

Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2019 | 6:00 pm

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, 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 February 4, 2019 Agenda – With no changes, Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the agenda. Alderman McMillan seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Regular Session

Approval of Minutes – With no changes, Alderman McMillan made the motion to approve the minutes from the January 7, 2019 meeting as presented. Alderman Summey seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of 2019 WJ Antiques Fair Road Closure & Footprint – The 2019 Antique Fair will be held on Friday, September 20th and Saturday, September 21st. With no changes to the footprint from the previous year, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion approve the fair as presented. Alderman McMillan seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

ABC Report – Haskell McGuire, ABC Board Chairman, gave a report to the Board on the 2nd Fiscal Quarter of the ABC Store for FY 2018-19. Total sales for the quarter were \$606,727, a 12.7% increase from sales during the same quarter last year. A check for \$17,500 was delivered to the Town for the 2nd Fiscal Quarter along with a \$30,000 “Bonus” check bringing the total contribution for the fiscal year up to \$100,000. Haskell then extended an invitation to all the West Jefferson employees to the open house hosted by the Ashe County Chamber of Commerce to showcase the new ABC Store warehouse addition. The Board thanked Haskell for his report.

Consideration of Appointing Board of Adjustment Alternates – The Mayor stated a total of 3 alternates are permitted to serve on Board of Adjustment. Alternates shall serve on the Board in the absence or temporary disqualification of any regular member or to fill a vacancy pending appointment of a member. Each alternate, while attending any regular or special meeting of the Board and serving on behalf of any regular member, shall have and may exercise all the powers and duties of a regular member according to Article IV Section 400a of the West Jefferson ordinance. The Mayor then recommended Rick Price to serve as an alternate for the Board of Adjustment as an ETJ member. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to recommend the appointment of Rick Price to the Board of Adjustment as an alternate the County Commissioners. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to recommend the appointment of Kyle Hall as an alternate for the Board of Adjustment as an In-Town member. Alderman McMillan seconded the motion. A vote of 2-3 was made with Alderman Reeves, Alderman Summey, and Alderman Green opposing. Alderman Reeves made the motion to appoint the office of the Mayor to serve as the alternate In Town member of the Board of Adjustment. Alderman Summey seconded the motion with a vote of 3-2 in favor, Alderman Shoemaker and Alderman McMillan opposing.

Discussion of Wayfinding Proposal – Town Manager Brantley Price gave an update to the Board. Destination by Design from Boone, NC has submitted a proposal for the \$10,000 which is in the budget for the fiscal year. Brantley felt this would be a good way to start the wayfinding project as the proposal includes signage location and destination plan, brand identity and sign style, and permitting considerations. Brantley then asked for approval from the Board to move forward. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the project. Alderman Summey seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Financial Update – Town Manager Brantley Price provided a financial update to the Board. The update included comparisons of the budget amounts to actual amounts spent for the first six months of the fiscal year. All accounts are expensed around the range of 50%, after adjustment, which is line with the timeframe. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

Consideration of TDA Reappointment – Mayor Baldwin stated Don Baumeister’s 2-year term has expired. Don has agreed to serve another term, if the Board agrees. In addition, Andy Guion has agreed to serve as the Chairman. With no discussion, Alderman Summey made the motion to approve the 2 appointments. Alderman Green seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of 2019 Christmas in July Festival Road Closure & Footprint – Mayor Baldwin stated there were no changes in the footprint for the Festival. With no discussion, Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the road closure and foot print for the 2019 Christmas in July Festival. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Police Report – Interim Police Chief Bradley Jordan gave the Police report for the month of January. A total of 235 calls were dispatched through the communications center: 10 auto collisions were investigated; 13 larcenies; 1 fraud case; 2 stolen vehicles; 1 breaking and entering; 1 counterfeit bill; 4 drug charges; 1 DWI charge; and 2 minor traffic stops. The Board thanked the Chief for his report.

Water/Wastewater Report – WWTP Superintendent Brandon Patrick gave a report to the Board. A belt press has been rented to keep up with the demand until the Town’s belt press can be installed. The annual land app has been submitted, and 2 aerators have been replaced. The Board thanked Brandon for his report.

Maintenance Report – Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller gave his report to the Board. There was a total of 26 one call tickets, 3 water leaks, and no sewer problems reported. The department has been working to find a cutoff for the water line on 7th Street. All the brush has been chipped, drains have been cleared, and 2 trips have been made to the landfill. A load of salt has been delivered to replenish the supply. Some issues have been reported with the radio read meters, but a technician is scheduled to troubleshoot the meters. The Board thanked Eric for his report.

Town Managers Report – Brantley Price gave his report to the Board starting with an update on USDA ARC project for the new well site, belt press, and sewer lines. The water and sewer extension are almost complete. Taps are installed for water connection and everyone is connected to sewer. The buildings for the well and the belt press have been delivered. Taxes collected to date totals \$1,223,172 which is 91.7% of the levy. Sargent Muldowney was recently recognized as 2018 Best of the Best police officer for Ashe County. Brantley then read aloud a letter commending the efforts of Fire Chief Eric Miller and other members of the volunteer fire department during a medical emergency. Chris Lambert, Tax Administrator for Ashe County, has completed the revaluation with new values coming in less than current value. 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 Town Attorney over Attorney-Client Matters. The Mayor stated they would return to open session before adjourning. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to go into closed session. The time was 6:50pm.

Return to Regular Session – The Board returned to open session at 7:25 pm. Upon returning Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to appoint John B. “Jak” Reeves as the Town Attorney. Alderman McMillan seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Adjournment – With no further items to be discussed or voted on, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman McMillan. A vote of 5-0 in favor.

Dale Baldwin, Mayor

Rebecca L. Eldreth, Town Clerk