

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

Board Members Present: Mayor Dale Baldwin, Alderman Calvin Green, Alderman Jerry McMillan (absent), 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 March 4, 2019 Agenda – With no changes, Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the agenda. Alderman Summey seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Regular Session

Approval of Minutes – With no changes, Alderman Summey made the motion to approve the minutes from the February 4, 2019 meeting as presented. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Consideration of 2019 Farmers Market Lease – Amanda Gentry, Farmers Market Vice President came forward to update the Board and introduce Carol Burgess Griffith as the new Farmers Market manager. Amanda then asked for the Boards approval to lease the Market for another year. In addition to the lease the Board of Directors for the Market asked the Town to become the responsible party for the monthly electric bill to allow the Market to increase the salary for the Market manager. With no further discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion approve the lease. Alderman Summey seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor. Alderman Green then made the motion for the Town to pay the monthly electric bill. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Discussion of Library Parking Lot – Suzanne Moore with the Ashe County Public Library presented an overview of the parking lot expansion project and asked the Board for a commitment for funding equal to one third of the total cost, not to exceed \$19,700. Suzanne also stated that the Library would like to move forward with the project this fiscal year in order to have the project completed by the summer, and then bill the Town the respective portion in the next fiscal year to allow the Town to place the item in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. With no further discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to make the commitment for funding of one third of the project. Alderman Reeves seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Consideration of Market Street Road Closure on April 6 – Dave Albin with Firewalker Adventures address the Board to ask for permission to close Market Street to conduct a fire walk for an event to be held at Boondocks Brew Haus the night of April 6. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to close the street as requested. Alderman Summey seconded with a vote of 4-0.

Discussion of Directional Signage Advisory Committee – Town Manager Brantley Price gave an update to the Board stating that Destination by Design has asked for a committee to be put together for a brainstorming session. Alderman Reeves suggested for two Aldermen and four citizens to form the committee. Alderman Shoemaker and Alderman Reeves volunteered for the committee and agreed to set the date after other members of the committee have been selected.

Consideration of Resolution to Waive 10% Cap on Satellite Annexation – Town Manager Brantley Price informed the Board that a few properties have expressed interest in annexing into the Town. However, the Town has reached the 10% limit for annexation stated in General Statute 160a-58.1. If the Town would like to satellite annex in any other properties, the Town will need to make a request to the General Assembly to exempt West Jefferson from this rule. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the request for exemption. Alderman Summey seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Discussion of FY 2019-20 Budget Workshop – Mayor Baldwin stated the Board would need to agree on a time to hold the first budget meeting. After some discussion the Board decided on Monday, March 25 at 5:30pm.

Consideration for Tax Collector to Advertise Tax Liens per G.S. 105-369(a) – Mayor Baldwin stated that the Finance Officer needs approval to advertise past due taxes. With no discussion, Alderman Summey made the motion to approve the advertisement of past due taxes. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Police Report – Interim Police Chief Bradley Jordan gave the Police report for the month of February. A total of 248 calls were dispatched through the communications center including 9 auto collisions, 10 larcenies, 1 counterfeit bill, 1 drug case, 1 DWI, 2 trespassing, and 6 minor traffic stops. The Board thanked the Chief for his report.

Water/Wastewater Report – WWTP Superintendent Brandon Patrick gave a report to the Board. There was a total of 8 inches of rain and without the rental of the belt press the treatment plant would not be able to handle the high flows as a total of 110 tons of waste were pressed in one month. The filter plant is processing between 70,000 and 80,000 gallons a day. A technician will be at the plant next week to look into upgrading the plant to a low-pressure system. The Board thanked Brandon for his report.

Maintenance Report – Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller gave his report to the Board. There was a total of 28 one call tickets, 2 water leaks, and 2 water taps completed. The 2 inch line on 7th Street has been disconnected from the main line, the fire hydrant has been replaced, and the pole has been removed. The water line has been marked on the proposed building site for Wilkes Community College. 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. All the water and sewer lines are connected and all homes are connected to sewer. The furniture store and one house are in the process of connecting to our water. The project will be completed after the parking lot is repaved at Cardinal Lanes. Both buildings have been set for the well and the wastewater treatment plant. The roll up door has been installed so the next step will be to install the belt press. There is an additional four houses on Wade Vannoy Road that would like to annex into the Town to be able to use our utilities if there is any additional funding for the project available. The buildings for the well and the belt press have been delivered. Taxes collected to date totals \$1,248,555 which is 92.7% of the levy. Brantley attended Town Hall day where the main topic of discussion was broadband internet service which West Jefferson is blessed with service because of Skyline. Brantley then reviewed a 2018 Election Wrap Up for the NC League of Municipalities with the Board. Brantley stated Jane Lonon will be retiring from the Ashe County Arts Council and will be greatly missed. Mountain Outfitters is planning sidewalk sales for March 20, May 25, July 6, and September 1 and wanted to make sure the Board knew the sales have been scheduled. Brantley then commended the team at the wastewater treatment plant and the great job they have done keeping up with the workload. 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)(6) to consult with the Town Board concerning personnel. The Mayor stated they would return to open session before adjourning. Alderman Summey made the motion to go into closed session. The time was 7:13pm.

Return to Regular Session – The Board returned to open session at 8:00pm.

Adjournment – With no further items to be discussed or voted on, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Reeves. A vote of 4-0 in favor.

Dale Baldwin, Mayor

Rebecca L. Eldreth, Town Clerk