

Town of Rich Square
Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 5, 2024 – 6:00 pm
Town Annex Building

The Rich Square Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting in the Town Annex Building at 112 E Jackson St, Rich Square, North Carolina. Mayor Victoria Newcombe called the meeting to order 6:00pm and Commissioner Charles Eason gave the invocation.

Elected officials in attendance were Mayor Victoria Newcombe, Commissioner Raymond Joyner, Commissioner Larry Godwin, Commissioner Linwood Bryant, Commissioner Charles Eason, and Commissioner Peggy Cary who joined later.

Town officials in attendance were Finance Officer Chiquita Howard, Clerk Alayna Balmer, and Chief of Police William Smith.

Public Comment

Alease Wilkins asked the board about putting parking signs on the street she lives on, when the public works crew will spray for mosquitos, and if Chief Smith had any information on what to do about young men that have been walking around the neighborhood with shotguns.

John Parker wanted to know who was responsible for cutting the grass at the tennis court on Drew Ave, and if they could cut the grass in the ditch as well.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Raymond Joyner moved, and Commissioner Larry Godwin seconded the motion to approve the Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes from Special Meeting August 9, 2024
2. Approval of Minutes from Special Meeting August 27, 2024, Prepared by Victoria Newcombe
3. WWTP Bid Contract #1 Resolution of Tentative Award
4. WWTP Bid Contract #2 Resolution of Tentative Award

The board reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Eason moved, and Commissioner Godwin seconded to approve the minutes on the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously. The board then reviewed items the tentative award resolutions on the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Godwin moved, and Commissioner Eason seconded to approve the tentative award for Contract #1 and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Godwin moved, and Commissioner Joyner seconded to approve the tentative award for contract #2 and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Mayor Newcombe introduced the Juvenile Curfew Ordinance which prohibits juveniles (persons under the age of 18) who are not accompanied by a guardian from being outside between the hours of 10pm to 5am unless for the purpose of other organized events like extracurricular activities, work,

running an errand for a parent/guardian, etc. The Mayor opened the floor to public comments, concerns, and questions regarding this curfew. A discussion ensued.

The next item on the agenda was the Futrell Pharmacy water leak and potential water leak policy. The pharmacy had a running commode in an unused part of the building and were unaware of it until their water bill reflected it. The board discussed waiving a majority of the bill and charging a 10% fee to cover chemical costs used to improve the quality of the water. The topic was tabled for further discussion.

Next Mayor Newcombe introduced a contract with Johnson & McLean accounting and business consulting firm that will help the town catch up on audits by locating the correct documents, training staff, and reconciling reports. Commissioner Godwin moved, and Commissioner Eason seconded to approve the contract with Johnson & McLean. The motion passed unanimously.

Volunteer Fire Chief Mark Vick gave his monthly report.

Mayor Newcombe informed everyone that as of the end of August, the Town Attorney Cecelia Jones has ended her tenure with the town and is currently in search of a new attorney to take her place. Commissioner Godwin moved, and Commissioner Eason seconded the motion to accept Cecelia's resignation. The motion passed unanimously.

Effective September 5th, Commissioner Godwin resigned as Deputy Finance Officer which consists of countersigning checks when the Mayor is not available. Due to the pressure of other responsibilities concerning the Wastewater Treatment Plant project, he believes it's best to designate someone else to take up the responsibility. The town clerk offered to be the counter signatory as NC General Statute 159-25(b) allows for it. Mayor Newcombe stated that she thought it would be best to have another Commissioner fill the role due to the range of responsibilities the Deputy Finance Officer position comes with like attending financial meetings, supervising investments, etc. Commissioner Bryant moved, and Commissioner Joyner seconded to appoint the clerk as the secondary signatory for checks.

The next topic on the agenda was to schedule a meeting to discuss the next section of ordinances. The Mayor mentioned that she would like to hire another attorney before moving forward, but suggested reviewing the nuisance and abatement letter the previous attorney provided the language for so when the new attorney is brought in it's ready to be approved officially.

Chief Smith and Commissioner Bryant had no report.

Commissioner Eason shared that as of September 4, 2024, there are multiple streetlights out the need to be fixed.

Commissioner Larry Godwin reported that he'd check on where the public works crew is on spraying mosquito repellent and added that the WWTP project should begin within the next month or two.

Commissioner Joyner reported that though minor location changes had to be made, the August 17th Fun Day event was a success with just under 20 vendors, and plenty of visitors from Rich Square and surrounding towns.

Commissioner Cary announced that town staff members attended training the previous week which is why the Town Hall was closed for the week.

At 7:07pm Commissioner Eason moved, and Commissioner Cary seconded to go into Closed Session for personnel purposes. The motion passed unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION – N.C.G.S. Section 143-318.11(a)(6) – Personnel

ADJOURN

Commissioner Eason moved, and Commissioner Godwin seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, and the September Regular meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Victoria Newcombe, Mayor

ATTEST:

Alayna Balmer, Clerk