

Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen
Special Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2017 | 5:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Mayor Dale Baldwin, Alderman Calvin Green, Alderman Jerry McMillan, Alderman John Reeves, Alderman Stephen Shoemaker, Alderman Brett Summey, Sr.

Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Clerk Wesley Barker, Colin Tate of the Ashe Mountain Times and Town resident Terri Palmer were also present.

At 5:30 p.m. Mayor Baldwin called to order the special meeting of the Board of Aldermen to discuss the Downtown Revitalization Project.

Discussion of Downtown Revitalization Project- The Mayor said the board would discuss possible projects for the \$50,000 awarded to West Jefferson by the Rural Economic Development Division of NC Dept. of Commerce, under NC Session Law 2015-57, Senate Bill 257, Section 15.8(a). The proposal is due September 15, 2017 and the project must be completed by October 2018. These funds can be used for public infrastructure including water, sewer, electric, lighting, sidewalk, traffic, road and or digital infrastructure improvements. Also, façade or building improvements and or property acquisition, wayfinding signage and art or cultural installation.

Several Board members discussed sidewalk installation between Doggett Rd. to the Carpet House on Business 221 stating the importance of sidewalks in the area of Town and safety concerns by not having a sidewalk. Town Manager Brantley Price explained to the Board after consulting with NCDOT on installing sidewalks in this area, it would require the size to be 5' with no obstructions, which would result in moving the existing utility poles in the area and a retaining wall would need to be built in order to build the sidewalks. Brantley stated the DOT representative stated sidewalks on this section would not be feasible at this time with all the issues.

Brantley then went over the following options the Board could consider with these monies which included the following:

Option 1- Use the funds to complete the sidewalk on the Backstreet, from First St. to Main St. Also, adding a bump out on the Backstreet at the stop sign of the intersection of Backstreet & Second St. & use pavers for an area that could be used for a public space.

-Cost of sidewalk from 1st Street to Main - \$35,000

-Additional bump out/planter at Second Street & seating area around stop sign - \$7800

-Construct a bump out/planter at N Jefferson Ave at First Baptist Church- \$5200

-Decorative Stop sign for Main and Backstreet - approx. \$2000

Total Cost = \$50,000

Option 2- Brantley said since the funds awarded can be spent before the proposal is submitted, the Town could put in the proposal to use the funds for the current sidewalk work scheduled and under construction – Ashe St. to Market St., Backstreet, Second St. to First St. & beside Town Hall. Cost of budgeted= \$75,000.

Other options included:

Replace sidewalks between Main St. and State St. on either side of the street to connect the brick pavers.

Replace sidewalks between Main St. and 2nd St.

Add sidewalk South Jefferson Ave. from Bantam Chef to the new antique store across from Mountain Advantage. Also, could add on the ABC store side of Jefferson Avenue.

After some discussion, Alderman Summey made the motion to proceed with option 1 and use the \$50,000 awarded to West Jefferson to fund this project. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Town resident Terri Palmer spoke to the Board stating she would like to see the extension of the sidewalks of N. Jefferson Ave. past First Baptist Church and extending up the hill. Brantley Price stated there are current issues with right-of-ways and the Town has had issues of acquiring easements in the past, however it is a long range plan for the Town to install these sidewalks.

Closed Session- The Mayor then said the Board would need to enter into closed session per NCGS §143-318-11 (a) (5) to discuss land acquisition. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to enter into closed session. Alderman Green seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor. The time was 5:47pm.

Adjournment- The Board returned to open session at 6:45pm. With nothing further, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to adjourn the special meeting. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Dale Baldwin, Mayor

Wesley M. Barker, Town Clerk