

Your Cameron Connection

November 2023

5 Acre Zoning Tabled After Heated Public Hearing

A recommendation by Cameron's Planning Board that the town adopt a new minimum 5-acre lot size for RA zoned properties in the ETJ was the focus of a contentious public hearing before the Board of Commissioner's regular meeting on October 26. The plan would include all properties now zoned RA within one mile of the municipal limits of the Town of Cameron. Proponents said the rezoning would prevent dense subdivisions such as one recently proposed for a large parcel on Rte. 24/27 where homes would be 20 feet apart.

Some landowners and developers at the hearing opposed the change and said the town can't stop the growth that is occurring in Moore County. The Board voted to table the zoning change and revisit the issue at its February 27, 2024 meeting. In the interim, Judy Martin will head up a task force to study the proposal. They will talk to ETJ landowners and research what surrounding towns are doing.

Meanwhile the Board is considering a moratorium on development while infrastructure needs are being studied. The Town Planner will have documents prepared for the Board's November 28 meeting. When adopted, the moratorium can come into force immediately and will be in effect for at least six months, possibly for a full year.

WITH GRATITUDE AND LOVE

No words could ever express our appreciation for the love, prayers, and support shown after the passing of my son John Dennis Frye. We are deeply grateful for every act of kindness, and we thank you all individually and collectively. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as you will be in ours.

With love,

Clifton H. Frye and Family



Board Considers Change from Mayor to Town Manager

Following a unanimous vote on a motion by Commissioner Tanya Nicely, the Board will pursue transitioning from a Mayor/Council to Town Manager/Council form of government. The manager's position would be filled by the current town clerk, Wendy Butner, who already performs many of the functions of a manager. No additional staff would be needed. The change requires an amendment to the town charter and there would be a public hearing before anything is done. More information will be available at the Board's November 28 meeting..

Plan to Vote on Election Day, Nov. 7

Do your research on referendum items regarding beer and wine sales; if passed, they could bring new interest to downtown.

PLEASE NOTE: Voting will take place at the Methodist Church.

Join us Saturday, November 25 at 5pm for the Tree Lighting under the magnolia on the vacant lot beside the post office. There will be refreshments, the Christmas Story, Christmas Carols, Santa, and the lighting of the Tree.

Town Hall Closed:

November 10 – Veteran’s Day

November 23-24- Thanksgiving

December 25-27- Christmas

January 1 – New Year’s Day

Did You Know...

The land on which the Town of Cameron is situated was once a part of the 4,400-acre plantation of Archibald McDugald, one of those Highland Scots who came to North Carolina and prospered. After his death in 1835 most of his land passed to his son, Major Dugald McDugald. About 1850 Dugald McDugald contracted to build a segment of the Fayetteville-to-Salem plank road, using slave labor—his own slaves, plus others leased from neighbors and relatives. When an epidemic of either smallpox or typhoid fever took the lives of most of those slaves, McDugald had to sell almost everything he owned to pay off his indebtedness. The sale included more than 3,000 acres of land. The land which now comprises the “town” of Cameron went to two of his brothers-in-law, Neill McKay (“Coy”) McNeill and Henry Arnold. Some years later McNeill, a turpentine operator who chose to seek greener pastures in South Carolina and Georgia, sold his part of the land to the Goodman brothers—Tom, Tim, and Jake. Henry Arnold’s land passed to his son, Dr. William Arnold.

(—from *“Historic Cameron: A Small Town Reborn”*)

Anyone wishing to be added to the email list to receive upcoming meeting agendas, please email your request to Cameron Town Hall: cameronnc@townofcameron.com.

\$54,000 Grant Boosts Park Fundraising

A grant from the Pinehurst, Southern Pines, Aberdeen Area Convention & Visitors Bureau has put the Philips Memorial Park Committee much closer to its goal of upgrading the park’s playground area.

After months of fundraising, the group had \$31,910 on hand with a goal of \$64,236. The CVB grant of matching funds means the committee will instead need to raise and spend \$54,000 to access the \$54,000 grant. This will enable the purchase and installation of commercial-grade play equipment (a train replica, the “Dewberry Express”) as well as a picnic shelter and a play shelter in the playground area.

The most recent fundraising project for the park was a barbecue plate sale on October 28 at the train depot. A long list of local donors of food and services maximized the proceeds from the event, which was blessed with perfect weather. A preliminary estimate was that the event brought in at least \$6800.

The next fundraiser will take place Nov. 14 at Petro’s Chili & Chips on US 15/501 in Southern Pines, where 30 percent of sales to diners who present the fundraiser event flyer will be donated to the park fund.



Volunteers serving barbecue on October 28.

Preparing for Cameron's 150th Birthday

It's not too soon to think about celebrating the 150th anniversary of Cameron's incorporation as a town by the state legislature, which will take place in December 2025. Grisel Long is leading the committee that will organize the festivities and is looking for folks interested in taking part. Call or text her at 910-257-2271.

HPC Requests Ordinance to Prevent, Remedy Decay

Kay Kelly, a member of the Cameron Historic Preservation Commission, made a formal request to the Board of Commissioners on October 26. Here is the statement she read: "The HPC is requesting that the Town Board of Commissioners create and adopt an ordinance to remedy and prevent the decay and deterioration of places of habitation to to eliminate blighted neighborhoods by providing minimum requirements for places of habitation for the protection of the life, health, welfare, safety and property of the general public and the owners and occupants of places of habitation."

Tampering with Meters Is Illegal

From your town clerk:

It has come to our attention that several residents are tampering with their water meters. Be advised that NC General Statute 14-151.1 provides that "Interfering with electric, gas or water meters; prima facie evidence of intent to alter, tamper, with or bypass electric, gas or water meters; unlawful reconnection of electricity, gas or water; civil liability. It is unlawful to tamper with water meters. Any persons violating any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor and could face penalties."



(Above) Volunteers continued the work of trash pickup, pruning and edging streets on the second cleanup day September 16.

(Left) Live music for the October 28 benefit barbecue was provided by the band Hammer and Song.



VASS COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Holiday Food Drive

200 bags for Thanksgiving and 200 bag for Christmas

FILL UP A BAG AND DROP OFF AT DESIGNATED TIME

Thanksgiving Drop Off Days

November 9 4-6 pm

November 12 2-4 pm

November 13 4-6 pm

Christmas Drop Off Days

December 7 4-6 pm

December 8 9-11 am

December 11 4-6 pm

Please fill a small box or paper grocery bag with the items listed below.

- 1 can of Cranberry Sauce (14 oz)
- 2 cans of Corn (14.5 oz)
- 2 cans of Green Beans (15 oz)
- 1 can of Yams (29 oz)
- 1 bag of Stuffing Mix (12 oz)
- 1 box of Instant Mashed Potatoes (12 oz)
- 1 cake mix
- 1 container of cake frosting
- 1 container of chicken broth (32 oz)
- 1 jar of turkey gravy (12 Oz)
- 1 box corn muffin mix
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 package dried crispy onions
- 1 turkey OR turkey breast OR ham

Call or text Tracey at 910-556-3099 for more info or to arrange drop off.

