

**Board of Aldermen
Regular Meeting
July 7, 2014
6:00 P.M.
Minutes**

Present: Mayor Dale Baldwin, Alderman Tom Hartman, Alderman John Reeves, Alderman Stephen Shoemaker, Alderman Brett Summey. Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Clerk Wesley Barker, Finance Officer Heather Holdaway and Town Planner Matthew Levi were also present. Several other Town employees, business owners and residents of the community also attended.

At 6:00 p.m. Mayor Baldwin called to order the meeting of the Board of Aldermen. Alderman Hartman then said the invocation. All in attendance stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of July 7, 2014 Agenda- Alderman Hartman suggested postponing the Planning Board Appointments until August in order to interview candidates. With nothing further, Alderman Hartman then made a motion to approve the agenda as presented with the proposed deletion. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Regular Session- began at 6:02 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes- June 2, 2014 Regular Meeting

With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

YMCA Update- Kurt Hazelbaker

Mr. Kurt Hazelbaker spoke to the Board on the status of a YMCA, or "Y", coming to West Jefferson. Kurt said the feasibility study went well with 32 people being interviewed from Ashe County. 87% of those interviewed felt the community would benefit from a "Y" in West Jefferson, 83% felt there was a need for a "Y" in West Jefferson and a majority of people said they would support funding and felt the community would support funding a "Y" as well. Kurt explained that all "Y's" in the area are different and cater to the need of each community and ideally a partnership would like to be made with Ashe Memorial Hospital and Ashe County Schools for the "Y" in West Jefferson. Kurt said other studies would be conducted by the committee which includes a gap analysis and market analysis before moving forward. The Aldermen would be updated on the results of these analyses once completed. The Board thanked Kurt for his report.

Consideration of Land Donation to Town by Algonquin Investments (Jak Reeves)

Brantley said Jak Reeves was offering to donate a small piece of land off Buck Mtn. Rd. to the Town. Brantley said this piece of land is located below the Fire Department where the old Railroad trestle crossed Buck Mtn. Rd. Brantley said if the Board would like to accept this donation of land, they would need to accept this in open session. Alderman Green asked why the Town should accept an offer of land if the Town has no use for it and would not be receiving any tax money once in the Town's name. Brantley said this particular piece of land had a tax value of \$5,000 and it was only one lot, but was currently wooded. Alderman Shoemaker said it would be good to have a piece of West Jefferson history with this land with the original Railroad bed running through it. Alderman Reeves said he would like the Town to go ahead and accept this land. Alderman Shoemaker then made the motion to accept the land donation to the Town by Algonquin Investments. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 4-1. Alderman Green opposing.

Consideration of Resolution to Approve Local Water Supply Plan

Brantley explained to the Board that Charles had updated the Town's Local Water Supply Plan which has been approved by the State. The State requires a resolution showing that the Town has developed and submitted a Local Water Supply Plan as well as approved by the Board. Some items included in this Plan are the Town's water usage and amount of water pumped by the Town. With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the Resolution for the Town's Local Water Supply Plan. Alderman Hartman seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

West Jefferson Centennial Committee Update

Gene Hafer and Lynn-Rees Jones of the WJ Centennial Committee gave an update to the Board. Lynn updated the Board on upcoming items and events by the Committee. These items included a celebration day, merchandising of Centennial items and a legacy project. Lynn said she had been working on getting the word out to the community and other organizations about the Town's Centennial. Also, the committee has been working with the Ashe Historical Society on events. The committee recently sold "Centennial bricks" dated back to 1917 which were recovered from the Old Hotel renovation project in support of the Centennial celebration. Lynn also said she had been working on locating descendants of the original West Jefferson land purchases in hopes of bringing them together for an event. Other activities planned include a West Jefferson photo display at the Library, a photo contest with Catchlight Gallery and the Centennial website. The Board thanked Lynn for her hard work thus far.

Consideration of Appreciation Letter to NC Rural Water Association

Brantley read a letter to the Board from NC Rural Water Association in regards to the recent water loss. Brantley said he would like to send an appreciation letter to NCRWA for their help in locating the Town's major water leak. He said if it weren't for them, the Town could be hurting otherwise due to the significant water loss. The Board was in agreement to send an appreciation letter to NCRWA.

Police Report

Chief Rose gave a report on the Police Department. Chief said during the month of June, 226 calls were dispatched through the communications center, 14 auto collisions were investigated, 14 people were arrested including charges of DWI, larceny, assault and drug related crimes. Further, the Chief said 8 persons were arrested for drug violations. The Board thanked the Chief for his report.

Water/Wastewater Report

Charles Call gave a report on the status of the WWTP. Charles said the filter plant had been down for one week due to lack of rain. Also, the major water leak had been found last week and the water levels had returned to normal. The consumer confidence report had been submitted to the State. Several wells were currently off, land application renewals had been sent out and the water tank at Westwood School had a small leak and a suggestion was made to add hydraulic cement around the bottom of the tank to potentially fix the leak. The Board suggested trying this cement to see if it would work. The Board thanked Charles for his report.

Maintenance Report

No report.

Town Manager's Report

Brantley stated the well drilling at Ashe County Job Development site would begin this month and he would be meeting with McGill & Associates on streetscape design. To date, a total of \$998,000 in taxes had been collected which is 97% of the levy. Further, Brantley said the CDBG Grant letter of intent ran twice in the paper and Mike Acquesta was the only one who applied and it would be awarded to him. The Model T Ford Club International would be coming to West Jefferson on Monday, July 14th from 9am-

Noon and a portion of Main Street would be closed off as previously approved by the Board. Brantley spoke briefly on the water leak that was found beside the Laundromat on Jefferson Ave. by NCRWA. Brantley said the Town was pumping over 300,000 gallons per day while this leak was going on whereas normally the Town only pumps about 120,000 gallons per day. Since the leak has been fixed, the Town was down to pumping about 140,000 gallons per day. Finally, Brantley said the ABC Board budget had been approved with approximately \$1.5 million in revenues budgeted. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

Public Comments

Public comment was opened at 6:50 p.m. Jeff Caudill, Town resident, spoke on the Civil War Re-enactments at the Christmas in July Festival. Jeff said he felt the cannon firing was a nuisance because it went on all day long almost hourly. He suggested that this only occur a few times during the day and not hourly. David Aben, business owner of a printing, photography and graphic design business, spoke to the Board on parking in handicapped spots. He said he had noticed some business owners who have handicapped parking tags but did not seem to have any problems and will park their car all day in these spots. David spoke on other ordinances in other towns that enforced these spots for only a couple hours at a time. David said he has spoke with Sam Yearick at the County and he was referred to this Board for guidance. The Mayor said the Board would look into this and thanked David for his comments. With nothing further, public comment was closed at 7:00 p.m.

Aldermen Comments

Alderman Hartman thanked the Town employees for all their hard work this summer.

Closed Session- Legal

The Mayor said the Board would be entering into Closed Session to discuss legal issues. Alderman Green made the motion to go into closed session to discuss legal issues. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor. The time was 7:01 p.m.

Return to Regular Session

The Board came out of closed session at 7:30 p.m. The Board then discussed Planning Board appointments. After some discussion took place, Alderman Green asked if spouses of Aldermen could be on other boards or if this would be a conflict of interest. Attorney David Paletta said the Town cannot enter into contracts with Board members to monetarily benefit and feels spouses on other boards would be fine. The terms of Planning Board members was then discussed among the Board. Alderman Hartman made the motion to include Planning Board member Appointment on the August agenda. Alderman Summey seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

The following motions were made and votes taken on Planning Board re-appointments:

Re-appointment of John Reeves to a 1-year term on the Planning Board.

Motion made by Alderman Hartman, seconded by Alderman Summey with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Re-appointment of Joan Watson to a 1-year term on the Planning Board.

Motion made by Alderman Hartman, seconded by Alderman Shoemaker with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Re-appointment of JoAnn Alexander to a 3-year term on the Planning Board.

Motion made by Alderman Hartman, seconded by Alderman Shoemaker with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Appointment of new member to a 3-year term on the Planning Board to be determined at the next Aldermen meeting.

Motion made by Alderman Hartman, seconded by Alderman Shoemaker with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Adjournment

With no other items to be discussed, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to adjourn the Board of Aldermen meeting, seconded by Alderman Hartman. The vote of 5-0 in favor. The time was 8:15 p.m.

Dale Baldwin, Mayor

Wesley M. Barker, Town Clerk