

TOWN OF WILLIAMSTON
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OCTOBER 01, 2012
6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Crout. Councilman Harvell gave the Invocation and the mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance. All councilmen were present.

Councilman Hagood made a motion seconded by Councilman Harvell to accept the minutes from the September 10, 2012 meeting. All voted in favor.

Larry Finney from Greene, Finney, and Horton presented the FY 2011 – 2012 audit. Again this year the Town has an “unqualified” opinion which is the best available.

Public comments were given by Pam Childress, Pam Owens, and Walt Smith. Walt Smith announced this year’s Christmas parade will be at 3:00 pm on December 8, 2012.

PURCHASING POLICY Councilman Looper expressed his concerns about spending. He specifically called into question the validity of a 5 year contract with Clearwater to operate the wastewater treatment plant. Mayor Crout explained that the contract with RUS stipulated that the town designate someone to be responsible for the construction and operation of the wastewater treatment plant and that council had voted to allow the mayor to do so. He further stated that three bids were sought with the help of Ken King. One company was not qualified due to the technology involved, one was in Charlotte and not interested, and since the town’s engineering firm Goodwin, Mills, & Cawood had an affiliate, Clearwater, that was qualified, they were chosen. The mayor went on to say that the contract with RUS would be up in a few months. Councilman Looper asked if David Rogers was qualified to operate the WWTP and the mayor responded that at this time he was not. Councilman Looper made a motion seconded by Councilman Durham to ask the town’s attorney to review and give an opinion on the Clearwater contract. All voted in favor. Councilman Looper made another motion seconded by Councilman Durham to have the town’s attorney review the ethics in public purchasing and the nepotism sections of the purchasing policy for the next council meeting. All voted in favor.

During public information concerns, the mayor said that the CDBG grant to alleviate some of the sewer problems around Academy Street was in the final bid stages. He also announced that a new business would be locating in Williamston and would employ about 12 people. The mayor announced that the Army National Guard would be abandoning their building and that details

would be brought before council after January 1, 2013 when the state legislature reconvenes. Another item addressed was the parking lot in back of town hall. Clogged drain lines and waiting on Duke Energy to relocate the power line to town hall had caused delays but things are going forward now and the work should be completed in about three weeks.

Councilman Durham addressed an issue concerning requested information from Mayor Crout. He then read into the minutes his response letter sent to the mayor. Councilman Looper also had an issue with some statements made in a political advertisement run by the mayor.

Councilman Hagood made a motion seconded by Councilman Harvell to adjourn. All voted in favor. Adjournment was at 7:08 p.m.