

**Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2019 | 6:00 p.m.**

Board Members Present: Mayor Dale Baldwin, Mayor-elect Tom Hartman, Alderman Calvin Green, Alderman Jerry McMillan, Alderwoman-elect Crystal Miller, Alderman John Reeves, Alderman Stephen Shoemaker (absent), and Alderman Rusty Barr.

Town Staff Present: Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Attorney Jak Reeves, Town Clerk Rebecca Eldreth, 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. After the Mayor offered a moment of silence, those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Alderman Reeves.

Approval of the December 2, 2019 Agenda – Alderman Barr made the motion to approve the minutes after the word “absent” was removed from the Board Members Present. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Organizational Meeting

Swearing in Ceremony of Newly Elected Officials – Mayor Baldwin introduced Clerk of Superior Court Pam Barlow who would be performing the swearing in ceremony of the newly elected officials. Mrs. Barlow preceded to swear in Mayor-elect Tom Hartman, Alderman-elect Rusty Barr, and Alderwoman-elect Crystal Miller.

Comments by Newly Sworn Officials - Each newly sworn official spoke to those in attendance expressing their appreciation to the citizens for electing them to their positions, how they looked forward to serving on the Board and working with their fellow Board members.

Appointment of Mayor Pro tempore - With no discussion, Alderman Green made the motion to appoint Alderman Reeves as Mayor pro tempore. Alderman Barr seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Regular Session

Recognition of Dale Baldwin by the Lions Club – Gwynita Steel with the Lions Club recognized outgoing Mayor Baldwin for his many years of service with the Town and the Lions Club by presenting the Town with a plaque in honoring the outgoing Mayor, Dale Baldwin.

Consideration of Fire Department Relief Board of Trustees Appointment – Mayor Hartman explained that the by-laws state that two positions on the board of trustees be appointed by the Town Board. Alderman Green made the motion to appoint Mayor Hartman and Fire Chief Eric Miller to the Board. Alderman Barr seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Consideration of High Country Council of Government Representative Appointment – Mayor Hartman stated that outgoing Mayor Baldwin has served as the representative for the Town of West Jefferson on the High Country Council of Government Executive Board for the past several years. Alderman Reeves made the motion to appoint Mayor Hartman to the High Country Council of Government Executive Board. Alderwoman Miller seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Consideration to Fund Creative Placemaking Initiative – Mayor Hartman informed the Board that Creative Place Making was discussed at the last Blue Ridge Energies Community Leaders Committee meeting. The Creative Placemaking group would assist in creating a vision for the future of West Jefferson. Funding for the total project would total \$20,000. However, between Blue Ridge, Skyline Skybest, and other funding, the Town of West Jefferson would not have to pay more than \$4,000. Alderman Reeves made the motion to fund the Creative Placemaking Initiative. Alderman Barr seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Police Report – Absent

Water/Wastewater & Maintenance Report – WWTP Superintendent Brandon Patrick gave his report to the Board. Rain totals for the month were reported at 4.1 inches. A total of 54,000 gallons of sludge was hauled to the fields with an additional 128,000 gallons ran through the belt press. The filter plant was only operable for two weeks due to weather conditions. The Board thanked Brandon for his report.

Maintenance Report – absent

Town Managers Report – Brantley Price, Town Manager welcomed the Mayor and new members to the Board. Then, an update on the 221 widening projects was given. Sections A and B have been given a completion date of July 2021 and section C a date of January 2021 while Section E will be available to bid in March of 2020. Taxes collected to date total 70% of the levy with December traditionally being a large collection month. Brantley then thanked the Board for the approval of the Creative Placemaking Initiative as it will greatly benefit the Town. Hometown Christmas was a success with over 400 people in attendance. Brantley then reminded the newly elected official they must complete an ethics training course by November 2020. Brantley then expressed his gratitude to outgoing Mayor Dale Baldwin stating what a pleasure it was to work with him over the past several years. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

Aldermen Comments – Mayor Hartman introduced his wife to the Board and those in attendance. Alderman Barr thanked his wife. Alderman Green voiced his appreciation for the role fire department plays in making Hometown Christmas a success and how he looked forward to working with the newly elected officials. Alderman Reeves thank all those in attendance. Mayor Hartman thanked those in attendance, and a special thank you to all the departments and Town staff.

Public Comments – Mayor Hartman opened the meeting to public comment. Sherman Lyle with the Hotel Tavern expressed his appreciation for the installation of the wayfinding signs throughout Town.

Closed Session – The Mayor then asked for a motion to enter closed session per G.S. 143.318.11(a) (3) to consult with the Town Attorney over attorney client matters. Alderman Green made the motion. The time was 6:48pm

Return to Regular Session – The Board returned from closed session at 7:50pm.

Adjournment – With nothing further, Alderman Reeves made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Alderman Barr. A vote of 4-0 in favor.

Tom Hartman, Mayor

Rebecca Eldreth, Town Clerk