



**BELVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

September 30, 2024

Board of Commissioners Present:

Mike Allen, Mayor
Chuck Bost, Mayor Pro Tem
Ryan Merrill, Commissioner
Hunter Smith, Commissioner

Board of Commissioners Absent:

Morgan Mehler, Commissioner

Staff Present:

Athina Williams, Town Manager
Sharon Niemann, Town Clerk
Chad Staradumsky, Town Planner
Jim Bucher, Director of Parks and Recreation
Brenda Hewlett, Administrative Support Specialist
Brenda Williams, Finance Clerk
Kerry Wooding, Deputy Finance Officer
Kemmy Goodson, Town Accountant
Norwood Blanchard, Town Attorney

Others Present to Address the Board:

Nancy Moore, 251 River Birch Ridge Ct, Belville, NC 28451
Harold Gore, 659 River Road, Belville, NC 28451
Stephanie Smith, Albemarle Place, Belville, NC 28451
Chief Lovell Pierce, representing the Skarure Woccon Native Americans

ITEM # 1 – CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mike Allen called the September 30, 2024, Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., welcomed all. A quorum was present. Mayor Allen requested a moment of silence to remember long-time resident Burt Moody who lived on S. Olde Towne Wynd, and read a portion of his obituary. Mr. Moody had one of the first businesses in the Town of Belville, and he supported the Town, he will be missed.

ITEM #2 – INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ACTION – Mayor Allen led the invocation asking for prayers for all the states affected by Hurricane Helene, and asked everyone to pray for those who have lost family, homes and also the rescue workers and lineman who are working to help in the worst of conditions. The invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.



**BELVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

September 30, 2024

ITEM #3 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Allen requested to add 3 items under PRESENTATIONS B, C, AND D.

ACTION – Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Bost **MADE THE MOTION** to approve the Agenda with the changes. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

ACTION – Commissioner Ryan Merrill **MADE THE MOTION** to excuse Commissioner Morgan Mehler. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

ITEM #4 – APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of the August 15, 2024 BOC Special Meeting Minutes and the August 26, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. Tax Collector Report
- c. Finance Report
- d. Code Enforcement Report – Street Maintenance Report
- e. Planning Activity Report
- f. R24-40 A Resolution by the Belville Board of Commissioners Designating October 2024 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- g. R24-41 – Resolution by the Belville Board of Commissioners Acknowledging Kerry Wooding's First Anniversary with Appreciation and Thanks
- h. Storm Damage Report – Tropical Cyclone #8
- i. **Storm Damage Report – Hurricane Helene (added)**

Town Manager Athina Williams requested to add Storm Report from Hurricane Helene (Item #4i.) to the Consent Agenda.

ACTION – Mayor Mike Allen **MADE THE MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda with the changes indicated. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

ITEM #5 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

a. *Mr. Harold Gore, 659 River Road, Belville, NC*

Mr. Gore addressed the board to convey his concern over the speed limit on River Road. He considers it very dangerous to leave his driveway and turn left on River Road. His wife was already rear-ended, and neighbor broad sided. He respectfully requests that the board give serious consideration to joining with the school zone speed of 35 mph, and extend that down River Road well past the Olde Towne entrance. There are two blind curves, which is a safety concern. Mr. Gore also requested a stop light at Olde Towne entrance.

Mayor Mike Allen replied that a stoplight at the school has already been approved, and we will look into the speed limit change. He understands the concern and will ask NCDOT to review this area. Another resident asked that we add a sign 'Slow Down - Cars Entering the Highway.'

Another resident requested a camera with the car speed that flashes to be added to River Road, she is afraid for her daughter who is 18 years old to drive on that road. Mayor Allen explained that the widening of NC133 is a long-term project, but it will be widened all the way to Mallory Creek. Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Bost, who has both law enforcement and traffic experience opined



**BELVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

September 30, 2024

that he is in agreement that speed is a problem and the most effective way to control speed would be redesigning the road.

b. *Stephanie Smith, 703 Albemarle Place, Belville, NC*

Ms. Stephanie Smith both an ambassador for the YMCA and participant in the YMCA programs is asking the public to consider donating to the YMCA on their Annual Fundraising campaign, The YMCA is a non-profit organization. YMCA offers many wellness programs that benefit the public, such as cancer, diabetes, exercise, Parkinson's, walking for seniors, weight loss, wellness, and mental health programs for teens and adults. Donations are essential to the YMCA, and beneficial for all these programs, and every little bit helps.

c. *Nancy Moore, 251 River Birch Ridge Ct, Belville, NC*

Ms. Nancy Moore conveyed her concerns about infrastructure improvements and improvements to the watershed, which need to be completed in Brunswick County. She would like to form a committee which works to lobby for improvements to the 23 bridges and roadways that recently failed in the storm. Many residents were stranded. What measures are we doing to improve these problems? How can we hold NCDOT responsible for the improvements to these critical measures. She would also like to form a committee of volunteers to find how we can help our residents during the storm. Mrs. Moore suggested we put together a list of those who need medications, who are ambulatory, those who will shelter in place, the elderly, those with special needs, and those who cannot evacuate.

Mayor Pro Tem relayed that he is familiar with the *Are You OK?* program, and thinks this recommendation is a great idea. Mayor Allen encouraged residents to contact our legislators and make them aware of these issues. He reminded residents that we are still compiling the results of our stormwater feasibility study, for which we received a grant of \$93,000, and hopefully we will be able to get some of the Town's stormwater and drainage issues resolved, and thanked Mrs. Moore for her comments.

ACTION – Mayor Mike Allen MADE THE MOTION to close the Public Comments. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.

ITEM #6 – PRESENTATIONS

- a. R24-42 A Resolution Commemorating Indigenous People's Day.** Mayor Allen asked Chief Lovell Pierce of the Tuscarora and Skarurè and Woccon native organization to come forward. Chief Pierce introduced himself and expressed that they would like to be more active with the Town. Mayor Allen conveyed that we would like to have an Indigenous Native American day in the park, so that people can get a better understanding of our history and who has lived here. This resolution was approved in the Consent Agenda. Mayor Allen read Resolution R24-42 which named October 14th as Indigenous People's Day, which encouraged everyone to celebrate this day and presented it to Chief Lovell Pierce.

Mayor Allen asked Kerry Wooding, Commissioner Ryan Merrill and Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Bost to come forward.



**BELVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

September 30, 2024

- b. Mayor Allen read **R24-41 – Resolution by the Belville Board of Commissioners Acknowledging Kerry Wooding’s First Anniversary with Appreciation and Thanks**. Mayor Allen thanked Kerry Wooding for his careful review of all things financial, help with the budget, insurance analysis, timesheets, banking, cost savings, and keeping a watchful eye on the books, and encouraged everyone to celebrate Kerry’s first anniversary with the Town.
- c. Mayor Allen read **R24-37 Resolution expressing Gratitude and Appreciation to Commissioner Ryan Merrill for Seven Years of Service and Dedication to the Town of Belville**. Mayor Allen thanked Commissioner Merrill for all he has done for the Town and listed some of his accomplishments. We appreciate his unyielding commitment to the Town and his attendance at ribbon cuttings and events, his compassion for helping the Town, and his dedication to being a community leader and his public service. Commissioner Merrill is also our Council of Governments liaison and attends meetings on our behalf. Mayor Allen asked everyone to show their appreciation and support.
- d. Mayor Allen read **R24-39 Resolution Expressing Gratitude and Appreciation to Mayor Pro Tem Charles Bost for Eight Years of Service and Dedication to the Town of Belville (2011-2014; 2019-2024)**. Mayor Allen thanked Mayor Pro Tem Bost for his exemplary service, for being on the Technical Review Committee, a representative on the Wilmington Urban Metropolitan Planning Organization, and his unselfish commitment to the Town of Belville. Mayor Pro Tem Bost fills in for the Mayor, attends many events, festivals and ribbon cuttings and has helped the Town with many of its accomplishments. Mayor Allen thanked him for serving our community and his valuable contributions and encouraged our staff and citizens to show their appreciation and support.

ITEM #7 – OLD BUSINESS

Jim Bucher, Director of Park and Recreation gave an update on Upcoming events. This weekend is the Fall Festival, and he encouraged everyone to come out for that. On October 26th we will have a double treat. **Trunk-or-Treat** will be from four o’clock to six o’clock, and then we will have Movie Night. We are showing **Monsters, Inc.** We have been working on the garage, and we should get electricity this week. Mr. Bucher also reviewed the storm damage reports. Tropical Storm #8 caused some washout of the trails. During the recent Hurricane Helene, a tree fell on the railing at the Fishing Pier. We have repaired it.

He also updated the board on the efforts to control the mosquitos. Brunswick County was spraying the park daily; however, they were still prominent. We hired Mosquito Squad, who has sprayed twice, and we are now seeing an improvement. We have not yet sprayed the trails, just the park side.

Town Manager Athina Williams updated the board on the Belville Charity Golf Tournament which will be held on October 28th from 8:00 to 3:00 p.m. and indicated that registrations are going well. She played a clip from Cumulus radio which will be advertised on 5 radio stations. Mayor Allen relayed that we are trying to help our community and Belville Elementary School with support and invited everyone to register for the golf tournament.



**BELVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

September 30, 2024

Mayor Allen gave an update on the Belville Riverwalk Extension, explaining that it is in the works, and the bidding process will begin in the Spring. We are doing the project in a couple of phases, which will include a natural surface dirt packed trail, with two boardwalks that project out into the river with gazebos. We eventually would like to connect the gazebos if we can get more funding.

ITEM #8 – REGULAR AGENDA

a. Transportation Update

Mayor Allen gave an update from the WMPO Meeting this past Wednesday. The Cape Fear Bridge has received Federal funds, and we are waiting on funds from the State. You will also be hearing a lot about rail improvements, as the state would like to have rail service from the port all the way to Raleigh.

b. Town Hall Relocation Update

Mayor Allen informed the meeting attendees that our Town Hall has been bought by the State Police who would like to be here in November. We will have a temporary location at our old location in Waterford, and will be eventually returning over here.

c. Legislative Updates

Town Attorney Norwood Blanchard thanked our Planner Chad Staradumsky for providing a presentation with a synopsis from the UNC School of Government Legislative Updates.

Some of the legislative changes were regarding curbs and gutter, sidewalks in the ETJ, built-upon areas, and water and sewer regulations. One regulation that pertains to us is the local government review of plans.

Chad Staradumsky, Planner commented on some of the planner specific regulations in the legislative updates. Towns will now have a limited time to perform the reviews and would have to refund a portion of application fees if not done within the required period. Mr. Blanchard talked about how to enforce the performance guarantees, and new legislation regarding maintenance of sidewalks outside of the Town limits. There is also an option to get an engineer to inspect the project instead of the building inspector, at the applicant's cost.

Mr. Blanchard described another update - if your pier is destroyed by a weather occurrence, you can rebuild without applying for a CAMA permit, and you are able to add 5%. Mr. Blanchard also discussed regulations for beehives and restaurants are now allowed to have outside grills, but they must be 10 feet from flammable construction. Mayor Allen asked about impact fees. Mr. Blanchard acknowledged that you can have impact fees, but they have to be tied to the specific project.

d. Resolution R24-43

Resolution In Support of Congressional Funding for the Disaster Relief Fund Continuance of Halted Recovery Projects and Sufficient Provisions to Prevent Future Intermediate Needs Funding.

Mayor Allen informed the board that Brunswick County has already approved this Resolution and is asking for our support, as the disaster relief fund has been depleted. **ACTION** - Mayor Mike Allen



**BELVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

September 30, 2024

MADE THE MOTION to approve Resolution R24-43 Resolution In Support of Congressional Funding for the Disaster Relief Fund Continuance of Halted Recovery Projects and Sufficient Provisions to Prevent Future Intermediate Needs Funding. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

ITEM #9 – CLOSED SESSION

- a. N.C.G.S § 143-318.11(a)(3) – To consult with the attorney including litigation Urban Smart Growth 15 CVS 1217 and N.C.G.S. § 143A-159.1(a) – To discuss matters relating to acquisition of property.

ACTION – Commissioner Ryan Merrill **MADE THE MOTION** to go into closed session. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

ACTION – Commissioner Ryan Merrill **MADE THE MOTION** to come back into open session **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

ITEM #10 – OTHER ITEMS ND REPORTS

- a. Town Attorney Norwood Blanchard – informed all that in the Closed Session we discussed Urban Smart Growth 15 CVS 1217 litigation, and matters relating to potential acquisition of property, but no action was taken in the Closed Session.
- b. Board of Commissioners – None
- c. Mayor Pro Tem – None
- d. Mayor – Mayor Allen thanked everyone for attending.
- e. Town Manager – Town Manager Athina Williams thanked everyone who has been helping with the renovations and the move.

ITEM #10 – ADJOURNMENT

ACTION – Commissioner Ryan Merrill **MADE THE MOTION** to Adjourn the Meeting. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

Minutes Compiled by Sharon A. Niemann

SIGNED:

Mike Allen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sharon A. Niemann, Town Clerk

