

Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2016 | 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Dale Baldwin, Alderman Calvin Green, Alderman Stephen Shoemaker, Alderman Brett Summey, Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Clerk Wesley Barker, Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller, WWTP Superintendent Charles Call, Police Chief Jeff Rose. Several other residents of the community also attended.

At 6:01 p.m. Mayor Baldwin called to order the meeting of the Board of Aldermen. Alderman Shoemaker then said the invocation and those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Aldermen Jerry McMillan & John Reeves were absent.

Approval of the April 4, 2016 Agenda- Alderman Summey made the motion to approve the agenda. Alderman Shoemaker seconded the motion with a vote of 3-0 in favor.

Approval of Minutes- March 7, 2016 Regular Meeting- With no comments, Alderman Summey made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a vote of 3-0 in favor.

Approval of Minutes- March 15, 2016 Special Budget Meeting- With no comments, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Alderman Summey seconded with a vote of 3-0 in favor.

Presentation to John Smyre, former Ashe Co. Farmers Market Manager- The Mayor presented John Smyre with a plaque and gift card on behalf of the Aldermen and the Town in appreciation for his 7 years as Farmers Market Manager. The Mayor thanked John for his work with the Market over the years. The Board echoed the Mayor stating they appreciated his dedication to the Market and the Town. A round of applause followed.

Discussion of "Great American Cleanup"- Elaine Graham- Elaine Graham, of Keep Ashe Beautiful, spoke to the Board on the Great American Cleanup efforts and gave a background on Keep Ashe Beautiful (KAB). Elaine explained KAB is a non-profit organization comprised of all volunteers which was founded in 2012 as an affiliate of the nationally known Keep America Beautiful. KAB engages people to get involved in their community. KAB is part of the tourism department with the Ashe Chamber and encourages people to clean up their area of the county via ads in local papers and several publications to promote KAB. Elaine also said KAB is currently educating children in the school system on littering. Elaine said she came to the meeting to encourage the Town to be an advocate for the KAB movement. The Board thanked Elaine for her report.

Relay for Life "Paint the Town Purple" Presentation- Karen Powell- Karen Powell of Skyline Telephone and member of Relay for Life, spoke to the Board on the upcoming Relay for Life event with the American Cancer Society. Karen said the American Cancer Society has been around for over 100 years and the Relay for Life got its start in 1995 here in Ashe County. Karen explained the Relay for Life is important to assist funding research for a cure for cancer as 1 in 3 people will develop some form of cancer in their lifetime. Karen said this year's Relay for Life would be held on July 15th at Ashe Co. High School. This year's theme for the Relay for Life is "Paint the World Purple." The Ashe County Relay for Life is proposing to work with the WJ Business Association and during the week of July 11th, encourage businesses to decorate their storefront purple in an attempt to "Paint the Town Purple." This will bring

awareness to the Relay for Life. Businesses and individuals alike will have the option to purchase purple bows to display at their business or home, with all proceeds going to the Relay. Flyers will also be distributed. The Board was in consensus to move forward with this effort.

On a side note, Karen spoke on behalf of Skyline Telephone on the upcoming new area code overlay. Karen explained the new 743 area code (an overlay to the current 336 area code) would go into effect April 23, 2016 and anyone in this area, including Ashe County, would then need to dial 10 digits when placing a call instead of 7 digits. Karen said, for now, all new phone numbers issued in Ashe County would still have the 336 area code, but 10 digits would still have to be dialed. The new 743 area code overlay would impact the metro region of our area code region first. The Board thanked Karen for her report.

Discussion of Fire Truck- Donnie Miller- West Jefferson Fire Chief Donnie Miller spoke to the Board on the quotes for the new fire truck. Donnie explained the Department had received a proposal to purchase a fire truck from CW Williams for a price of \$343,786. The Fire Department has purchased from CW Williams before. This truck would be a 1,000 gallon tanker compared to the current 500 gallon tank. The #4 pumper truck would be replaced by this new truck and would then be sold. Donnie stated the Fire Department has the money to pay for this truck and the truck wouldn't be here for at least another year. Donnie said a fire truck's life span is approximately 15-20 years. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the fire truck purchase as presented at cost through CW Williams. Alderman Summey seconded with a vote of 3-0 in favor.

Consideration of Mo's Boots to use 2 Parking Spots on E. Main St. - Mayor Baldwin introduced Kelly Hardy of Mo's Boots to speak to the Board. Kelly said Mo's Boots has been in West Jefferson for 4 years now. Kelly stated Mo's Boots would like to hold a tent sale in April to get rid of some inventory. Kelly would like to request to use 2 parking spaces on E. Main St. outside of their business for a tent sale to be held on Friday and Saturday, April 22nd and 23rd. With no discussion, Alderman Summey made the motion to approve Mo's Boots to use 2 parking spots on E. Main Street on the dates proposed. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a vote of 3-0 in favor.

Consideration of Budget Amendment #3- FY 15-16- Brantley Price explained this budget amendment was to recognize the revenue for the sale of Town surplus vehicles sold at the public auction on March 19, 2016. The total amount from this public auction was \$7,125. With no discussion, Alderman Summey made the motion to approve budget amendment #3. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a vote of 3-0 in favor.

Consideration of Capital Project Budget Ordinance (Streetscape at Jefferson Ave. & Second St.)- The Mayor explained this capital project budget ordinance is required if a capital project extends from one fiscal year to another. This first capital project budget ordinance is for the Streetscape project at Jefferson Ave. & Second St. The total project cost is \$489,500 from the appropriated amounts including: engineering (\$25,000), CEI (\$19,500), and construction cost (\$445,000). The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete the project: Federal Highway Administration (\$220,000), NC DOT (\$185,000) and Town of West Jefferson (\$84,500). *[This item is voted on below]*

Consideration of Capital Project Budget Ordinance- CDBG Project (Burkett & Graybeal Ave.)- This Capital Project Budget Ordinance is for the CDBG Project for the water and sewer project on Burkett and Graybeal Avenues. The total project cost is \$661,480 from the appropriated amounts including: Administrative (\$43,000) and Public Water-Sewer Improvements (\$618,480). The following revenues are

anticipated to be available to complete the project: NCDENR CDBG-Infrastructure I-2625 (\$504,455) and NCDENR CDBG- Infrastructure I-2626 (\$157,025). *[This item is voted on below]*

Motion to Approve Capital Project Budget Ordinances- With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve both Capital Project Budget Ordinances as presented above. Alderman Summey seconded with a vote of 3-0 in favor.

Consideration of Peddler's & Itinerant Merchant Ordinance- Town Clerk Wesley Barker explained to the Board that he and Town Attorney David Paletta created the Peddlers & Itinerant Merchant Ordinance as requested by the Board. Wesley stated this came about due to the State's elimination of privilege licenses last July and the issue of people setting up in town parking spaces near the Farmers Market, who are not actually Market vendors. This ordinance will not allow anyone who does not operate a business in town to sell on any street, sidewalk, town-owned parking lot or public right of way except the Farmers Market or special events designated by the board. This ordinance will also help the Town control peddlers before it becomes a larger issue and during the busier seasons. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the Peddler & Itinerant Merchant Ordinance, seconded by Alderman Summey. The vote of 3-0 in favor.

Discussion of Pocahontas- Brantley informed the Board that the Centennial Commission was able to purchase Pocahontas and the Board would need to decide where she needs to be placed in town. The Centennial Commission met and suggests to locate her at the Backstreet Park on the bank leading up to the library. The Board was in consensus to place Pocahontas at the Backstreet Park. Also, a platform would be made to place her on.

Police Report- Chief Rose gave a report on the Police Department. Chief said during the month of March, 250 calls were dispatched through the communications center, 19 auto collisions were investigated, 10 people were arrested including charges of DWI, larceny, assault and drug related crimes. Further, the Chief said 5 persons was arrested for drug violations. The Board thanked the Chief for his report.

Water/Wastewater Report- Charles Call said NC Rural Water would be placing standard operating procedures for the filter plant. Further, the grit collector at the plant would need to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$40,000, also bearings on the oxidation ditch. 360,000 gallons of sludge had been hauled out to local fields. The Board thanked Charles for his report.

Maintenance Report- absent- no report given.

Town Managers Report- Brantley Price gave his report to the Board. Brantley gave an update on the new parking lot stating the storm drain had been replaced and paving would take place soon after the gravel sets for a while. The streetscape project at Jefferson Ave. and Second St. and public restroom project is moving along, the sidewalk repair from State St. to Ashe St. would begin soon as it is in the budget. The CDBG project should be completed by this winter. Taxes collected to date was \$979,400 or 97.5% of the levy. \$24,700 is the amount of past due taxes for 2015 with a total outstanding tax amount of \$57,300. The TDA recently approved \$3,000 toward the Northern Peaks Trail Master Plan which would connect Boone to West Jefferson via a 50-60 mile hiking trail along the mountain peaks. Alderman Green suggested placing the Town logo on the Town vehicles. Brantley said he had samples printed and will work on getting these on the vehicles. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

Public Comment- The Mayor opened public comment at 7:00 p.m. Mike Sawyer, Town resident, spoke about the trash pickup stating the workers have been throwing the trash cans down after they empty them. Mike recommended discussing with management on the trash pickup as it's not like it used to be. With no other comment, public comment was closed.

Alderman Comments- Alderman Shoemaker thanked everyone for attending the meeting and thanked the Town employees.

With nothing further, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Summey. The vote of 3-0 in favor. The time was 7:05 p.m.

Dale Baldwin, Mayor

Wesley M. Barker, Town Clerk