needs to work together to improve the chances to receive \$10M from the state. She thanked the Board for their time and the board thanked Mrs. Bauguess for coming. There was no one else that wished to speak.

**VII. Consent Agenda** -All consent items may be approved in one motion. Items requiring further discussion will be pulled and voted upon separately.

A.) Street Closing Ordinance– Crystal Keener presented an Ordinance asking for board approval to temporarily close the section of the CBD Loop between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets (block 600 to 800), July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. to accommodate the Foothills Corvette Club car show, and Window World’s Sponsoring of Concerts on the Deck featuring Craig Woolard and the Embers Band. **Mayor Johnson called for motion to approve the Ordinance. Motion to approve Ordinance Declaring Road Closure for Town Sponsored Events July 17, 2021 was made by Commissioner Parsons and seconded by Commissioner Ferguson. Motion unanimously carries.**

**VIII. Town Manager’s/Attorney’s Report**

*Town Manager’s and Town Attorney’s Reports as needed-*

Nothing to report or comment on at this time. Attorney Johnson’s report will be held in closed session.

**IX. Policy**

B.) Name Wilkes Art Gallery (WAG) North Wilkesboro’s Designated Art Agency–Ashley Barton, WAG and Crystal Keener, Tourism Director has asked the board to approve a resolution to officially designate the Wilkes Art Gallery as North Wilkesboro’s Designated Art Agency. This is being done so that the Art Gallery may apply for funds from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), an extension of the American Relief Program. This requires a non-profit organization to apply for these funds, and does require town approved designation to apply. Town Manager Hooper read updated language for the resolution. **Mayor Johnson called for a motion to approve Resolution 2021-10 (As Amended), Designating Wilkes Art Gallery as the Local Arts Agency Acting on Behalf of the Town of North Wilkesboro. Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Ferguson and seconded by Commissioner Palmer. Motion unanimously carries.**

C.) Updated Board of Commissioners Meeting Practices– Previously Town Manager Hooper presented a document intended to codify the practices of the North Wilkesboro Board of Commissioners. These practices are keeping with the requirements of the Town Code and North Carolina General Statute. One significant change previously approved is the two monthly meetings of a Regular Commissioners Meeting and a Commissioner’s Work Session to two Regular Commissioner’s Meetings per month. Each meeting will also have a Public Comment Section. Other items included in the Operating Practices document are Order of Business, Public Speaking, Agenda Setting, and Transparency. **Mayor Johnson asked for a motion to approve Town Manager Hooper’s Operating Practices document. Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Day and seconded by Commissioner Ferguson. Commissioners Palmer and Hall did not approve. This includes approval by Commissioner Parsons also. Motion carries by a vote of 3 to 2.**

**X. Emerging Issues (formerly Mayor and Commissioner Topics)-**

*Board members may bring up topics not listed on the agenda for discussion or staff follow up-*

At the request of Commissioner Parsons, Town Manager Hooper shared that informational signs have been installed at the major “grid” intersections in town. These signs read “Entering Residential Area Speed Limit 25” and “No Thru Trucks”. The signs are one of several traffic

“calming” measures the town is taking to cut down on speeding, cut through traffic, and heavy commercial trucks coming through these residential areas as a short cut to major highways and businesses. Citations can now be issued if needed and carry a \$50.00 fine plus court costs. These steps come as a result of multiple complaints from property owners living in these residential areas.

Commissioner Palmer asked about money for the mural at Marketplace. He states Representative Jeffrey Elmore is looking into finding funds for this project.

**XI. Closed Sessions-**

At 5:55 p.m. Mayor Johnson called for a motion to go into Closed Session. **Motion to go into closed session was made by Commissioner Parsons** according to G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations. And, conduct a closed session according to G.S. 143-318-11 (a) (3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body. And, conduct a closed session according to G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, of appointment... of an individual public officer. **Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hall. Motion unanimously carries. At 7:35 with no action being taken, Mayor Johnson declared the board out of closed session.**

**XII. Adjourn-** With no other comments or concerns, Mayor Johnson called for a motion to adjourn. **Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Parsons, seconded by Commissioner Palmer. Motion unanimously carries, meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.**

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Debra W. Pearson Town Clerk

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Robert L. Johnson MAYOR

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_