

**TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2012
TOWN OF SAWMILLS SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 PM**

COUNCIL PRESENT

Bob Gibbs
Trena McRary Kirby
Donnie Potter
Joe Wesson
Jeff Wilson
Johnny Wilson

STAFF PRESENT

Seth Eckard
Susan Nagle
Terry Taylor
Johnny Wear

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bob Gibbs called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: Mayor Gibbs gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Gibbs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to adopt the agenda with the following additions: add Sawmills Community Optimist All-Star Team as agenda item 7C and bid award for ball fields at Baird Drive Park as agenda item 9B.

Donnie Potter made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to adopt the agenda with additions. All were in favor.

APPROVE JUNE 19th REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to approve the June 19, 2012 regular meeting minutes.

Donnie Potter made a motion, and Jeff Wilson seconded, to approve the minutes. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Gibbs asked if anyone wished to speak during public comment.

No one wished to speak.

RECOGNITIONS:

YARD OF THE MONTH WINNERS: Mayor Bob Gibbs announced Harold and Carolyn Joplin, from the 28630 zip code, and Matthew and April Cardwell, from the 28638 zip code, as the July Yard of the Month winners. Mayor Gibbs stated that since the winners were not present, the certificates would be available at the Town Hall for them to pick up at their convenience.

No Council action was required.

RECYCLE REWARDS PROGRAM WINNER: Town Administrator Seth Eckard announced Jerry and Teresa Johnson as the July Recycle Rewards winners. Administrator Eckard stated a twenty-eight dollar (\$28.00) credit will be added to their sanitation bill and their certificate would be available at the Town Hall for them to pick up at their convenience.

No Council action was required.

SAWMILLS COMMUNITY OPTIMIST ALL-STAR TEAM: Parks and Recreation Director Benny Townsend stated that the 14-15 year old youth all-stars are the State Champions for Western North Carolina and will travel to Ocala, Florida to represent Sawmills in the southeast regional tournament. Parks and Recreation Director Benny Townsend then presented Coach Mitch Laws with a plaque for the team.

Mayor Gibbs stated the team will be holding fundraisers and collecting donations to help pay for the trip and anyone wishing to donate may do so at the Town Hall or contact the Sawmills Optimist Club.

No Council action is required.

PLANNING MATTERS:

INTRODUCTION OF NEW TOWN PLANNER: Town Administrator Seth Eckard introduced Johnny Wear from the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) as the New Town Planner for the Town.

Johnny Wear spoke briefly about himself as well as his employment history.

No Council action was required.

APPOINT REVIEW OFFICER: Mayor Bob Gibbs asked Council to discuss appointing new Town Planner Johnny Wear as the Review Officer for the Town, removing Emily Hines, and leaving Town Administrator Eckard as the alternate.

Donnie Potter made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to appoint Town Planner Johnny Wear as the Review Officer for the Town. All were in favor.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

REQUEST FOR DONATION TO CALDWELL COUNTY CRIMESTOPPERS:

Mayor Bob Gibbs stated that the Caldwell County Crimestoppers has requested a donation for their program, which help to get criminal activity, illegal drugs, stolen items etc. off the streets of Caldwell County.

Trena McRary Kirby made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to donate one hundred-fifty dollars (\$150.00) to the Caldwell County Crimestoppers Program. All were in favor.

BID AWARD FOR BALL FIELDS AT BAIRD DRIVE PARK: The Town received the following four bids, for repairs, at Baird Drive Park:

Charlotte Fence Builder's, Inc.	\$18,000.00
Mitchell Fence Co.	\$20,000.00
American Fence & Construction	\$31,285.00
Hickory Fence Company, Inc.	\$33,341.00

Trena McRary Kirby made a motion, and Donnie Potter seconded, to award the bid to Charlotte Fence Builder's Inc. in the amount of \$18,000.00 as they were the lowest bidder. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Gibbs asked if anyone wished to speak during public comment.

No one wished to speak.

UPDATES:

CODE ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT: The enclosed report shows the progress made throughout the town by Town Planner Johnny Wear.

No Council action is required.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Town Administrator Seth Eckard made the following announcements:

- The Planning Board will meet on August 14, 2012 at 5:00 pm to discuss internet sweepstakes.
- The Red Cross will be holding a blood drive in honor of Mayor Bob Gibbs on August 2, 2012 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church from 2:30 pm to 7:30 pm.
- The new Sears, at the corner of US Highway 321-A and Mission Road, will have their grand opening on August 18, 2012 at 9:00 am.

Mayor Bob Gibbs stated Sears will have a ribbon cutting and asked the Council if they would please attend.

COUNCIL COMMENT: Mayor Gibbs asked if anyone on the Council had anything to say.

Councilman Joe Wesson thanked everyone for coming.

Council discussed the following topics:

- The relationship with the Town and the Farmers Market Board.
- The Farmers Market activities so far this year.
- An overall increase in the duties of the Mayor.
- The current amount of stipend the Mayor receives for his assistance with Town activities.

The Mayor stated this would be placed on next month's agenda for discussion.

CLOSED SESSION PERSONNEL MATTERS: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to go into closed session.

Donnie Potter made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to go into closed session. All were in favor.

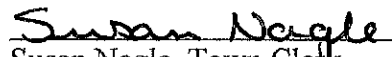
Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to come out of closed session and return to the regular meeting.

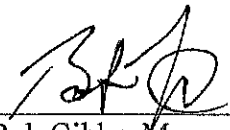
Donnie Potter made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to come out of closed session and return to open session. All were in favor.

THE FOLLOWING ACTION WAS TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION: Donnie Potter made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, for an increase in salary for Town Administrator Seth Eckard of 5% with a \$2,000.00 bonus. Those in favor were Donnie Potter, Joe Wesson and Johnny Wilson. Those opposed were Trena McRary Kirby and Jeff Wilson. The motion carried by a 3-2 vote.

ADJOURN: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to adjourn.

Jeff Wilson made a motion, and Trena McRary Kirby seconded, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.


Susan Nagle, Town Clerk


Bob Gibbs, Mayor