

Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 6, 2018 | 6:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Mayor Dale Baldwin, Alderman Calvin Green, Alderman Jerry McMillan, Alderman John Reeves, Alderman Stephen Shoemaker, Alderman Brett Summey, Sr.

Town Staff Present: Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Clerk Rebecca Eldreth, Police Chief Jeff Rose, 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 August 6, 2018 Agenda – Mayor Baldwin stated that he would like to add the discussion of the WJ Lions Club to the agenda. Alderman Summey made the motion to approve the agenda with the addition. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Regular Session

Approval of July 10, 2018 Minutes – With no changes, Alderman Summey made the motion to approve all minutes as presented. Alderman McMillan seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Herb Francis Funds for Cemetery Maintenance – Gene Hafer addressed the Board on behalf of Emmett Cox, executor of the Herb Francis Estate. Gene referenced a petition between the Town and the Executor of the Estate. The petition would allow the Town to maintain in perpetuity a trust fund established by Herbert Francis for the maintenance and upkeep of the Lester Segraves mausoleum and other monuments within the Town Cemetery in the West Jefferson Cemetery. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to accept the petition. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Discussion of Stonebridge Fire District – Chuck Hayes spoke on behalf of the Stonebridge subdivision to the Board. Chuck updated the Board on the steps they have taken to be included in the Fleetwood Fire District, including officially petitioning the Ashe County Board of Commissioners. Chuck stated the petition has been signed by over 90% of the owners of the 244 parcels located within the West Jefferson Fire District in the Stonebridge subdivision. The redistricting of the Stonebridge subdivision has been placed on the August 20th agenda for the Ashe County Board of Commissioners. Chuck then asked the Board for their support in the redistricting of a portion of the Stonebridge subdivision. After further discussion, the Board decided to postpone their response until after the Commissioners meeting scheduled for August 20th.

Discussion of Street Paving – Mayor Baldwin stated that a list of street and quotes have been provided for the Board to review. Brantley Price, Town Manager, stated a total of \$100,000 has been budgeted for the FY 18-19. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to allow Brantley Price, Town Manager, and Eric Miller, Maintenance Supervisor, to choose the roads with the most need to be repaved. Alderman Green seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Approval – Order to Collect Taxes – With no discussion Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the Order to Collect Taxes. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Discussion of four way Stop Sign at Main Street and Backstreet – Alderman Summey asked the Board to consider making the intersection of Main Street and Backstreet a four way stop for safety reasons.

Alderman Shoemaker stated his concern would be backing up the traffic on Main Street and Jefferson Avenue. Alderman Green also expressed his concern about the backing up of traffic and the concern for stopping and starting at the intersection in the winter months. The Board decided to leave the intersection as a two way stop.

Consideration of Resolution for Street Closures – Mayor Baldwin stated a resolution for the street closure must be approved for the Antiques Fair and the Holiday Parade. With no discussion, Alderman Reeves made the motion to adopt the resolution for the street closure for the Antiques Fair. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to adopt the resolution for the street closure for the Holiday Parade. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Discussion of Sign Committee – The Board agreed to move the sign discussion to the next regular meeting.

Discussion of September Board of Alderman Meeting – Brantley Price, Town Manager, stated the next regular meeting is scheduled the Monday, September 3rd, Labor Day. Due to conflicting schedules, the Board agreed to cancel the regular meeting and hold a special meeting on Tuesday, September 4th.

Discussion of WJ Lions Club – Mayor Baldwin stated that the West Jefferson Lions Club would like to add an additional marching band to the parade this year, but that would require an additional \$250 from the Town. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to increase the funds given to the West Jefferson Lions Club from \$1000 to \$1250 to secure another band for the event. Alderman Reeves seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Police Report – Police Chief Jeff Rose gave the Police report for the month of August. There were 249 calls dispatched through the communications center: 21 auto collisions were investigated, 11 people were arrested on charges of larceny, assault, and drug related crimes. A total of 8 persons were arrested/charged for drug violations. The Board thanked the Chief for his report.

Water/Wastewater & Maintenance Report – WWTP Superintendent Brandon Patrick gave a report to the Board on the WWTP. Brandon stated that 114,000 gallons of sludge have been hauled off to the field. The lab has been recertified for 2018. All supervisory control and data acquisition alarms have been tested and are operational. Currently, there is one filter running, and it is producing about 30,000 gallons per day. The Board thanked Brandon for his report.

Maintenance Report – Absent

Town Managers Report – Brantley Price gave his report to the Board. Brantley updated the Board on USDA ARC project for the new well site, belt press, and sewer lines. The letters to proceed have been signed, and the start date has been set for August 15th. The project will be the well site followed by the belt press with all 3 projects completed within 6 months. The NCDOT held a public meeting at Town Hall concerning the Beaver Creek School Road intersection redesign. The NCDOT will be back in September with a proposal of the intersection which could include a super highway type set up with only a right turn in and a right turn out access or a two lane round about. The 2018 property tax bills have been mailed out, and collections have been started. The West Jefferson Tourism Development Authority and the Ashe County Chamber have been working on a cross promotion with Pandora and Web Media. The advertisements will run for five weeks starting August 20th with the hopes of attracting more visitors to the area in September and early October. The annual Blue Ridge Brutal is scheduled for August 11th. Brantley received a letter requesting a four way stop at the intersection of Ashe Street and Backstreet. Brantley then informed the Board he has been invited to Auburn University to make a presentation and participate in a roundtable discussion about the West Jefferson streetscaping project and the impact it has had on our Town. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

Public Comment – None

Aldermen Comments – Alderman Shoemaker notified the Board of a dwelling to be removed at the intersection of Highway 88 and Highway 194. Alderman Shoemaker also asked for an update on the street repair on North Jefferson Avenue. Brantley stated that Eric Miller, Maintenance Supervisor, would be able to provide an update. Alderman Reeves inquired about the state funding a sidewalk extension. Alderman Green congratulated Brantley on the honor of being asked to participate in the discussion at Auburn University.

Closed Session – The Mayor asked for a motion to enter closed session per G.S. 143.318.11(a)(3) to consult with the attorney over attorney-client matters and G.S. 143.318.11(a)(5). The Mayor stated they would return to open session before adjourning. Alderman Green made the motion to go into closed session. The time was 7:00pm.

Adjournment – The Board returned to open session at 8:00 pm. With no further items to be discussed or voted on, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Summey. A vote of 5-0 in favor.

Dale Baldwin, Mayor

Rebecca L. Eldreth, Town Clerk