

Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2020 | 6:00 p.m.

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

Town Staff Present: Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Attorney Jak Reeves, Town Clerk Rebecca Eldreth, Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller, WWTP Superintendent Brandon Patrick, and Police Chief Brad Jordan

Several other residents of the community also attended.

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

Approval of the January 6, 2020 Agenda – Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Regular Session

Approval of Minutes – With no discussion, Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the minutes from the November 25th Special Meeting and the December 2nd Regular Meeting. Alderwoman Miller seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

ABC Report and FY 18-19 Audit – Tony Lyalls, General Manager of the ABC Store presented the quarterly report first stating sales were up \$71,492.41 from the same quarter last year which is a 13.85% increase. During 2020 the store plans to repair and replace the sidewalk alongside the building to improve the safety of the customers. Tony then stated the audit came back with a favorable outcome with no adverse finding. The Board thanked Tony for his report.

Consideration of 2020 Holiday Calendar – Mayor Hartman presented the 2020 Holiday Calendar to the Board. With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the 2020 Holiday Calendar. Alderman Barr seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Tax Releases – Mayor Hartman stated that the County sent a tax release for Little Caesars personal property for \$392.82. A new bill will be calculated on an updated listing submitted to the County. Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the tax release. Alderman Barr seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Police Report – Police Chief Bradley Jordan gave his report to the Board. A total of 255 calls were dispatched through the communications center: 18 auto collisions were investigated; 9 larcenies; 1 drug case; 3 driving while impaired; 4 minor traffic stops; 3 breaking and entering; and 1 gas station drive off. Chief Jordan informed the Board that Officer Friesland was sworn in and is now a full time officer for the department. The Board thanked the Chief 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 3.42 inches with a total of 62.33 inches for the year which averaged 10 inches more than last year. A total of 109,000 gallons of sludge were ran through the belt press. Mike Aquesta will have the plans for the booster pump for the new well site

complete in a few weeks. The booster pump will improve the well by 30 gallons per minute. The filter plant is currently running about 38,000 gallons per day. The Board thanked Brandon for his report.

Maintenance Report – Eric Miller, Maintenance Supervisor gave his report to the board. A total of four water leaks and 2 sewer line issues. Keith Buff with Rural Water assisted the department in looking for a leak but were unsuccessful. Keith will return in the next few weeks to assist in locating the leak. Eric worked with Wilkes Community College on replacing a valve that was installed incorrectly and to resolve issues with a new fire hydrant on the building site. The maintenance department has been working towards removing two-inch water lines in certain areas where a second six-inch line runs alongside the two-inch line to reduce the chances of a leak in the future in addition to removing Christmas lights, and picking up brush. Eric then gave an update on the fire department. Eric asked the Board for permission to apply for a grant that will match funds spent up to \$30,000 to replace outdated equipment for the department. Alderman Green made the motion to approve the application of the grant. Alderwoman Miller seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor. The Board thanked Eric for his report.

Town Managers Report – Brantley Price, Town Manager gave his report to the Board. Today was the last day to pay taxes without a penalty with taxes collected to date at \$1,561,593 which is 92.7% of the levy. Town Attorney Jak Reeves is working to collect past due taxes. The TDA audit is complete with no major issues found. Brantley then gauged interest on sending out a survey to the citizens of the Town to see how they would like to see tax money spent. Due to the lack of response from the last survey there will not be one sent out this year. Sales and use tax revenue is up 21% for the month of October with the first six months of the year up 10%. Brantley reminded the Board of the roundtable meeting that has been scheduled by the county to take place on Monday, February 3rd. North Carolina Rural Water will conduct an energy audit of all the Town's facilities including the wastewater treatment plant, and well sites. The registration for the NC Main Street Conference is open and is celebrating its 40-year anniversary. The conference will take place in New Bern this year from March 10-12. The online ethics class is now available, and all newly elected officials are required to complete the course. The Town audit has been delayed a month but should be complete next week. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

Aldermen Comments – Alderman Shoemaker welcomed the new members to the Board and thanked the Town staff and citizens of the Town. Alderman Reeves echoed the comments of Alderman Shoemaker. Alderman Barr thanked the employees of the Town and complimented the wayfinding signage that has been installed around Town. Alderwoman Miller praised the staff for a job well done during the holiday season and stated that she was looking forward to a great New Year. Alderman Green thanked Eric and the rest of the maintenance department for the effort given to keep the Town clean with the delay in the trash schedule. Mayor Hartman conclude the comments by saying Town has never looked better.

Public Comments – Mayor Hartman opened the meeting to public comment.

Adjournment – With nothing further, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Alderman Green. A vote of 5-0 in favor.

Tom Hartman, Mayor

Rebecca Eldreth, Town Clerk