



MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TOWN OF WALKERTOWN COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 25, 2010

At 7:00 p.m., Mayor Doc Davis called the Town Council meeting to order. Council members present for the meeting were Wayne Hester, Sarah Welch, Peggy Leight, and Randy Mendenhall. The clerk and manager were both present as was Fire Administrator, Wesley Hutchins.

The agenda was approved as presented on a motion by Mr. Hester, seconded by Mr. Mendenhall.

The minutes listed below were approved by motion of Mr. Mendenhall, seconded by Ms. Welch:

- JANUARY 28, 2010 – REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
- FEBRUARY 18, 2010 – JOINT MEETING WITH WALKERTOWN PLANNING BOARD, TOWN COUNCIL, & W-S PLANNING BOARD

PUBLIC SESSION

THIS SESSION IS FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY AND IS LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER. WHEN SPEAKING TO ANY ITEM, PLEASE RESTRICT YOUR REMARKS TO THE SUBJECT AT HAND.

Public Session was opened at 7:03 p.m. with no speakers.

BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:

1. **RESOLUTION**
**TO AWARD CONTRACT TO AUDIT TOWN OF WALKERTOWN
ACCOUNTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010**

DISCUSSION:

MAYOR: This is to award the contract to audit the books of the Town of Walkertown for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

MOTION: **TO AWARD CONTRACT TO AUDIT TOWN OF
WALKERTOWN BOOKS TO GIBSON & COMPANY**

BY: **WAYNE HESTER**

SECOND: **PEGGY LEIGHT**

VOTE: **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

2. **RESOLUTION:**
**TO AUTHORIZE TOWN CLERK TO REFUND TAX OVERPAYMENT IN
AMOUNT OF \$114.60**

MAYOR: This is to refund tax money to a resident who has overpaid.....

MOTION: TO AUTHORIZE TOWN CLERK TO REFUND TAX OVERPAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$114.60 TO CECIL ANDERSON
BY: RANDY MENDENHALL
SECOND: SARAH WELCH
VOTE: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

✓ JANUARY 2010

MAYOR: These are the financial statements for the fiscal year to date through January, 2010.

MOTION: TO ACCEPT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR JANUARY, 2010 AS IS
BY: WAYNE HESTER
SECOND: RANDY MENDENHALL
VOTE: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

4. SET WORKSHOP MEETING DATE FOR _____, 2010

MAYOR: Date for a workshop meeting.....do you have a proposed date, Ms. McKinnie?

LYNN: No. It's up to you guys.

MAYOR: Anybody got a date?

LYNN: We do not have to decide tonight. Why don't we talk it over during the week.....?

MAYOR:We'll work that out, then..... At a later date. Is that all right with you, Council?

COUNCIL, BY CONSENSUS, AGREED TO FINALIZE A WORKSHOP DATE LATER IN THE WEEK.

5. CERTIFICATE OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONGRATULATIONS WESLEY HUTCHINS – NC STATE VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEF OF YEAR PRESENTED BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE DALE FOLWELL

MAYOR: We had a few items to clear off our agenda. We now want to get to one of the main reasons we are here. We have with us tonight, our State Representative, Dale Folwell. Dale was gracious enough to "fly" home by I-40 from Raleigh to make this meeting! What time did ya'll adjourn....about 5?? Five o'clock? Good! You did well then. As you know, we are all here tonight to celebrate a special occasion and that, of course, is Wesley Hutchins being named *Fire Chief of the Year* for the State of North Carolina. Wesley – we are very proud of you – if you didn't know that by now! Wesley's family is here – Mary, Reid, Mallory, his mother (Ms. Hutchins), and Tommy and Patty (Sacrinty) are both here. To join in this occasion, we've got quite a few of our former chiefs from Walkertown. There's quite a few fire chiefs from all over the County – we'll be recognizing many of them in just a few moments. But before we go further, we

want to call on State Representative, Dale Folwell – he has a Proclamation for us. Dale, would you come to the microphone.....

DALE FOLWELL: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and folks – the first question people normally ask me when I come from Raleigh is *do I have your state tax refund with me* (!!) and unfortunately, the answer is NO!! I am really honored to be here and I just want to say a few words before I read this proclamation. It is by listening to folks like your chief and other chiefs across Forsyth County that last year, we were able to get the “Volunteer Fire Fighter Act” passed. And for those of you who are not aware, OSHA – that big ole thing in Washington – came into North Carolina about 18 months ago and said that all of our members of our Junior Cadet Volunteer Fire Fighter Departments were now classified as employees. And do you know what happens when you have a 16-year old who is classified as an employee who’s around fire equipment? Basically, they can’t do anything any more. I don’t know if there’s anybody here from Vienna Fire Department, but volunteer fire departments across North Carolina – the recruiting fell dramatically because kids don’t want to be engaged if they can’t get their hands dirty – men and women. So, by listening to that – with the help of the Walkertown Fire Department, Vienna, and fire departments across North Carolina, I introduced a bill that was only five (5) sentences – it’s just the underlined part – for you kids who want to know how long a bill can be – and what this bill did is reclassified the Junior Member Cadet programs as an educational activity, similar to Boy Scouts and ROTC. And that got OSHA off the backs of fire departments across North Carolina. The reason that’s important to you, taxpayers and home owners, is that volunteer fire departments and rescue squads are the single best value for North Carolinians – because they keep property taxes low and they keep homeowner insurance rates low. So, I applaud you for that. I also applaud all the members here from the fire departments because of not only what they do in terms of fire, but also what they do in terms of first responding. Another bill that I worked on was the organ donation bill – and because of people that are in this office in uniform – organ transplants went up 58% last year in North Carolina – because of their ability to now rely on the heart on the driver’s license as a first person directive of the decedent. When the Governor signed the fire-fighter bill, we had some folks from Forsyth County who are here – and I just want to thank you for bringing that to my attention and I am so honored to be here today with you to read this proclamation. Wesley – do you want to come up here while I read this?

***From the North Carolina House of Representatives.
A Certificate of Acknowledgement and Congratulations***

Whereas, Chief Wesley D. Hutchins has been selected as NC State Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year; and

Whereas, Chief Hutchins is a native of Walkertown, NC and is a past President of the Piedmont North Carolina Firefighters Association, a past President of the Forsyth County Fire Rescue Association, and currently serves as President of the North Carolina State Firemen’s Association Executive Board; and

Whereas, Chief Hutchins was nominated by the Walkertown Volunteer Fire

Department and selected by fire chiefs of the Fire Chiefs Association of North Carolina from over one-thousand volunteer fire chiefs in the state.

Whereas, Chief Hutchins is recognized for this outstanding achievement and for his valiant service to the State of North Carolina.

Now, therefore, this Twenty-Fifth Day of February,
In the Year Two Thousand and Ten,
Representative Dale Folwell
Extends sincere congratulations to

Fire Chief Wesley Hutchins

On the occasion of being selected as NC State Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year.

Signed by Joe Hackney, Speaker of the House.

Mr. Folwell continued.....Thank you, Mr. Mayor, for allowing me to be a part of this. People wonder why I try to get to these events – it’s because there’s a lot of people in this room who are a lot more popular than I am – and I don’t want any of them running against me in the election!!!! So, that’s why I get here! Congratulations, Wesley.

MAYOR: Thank you, Representative Folwell. Wesley, you may have a word for us.....do you have a word for us?

WESLEY HUTCHINS: I do. I’ll try to be brief. First off, to the Council and Representative Folwell, for having me here. It really is an honor and..... Let me tell you a little bit about what’s happened in this award. This award is not about me – and I’ve said that a long time. And I’m going to say it again. It’s about the members of our fire department here in Walkertown – those are the folks that do the job, day in and day out. I don’t do it. They do it! This department was formed in 1953 and as I look out tonight, I see some folks that are sitting in here that laid the foundation for that department. Again, this is not about me – it’s about those folks. People like Dennis Whicker, who served as our chief for fifteen years. Or people like Charles Pierce, who was probably very instrumental in the department when I came along as a young man. I probably gave him a few gray hairs in some of the things I did..... And people like Clyde Webster, who was the longest serving chief of this department. Those are the people that made Walkertown Fire Department – not me! It truly is an honor..... There’s a couple of other people that are big influences in my life - - - my parents! They instilled in me, as a young person, to be involved in your community. They told me to do the right thing. They raised me; they brought me to where I am at today – and my mother is here with me tonight and I am truly grateful to her. My sister, and my family, who stood behind me for a lot of things when I was just a kid. And the big winners are my family. My wife – my son – my daughter couldn’t be here; she must be out somewhere driving since she now has her driver’s license. She can drive after nine – so - - Those are the folks that stood behind me. Those are the folks that suffered when I got up and left to go somewhere here in the community – where I missed that birthday party, or I missed that special occasion. And

those are the folks that really made that sacrifice. I look out tonight and I really am - - I am honored – I am shocked that this many people came out – people that came before me – folks from the department here in Walkertown, the ones that do the job. Keith Pierce, our assistant chief, Randy Wood, our deputy chief, Tina Fulp, who is our administrative assistant – she probably runs the department. I don't! She knows more about it than I do. And, then of course, I look out and I see the different fire chiefs who are here in the room – people like Jerry Brooks, Walt Summerville, Scott Alderman, David Harger – those folks that do just as much as I do, or even more, and it's about those folks. It is a bond – a brotherhood, and I can't say enough about the Town recognizing me tonight. And I am truly humbled – I am honored. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, Council, Representative Folwell – thank you very much.

MAYOR: Thank you, Wesley. In just a moment, business is just about over – we will have one final closing Public Session, if anyone wishes to speak. We always have prior and one at the end, but if anyone wishes to speak, we'll open the floor for a Public Session now. If anyone's got something they want to say.....Now is the time to say it.

PUBLIC SESSION

THIS SESSION IS FOR ANY TOPIC AND IS LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER
WHEN SPEAKING TO ANY ITEM, PLEASE RESTRICT YOUR REMARKS TO THE SUBJECT AT HAND.

Public Session was opened at 7:16 p.m. with one speaker:

1. Owen Newell
5165 Largo Dr.
Winston-Salem NC

We live at – off of Old Belews Creek in the Williston Estate area and we just happened to be here tonight. We are part of Walkertown because they elected to throw us in that area. This is my first meeting.

I am a retired _____ company for 35 years. However, we've been out here around thirty years and we were in Winston-Salem Forsyth County district – some kind of way we got pulled in with Walkertown because they elected to, they want to _____. So, we are there. However, we do not know what, who we are under. We don't know we are under Walkertown or we still don't know we under Forsyth County. That's why I'm here tonight to try to find out some questions, _____ to show where we are. We don't know where we are.

MAYOR: We'll get Ms. McKinnie to get your address and we'll get that answered for you. It will not be a problem. We'll definitely find out where you are! Ms. McKinnie, if you'll get the address, you can work on that!
Anyone else wishing to speak?

Public Session was closed at 7:18 p.m.

MAYOR: We do have one other announcement. It's not quite on the scale of the Fire Chief for the Year for the State, but we had a young man that was due to go to Winston tonight to receive an award as well. But he chose

to come here instead. Justin Pierce! Justin, stand up, would you? Justin had an award in Winston to go to but he wanted to come with his daddy to see Chief Hutchins. I think Justin deserves a round of applause.

We're going to ask Wesley and his family to stand here at the front. I know you don't want to do this, Wesley, but you'll just have to grin and bear it. And then we want to start a group of people coming through to speak to Wesley and then move right on back to the food line. We want to start with our oldest chief from Walkertown, which would be – not the oldest in years but the furthest back, which would be Chief Charles Pierce. Wesley did not get where he got to by himself. He came on the shoulders and on the backs on quite a few people. And he acknowledges that. Charles will make his way and followed by Chief Roy Southern. I don't know who was first or whoever, but Chief, I saw him come in somewhere. Where did Roy go? There he is. Wesley, if you and your family will stand right here, please, come on, now. And Charles, you come on through – Chief Southern – come on. Come on, Dennis. All Fire Chiefs within the county, stand up! All Fire Chiefs within the county – round of applause for these men!!!!

Our meeting is technically over – the rest is for the reception.

MISCELLANEOUS MINUTES AND INFORMATION:

1. PLANNING BOARD MINUTES – FEBRUARY 2, 2010
2. FALL FESTIVAL MINUTES – FEBRUARY 8, 2010

ADJOURNMENT

B Y MOTION OF WAYNE HESTER, AND SECONDED BY PEGGY LEIGHT, THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 7:35 P.M.

Submitted by:

Lynn McKinnie
Town Clerk

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECYCLING – every other week – Monday

******NO CHANGES FOR HOLIDAYS ******

MARCH

ROUTE A – 8TH AND 22ND

ROUTE B – 1ST AND 15TH AND 29TH

TOWN HALL IS ROUTE B

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Fourth Thursday @ 7:00 p.m.

MARCH	25
APRIL	22
MAY	27
JUNE	24
JULY	22
AUGUST	26
SEPTEMBER	23
OCTOBER	28
NOVEMBER	18 DUE TO THANKSGIVING
DECEMBER	23 COULD BE CHANGED??

PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS:

Walkertown Library @ 3:00 on 1st Tuesday - - - -

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 10, 2010

townofwalkertown.com

*You are invited to attend our small reception honoring Wesley Hutchins' election as
NC STATE VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEF OF THE YEAR !!
immediately following the Town Council meeting.*