

Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2022 | 6:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Mayor Tom Hartman, Alderman Rusty Barr, Alderman Calvin Green, Alderwoman Crystal Miller, Alderman John Reeves, Alderman Stephen Shoemaker.

Town Staff Present: Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Attorney Jak Reeves, Town Clerk Rebecca Eldreth, and WWTP Superintendent Brandon Patrick.

At 6:00 p.m. Mayor Hartman called to order the meeting of the Board of Aldermen. After the Mayor offered the invocation, those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Alderman Reeves.

Approval of the January 4, 2022 Agenda – Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman Reeves seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Regular Session

Approval of the December 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes – With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Alderman Reeves seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Presentation of FY 2020-21 Town Audit – Priscilla Norris presented the Board with the audit findings for FY 2020-2021 audit. An unmodified opinion was given by the auditors. The Board thanked Priscilla for her report.

Discussion of Street Lights on North Jefferson Avenue – Blue Ridge Energy has flagged the area of the North Jefferson Avenue sidewalk project. The project will take a total of 22 streetlights to be placed between Second Street and Seventh Street. Alderman Green made the motion to approve the installation of the lights. Alderman Shoemaker seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of 2022 Holiday Schedule – With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the 2022 Holiday Schedule as presented. Alderwoman Miller seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Police Report – Police Chief Brad Jordan gave his report to the Board. A total of 280 calls were dispatched through the communication center including 16 motor vehicle crashes, 14 larcenies, 1 larceny by employee, 16 drug cases, 3 DWIs, 2 trespasses, and 31 minor citations. The Board thanked Chief Jordan for his report.

Water/Wastewater & Maintenance Report – WWTP Superintendent Brandon Patrick gave his report to the Board. Rain totals for the month were reported at .75 inches with 48 inches for the year which is 4 inches below average. A pretreatment inspection was completed last month with no changes needed to the program. A daily flow of 128,000 gallons was recorded last month due to the weather and repaired leaks which is the lowest flow in 10 years. The Board thanked Brandon for his report.

Maintenance Report – Absent

Town Managers Report – Brantley Price, Town Manager gave his report to the board. COVID-19 cases for Ashe County total 4022 with 48 cases active and 47 directed to quarantine. Over half the population has been either partially or fully vaccinated. Taxes collected to date total 92% of the tax levy. Sales tax for the month of September have increased by 22% with a year to date increase of 13%. The TDA will be advertising in the destinations section of Our State magazine in the months of February through May. An update on the water main break on Ford Street was given to the board stating the Town’s insurance is accepting the responsibility of the claim. An article about sustainable tourism that would make Blowing Rock more about people than cars was shared with the group. Brantley thanked Jody Walters for assisting with snow removal while the maintenance department was short staffed. Brantley then congratulated Town Clerk Rebecca Eldreth on obtaining her CMC. The Board Thanked Brantley for his report.

Aldermen Comments – Everyone thanked the staff for all they do to keep the Town looking great.

Public Comments – None

Closed Session – Alderman Barr made the motion to enter closed session per GS 143.318.11(a)(3) to consult with the Town Attorney over Attorney-Client matters. Alderwoman Miller seconded with a vote of 5-0 on favor. The time was 6:45pm.

Return to Regular Session – The Board returned at 7:15pm.

Adjournment – With nothing further, Alderman Barr made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Alderwoman Miller. A vote of 4-0 in favor with Alderman Shoemaker leaving the meeting before closed session.

Tom Hartman, Mayor

Rebecca Eldreth, Town Clerk