

**Board of Aldermen  
Regular Meeting  
June 1, 2015  
6:00 p.m.  
Minutes**

**Present:** Mayor Dale Baldwin, Alderman Calvin Green, Alderman Tom Hartman, Alderman John Reeves, Alderman Stephen Shoemaker, Alderman Brett Summey, Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Clerk Wesley Barker, Finance Officer Heather Holdaway and Town Planner Matthew Levi were present. Several other Town employees, business owners and 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 then said the invocation and those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the June 1, 2015 Agenda-** The Mayor stated he would like to add an item to the agenda which was: Consideration of Resolution of Endorsement for the extension of the New River Valley Scenic Byway. This would be added after the consideration of cemetery plot purchase. Alderman Reeves made the motion to add this item to the agenda. Alderman Hartman seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor. With no other discussion, Alderman Summey made the motion to approve the agenda with the additional item. Alderman Hartman seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Public Hearing**

**Proposed Budget- Fiscal Year 2015-16-** The Mayor said there would now be a public hearing for the proposed Town operating budget for Fiscal Year 2015-16 and anyone who wished to speak regarding this budget could come forward. He opened the public hearing at 6:03 p.m. With no comments, the public hearing was closed at 6:05 p.m.

*Regular Session began at 6:05 p.m.*

**Approval of Minutes- May 4, 2015 Regular Meeting-** With no comments, Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Alderman Summey seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Approval of Minutes- May 12, 2015 Special Meeting- Budget-** With no comments, Alderman Green made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Library Steps Project- Kathy Chefas, Imagination Ashe-** Kathy Chefas, President of Imagination Ashe, spoke to the Board and gave an overview of the program. Kathy said Imagination Ashe was born out of the Imagination Library that Dolly Parton created which was for improvement of childhood literacy. Kathy explained the Imagination Library program was allowed to branch out to communities into other programs which is why Imagination Ashe was formed in 2006. Kathy said she came to the meeting to request permission to explore the possibility of coordinating an art project using the steps from the Backstreet Park up to the Ashe County Library to celebrate Imagination Ashe's 10 year commitment to raising the literacy level of Ashe County through the distribution of free books to preschoolers in the area. This project would be completed by August 2016. Kathy explained the concept of this project would be to highlight words and phrases on the risers of the steps. This "Step Project" would also include a semicircular engraving at the base of the steps with the words "Imagination Ashe, Est. 2006." Also, they would like to place a 54" bronze sculpture entitled "Mailbox Boy" which encapsulates what the program does; a book being mailed to an Ashe County youngster every month from birth to

age 5. The Aldermen stated the steps to the library were also on County property and she would also need to get permission from the County Commissioners. Alderman Shoemaker stated he was the overall artistic consultant for this project and would like to see the Board's support for this as it would all be done very well. Kathy said she would like support of the Town and she would go to the County for formal permission. This would not need to be decided upon until September as she will bring this item back before the Board with artistic drawings and a final approval if they are in support of this. After some discussion, the consensus of the Board was to support this project request and for Kathy to now go to the County Commissioners with this request for their support. The Board thanked Kathy for her presentation.

**Consideration of Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2015-16-** Brantley explained to the Board that all changes have been made to the proposed Fiscal Year 2015-16 operating budget as requested from the last budget meeting to include the public restroom project and to pave the Town's gravel parking lot. With no discussion, Alderman Green made the motion to approve the Budget Ordinance as presented. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Approval of Fees for Fiscal Year 2015-16-** Brantley said the fee schedule must also be adopted for the Fiscal Year. No changes to fees are proposed for this Fiscal Year. With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the fee schedule. Alderman Hartman seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Budget Amendment #5- (Fiscal Year 2014-15 Year End)** - The Mayor explained this amendment helps to ensure each fund is not overspent and balances the budget. Brantley said Fund Balance was not used. For General Fund, unbudgeted tax revenue was used. Monies from sewer were moved to water to help offset some costs. Other monies in each department were moved around within the department to cover expenses either under budgeted or over budgeted. With no discussion, Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Approval of Price of Price for Gun for Retiring Police Officer (per G.S. 20.187.2)** - The Mayor said Officer Randy Bundy is retiring effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. He then read G.S. 20-187.2 which states: the governing body of a law-enforcement agency may in its discretion, also award to a retiring member or surviving relatives as provided herein, upon request, the service sidearm of such deceased or retiring members, at a price determined by such governing body. The Mayor then said most Towns only charge \$1.00 for this sidearm. He then asked the Board to discuss. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to award officer Bundy with his sidearm at the cost of \$1.00. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Cemetery Plot Purchase-** Brantley said Mary Church, daughter of the late Town resident Tom Scott, and former Town resident herself would like to purchase two plots in the Town Cemetery and would need Board approval per the cemetery policy. With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the purchase of these two cemetery plots. Alderman Hartman seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Resolution of Endorsement for the extension of the New River Valley Scenic Byway-** The Mayor said this resolution was in support of the extension of the New River Valley Scenic Byway for the Town of Lansing which would extend the byway from Smethport to Big Horse Creek Rd. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve this resolution. Alderman Summey seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Virginia Tech Design Grant Presentation-** Brantley gave a short presentation to the Board from the recent presentation from the Virginia Tech design students with ideas for future enhancements to the Downtown area including E. Second Street by the Wilco gas station, Backstreet, Main Street and alleyways. The proposals to enhance the alleyways include adding murals, brick pavers and vegetation. The Backstreet improvements include seating areas and garden/landscaping.

**Police Report-** Chief Rose gave the police report for the month of May. During the month, 166 calls were dispatched through the communications center, 17 auto collisions were investigated, and 8 people were arrested which include charges of: DWI, Larceny, Assault and Drug related crimes. Also, 2 persons were arrested/charged for drug violations. The Board thanked Chief for his report.

**Water/Wastewater Report-** Charles Call gave a report on the water/wastewater plants. Charles said everything is going well, with no major issues. He said employee Brandon Patrick has recently received his C-well certification. The Board thanked Charles for his report.

**Maintenance Report-** Eric Miller gave a report on the Maintenance Department. Eric said 31 one calls had been reported for the month of May. 1 water leak and 2 sewer line issues had been reported. The Department had been working on mulching the bumpouts, chipping brush, hauling off junk and other tasks. The street sweeper had been repaired and is doing well. Eric then spoke on fire training facilities with the County and other fire departments in the County. He said several sites throughout the County had been discussed for this facility, but no decision has since been made.

**Town Managers Report-** Brantley Price reported to the Board stating \$1,000,000 of 2014 Town taxes had been collected which was 96.9% of the levy. Also, he said the attorney would be working on collecting \$32,000 of past due taxes. The streetscape project was still waiting on federal funds to be released. The CDBG infrastructure grant was received and the contract was signed and returned. Also, Town Planner Matthew Levi had received his Certified Zoning Officer designation. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

**Public Comment-** The Mayor opened public comment at 6:55 p.m. With no comment, public comment was closed at 6:56 p.m.

**Alderman Comments-** Alderman Shoemaker said he appreciates the departmental reports and the Town staff. Alderman Reeves spoke on the recent Centennial car show stating that over 250 cars were there and was a big success. Also, he said the first backstreet concert had a huge turnout with over 400 people. The Aldermen thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

With nothing further, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Hartman. The vote of 5-0 in favor. The time was 7:00 p.m.

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Dale Baldwin, Mayor

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Wesley M. Barker, Town Clerk