

Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2016 | 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Dale Baldwin, Alderman Calvin Green, Alderman Jerry McMillan, Alderman John Reeves, Alderman Stephen Shoemaker, Alderman Brett Summey, Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Clerk Wesley Barker, Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller, Police Chief Jeff Rose. 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. A moment of silence was given and those in attendance then stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the May 2, 2016 Agenda- Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman McMillan seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Approval of Minutes- April 4, 2016 Regular Meeting- With no comments, Alderman Summey made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Discussion of Tent Sales at Mountain Outfitters- Brandon Vannoy, owner of Mountain Outfitters at 102 S. Jefferson Ave spoke to the board asking permission to hold several tent sales on the side of their building in a parking space on W. State St. Brandon said the upcoming tent sales would be on May 28th, July 2nd and September 3rd. With no objection, Alderman Summey made the motion to approve the tent sales for Mountain Outfitters as presented. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor. The Board thanked Brandon for his attendance.

Consideration to Close a Portion of State St. for Ashe Habitat for Humanity Auction- Roy Carter, of the Ashe Habitat for Humanity, spoke to the Board on the potential for an auction to be held on May 21st. Roy explained the former Burgess Furniture warehouse located on W. State St. has donated the surplus furniture to the Habitat for Humanity to auction off as a fundraiser. Roy is asking permission to close the portion of W. State St. from the alleyway up to the Backstreet on Friday, May 20th beginning at 6pm through Saturday, May 21st until 1pm to include setting up on Friday evening and the auction on Saturday from 9am-1pm. Roy said he would be talking with Parsons Farms to see if they did not object to this closure. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the road closure for the times presented for this auction. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor. Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller did suggest that W. State St. be completely closed from Jefferson Ave. up to the Backstreet to keep traffic from having to back out into Jefferson Ave. due to the closure.

ABC Board Report- Haskell McGuire, ABC Board Chairman, gave the ABC Board report for the 3rd Fiscal Quarter 2015-16 (January-March). Haskell said the total sales at the ABC Store for this quarter were \$339,852, a 3.6% increase over this quarter last year. A check for \$12,000 was delivered to the Town of West Jefferson for the quarter. Further, Haskell said a Responsible Alcohol Seller Program (RASP) training session would be held on Thursday, May 31st, 2016 from 10am-12noon at Boondocks which would be training anyone who sells alcohol. The Board thanked Haskell for his report.

Consideration of Resolution to Apply for Asset Inventory Assessment Grant- Water- Manager Brantley Price explained to the Board this resolution, and the same for sewer, are for grant funding for a capital asset plan for water and sewer. The cost of the plans will be \$3,000 for each for a total cost of \$6,000 which can come from an in-kind match (hours of employees worked) with no cash match required. Brantley said these plans are necessary when applying for grant funding. With no discussion, Alderman

Shoemaker made the motion to approve this resolution to apply for a water asset inventory assessment grant. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Resolution to Apply for Asset Inventory Assessment Grant- Sewer- With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the resolution to apply for a sewer asset inventory assessment grant. Alderman Summey seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Non-Warranty Deed to Hobart Davis- The Mayor stated that Hobart Davis would like to get the property, from the old Broadway Street that was never an actual Town street and closed in 1961, deeded in his name. The property is located on Church Ave. where his mother lives. Mr. Davis is requesting to have the property to the creek on his side deeded to him, as at some point he would like to move to West Jefferson and doesn't want to have an issue with the old Broadway Street. Town Attorney David Paletta has reviewed and all is in order and the Board would just need to approve the non-warranty (quick-claim) deed and the Mayor's signature. With no discussion, Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the non-warranty deed for Hobart Davis and for the Mayor to sign the deed. Alderman Summey seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Discussion of Streetlights at Public Restrooms- Brantley explained to the Board that Blue Ridge Electric has concerns if 2 additional decorative lights are placed in front of the restrooms, with the already existing street light and additional lights are added to the building, it would be so bright the sensors will now allow the lights to even come on and they would have to be put on a timer. Brantley asked for the Board's recommendation on the lights. Alderman Green stated the streetlights that were installed along Jefferson Avenue a few years ago had this potential to not work, but they did not have issues. Alderman Green also stated the sensors could be turned around or put on timers if that did not work. The Board was in consensus to proceed with the proposed lighting and adjust sensors/add timers as needed.

Discussion of Next Budget Meeting- The next budget meeting was set for Tuesday, May 10th at 5:30 p.m.

Police Report- Chief Rose gave a report on the Police Department. Chief said during the month of April, 227 calls were dispatched through the communications center, 18 auto collisions were investigated, 10 people were arrested including charges of DWI, larceny, assault and drug related crimes. Further, the Chief said 12 persons was arrested for drug violations. The Board thanked the Chief for his report.

Water/Wastewater Report- absent.

Maintenance Report- Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller gave a report on the maintenance department. Eric said for the month of April, 64 one calls had been reported. 1 water leak and 1 sewer issue had been report and resolved. The department had made 2 water taps and 2 sewer taps and preparing the bumpouts at Jefferson Ave. and Second St. for electrical. Further, the department has been working with DOT on the Highway 221 construction and moving of the water/sewer lines. The water taps had been made at the public restrooms. The Board thanked Eric for his report.

Town Managers Report- Brantley Price gave his report to the Board. Brantley gave an update on the new parking lot stating the parking lot had been paved and 70 spaces had been striped. The County of Ashe awarded the Town \$60,000 for the parking lot paving. Brantley stated the County gets sales tax from West Jefferson. Further, Brantley said the parking lot would soon be lit with streetlights. The streetscape project at Jefferson Ave. and Second St. was moving forward and on schedule with the brick pavers installed and street lights. The Highway 221 project, section D, is 30% complete with a

completion date of February 2017. Taxes collected to date is \$982,740 or 97.9% of the levy. Further, Brantley said the TDA is pursuing a radio and digital promotion with Raycom Media and Pandora which would be a \$35,000 endeavor. West Jefferson was recently voted one of NC's top 10 coolest small towns by www.onlyinourstate.com. Further, Brantley reported that Pocahontas would be picked up in the next few weeks and the idea of having a pink granite for the base was suggested, among other options. Alderman Summey asked about the possibility of lighting Pocahontas and it was said electrical hookup was available. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

Public Comment- The Mayor opened public comment at 6:44 p.m. Mike Sawyer, Town resident, spoke on neighborhood blight at a property on Graybeal Ave. Mike said this was a vacant building and was disgusting. Mike said he wasn't sure if this would be the County's responsibility to condemn, and if not, if it would be under the Town's control. Mike asked if the Town could work with the County to correct.

Haskell McGuire asked about the stoplights coming down at the intersection of Jefferson Ave. and Second St. and what type of warning would be issued to the drivers. Brantley said the current warning signs would remain in place for a while to warn drivers of the new traffic pattern. Haskell then asked about those drivers coming toward Town from radio hill and asked if some sort of warning light be placed before reaching the intersection. Alderman McMillan said this could be addressed later if needed. It was also suggested to have the police present in this area once the stoplights do come down as a warning for drivers.

With no other comment, public comment was closed at 6:52 p.m.

Closed Session- The Mayor said the Board would need to enter into closed session per G.S. § 143.318.11 (3) to consult with the Town Attorney over attorney-client matters. Alderman Green made the motion to enter into closed session, seconded by Alderman McMillan. The vote of 5-0 in favor.

The Board returned to open session at 7:50 p.m. With nothing further to discuss, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Summey. The vote of 5-0 in favor.

Dale Baldwin, Mayor

Wesley M. Barker, Town Clerk