

**Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**May 6, 2019 | 6:00 pm**

**Board Members Present:** Mayor Dale Baldwin, Alderman Calvin Green, Alderman Jerry McMillan, Alderman John Reeves, Alderman Stephen Shoemaker, Alderman Summey (absent)

**Town Staff Present:** Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Clerk Rebecca Eldreth, Interim Police Chief Bradley Jordan, Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller, and WWTP Superintendent Brandon Patrick.

Several other residents of the community also attended.

At 6:00 p.m. Mayor Baldwin called to order the meeting of the Board of Aldermen. Alderman Shoemaker gave the invocation. Those in attendance then stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the May 6, 2019 Agenda** – With no changes, Alderman McMillan made the motion to approve the agenda. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

**Regular Session**

**Approval of Minutes** – With no changes, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the minutes from the April 1, 2019 regular meeting and the April 22, 2019 special meeting as presented. Alderman McMillan seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

**Discussion of Wilkes Community College Building Fund** – Chris Robinson along with Dr. Cox presented the plans for the expansion of the Ashe Campus of Wilkes Community College including a 2 story main building along with the possibility of a secondary building located behind the main building. At the end of the presentation Mr. Robinson asked the Board to pledge \$50,000 to be split over the next 3 years to the expansion project. The Board thanked Chris Robinson and Dr. Cox for the presentation and agreed to further discuss the financial commitment.

**ABC Report** – Haskell McGuire, ABC Board Chairman, gave a report to the Board on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Fiscal Quarter of the ABC Store for FY 2018-19. Total sales for the quarter were \$442,474, a 3.9% increase from sales during the same quarter last year. A check for \$17,500 was delivered to the Town for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Fiscal Quarter. The Board thanked Haskell for his report.

**Consideration of Resolution to Support Current ABC Control** – Haskell McGuire, ABC Board Chairman, informed the Board of House Bill 971 that would privatize the industry. Haskell then asked for the Board to sign a resolution of support for the current ABC controls. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the resolution. Alderman McMillan seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Change Order #2 USDA ARC Project and Engineering Services Amendment** – Mike Acquesta provided an update on the USDA ARC projects for the Town of West Jefferson. The water line extension on Wade Vannoy road has been completed and was under budget by \$52,000. The new well site is operational. The WWTP project has a few months of work before completion. Mike has requested a change to the original project which includes placing the dewatered sludge onto a conveyor instead of dumping the dewatered sludge directly into the back of the truck. The changes to the project will total \$29,000. In addition to the changes in the project for the WWTP, the Town would like to extend sewer service to the homes on Wade Vannoy Road. Both changes are subject to USDA approval. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve changes pending USDA approval. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Possession of Total Loss Property** – Mayor Baldwin stated an Officer hit a deer on April 9<sup>th</sup>. The car was a total loss due to the airbags deploying. Since the vehicles value is less than \$30,000 the insurance company can take possession of the car with the Boards approval. Alderman Green suggested the Town hold off and pursue other estimates to repair the car.

**Discussion of Family Entertainment Definition** – Mayor Baldwin asked the Board to review the definition for Family Entertainment that was previously discussed to allow an escape room.

*Family entertainment facilities – establishments which provide indoor or outdoor opportunities for casual entertainment by patrons of all ages, and may include, but not limited to, amusement parks, bingo clubs, bowling alleys, golf driving ranges, go-kart tracks, miniature golf courses, skating rinks, teen clubs or non-alcoholic dance clubs, skateboard parks, game rooms, and escape rooms.*

Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the definition as presented. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a vote of 4-0.

**Police Report** – Interim Police Chief Bradley Jordan gave the Police report for the month of March. A total of 251 calls were dispatched through the communications center including 15 auto collisions, 3 larcenies, 7 drug cases, 4 DWIs, and 8 minor citations. The Board thanked the Chief for his report.

**Water/Wastewater Report** – WWTP Superintendent Brandon Patrick gave a report to the Board. The new floating aerators are producing twice as much oxygen. All parts have been received but not installed in the filter plant. The new well has been started and is pumping approximately 60 gallons a minute making it the second-best producing well, if not the best. The Board thanked Brandon for his report.

**Maintenance Report** – Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller gave his report to the Board. There was a total of 37 one call tickets, 1 water leak, 2 sewer issues, 3 water and sewer taps, and 3 trips to the landfill. The maintenance crew has mulched bump outs and installed a strainer in the spring line for Brandon. The library has started digging for the parking lot expansion. Blue Ridge Energy has plans install 5 decorative lights in the park. Jessica Welborn with the High Country Council of Government has located new installs by GPS. The Board thanked Eric for his report.

**Town Managers Report** – Brantley Price gave his report to the Board. The new well site needs to be fenced. The County has agreed to the black fencing instead of a split rail fence for the library parking lot expansion project. Taxes collected to date totals 94.6% of the levy. The TDA promotion has started. Mount Jefferson Child Development Center conditional use permit has expired. They would like to ask the Board of Adjustment for an extension. The second wayfinding sign committee has been scheduled for May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Brantley will be attending a City Vision Conference on May 15-16. Eric Miller has been awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

**Public Comment** – None

**Aldermen Comments** – None

**Closed Session** – The Mayor asked for a motion to enter closed session per G.S. 143.318.11(a)(3) to consult with the Town's attorney over Attorney-Client matters. The Mayor stated they would return to open session before adjourning. Alderman McMillan made the motion to go into closed session. The time was 7:30pm.

**Return to Regular Session** – The Board returned to open session at 8:15 pm.

**Adjournment** – With no further items to be discussed or voted on, Alderman Reeves made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Shoemaker. A vote of 4-0 in favor.

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Dale Baldwin, Mayor

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Rebecca L. Eldreth, Town Clerk