

**Board of Aldermen
Regular Meeting
October 6, 2014
6:00 P.M.
Minutes**

Present: Mayor Dale Baldwin, Alderman Calvin Green (in at 6:07 p.m.), Alderman Tom Hartman, Alderman John Reeves, Alderman Stephen Shoemaker, Alderman Brett Summey. Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Clerk Wesley Barker, Town Finance Officer Heather Holdaway and Town Planner Matthew Levi were also 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 Reeves then said the invocation. All in attendance stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of October 6, 2014 Agenda- With no changes, Alderman Shoemaker made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Approval of the Minutes- September 8, 2014 Regular Meeting

With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Alderman Summey seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Approval of the Minutes- September 24, 2014 Special Meeting

With no discussion, Alderman Hartman made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Budget Amendment #2- FY 14-15- Parking Lot

Brantley said this budget amendment is to recognize the revenue and expense to convert the old tennis court at the former West Jefferson School to a parking lot by partnering with Ashe County Board of Education, Christmas in July, County of Ashe, and Badger Funeral Home. The revenue will be from Fund Balance for \$22,500 and miscellaneous revenue of \$9,500 (\$5,000 from Christmas in July, \$2,500 from County of Ashe and \$2,000 from Badger Funeral Home). With no discussion, Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #2. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Alderman Green in at 6:07 p.m.

Consideration of WJ Code of Ordinances Revision- Section 94.16- Dumping or Littering on Private Property

Brantley explained to the Board that General Statute 14-134.1 referred to in this section has been repealed by the State. This statute reads: *"Prohibition of dumping on private lands or state waters without the written consent of the owner and authorizes a maximum fine of \$500 for violations."* Brantley said the Board needs to delete the reference to the statute and then the \$200 penalty will apply that is referenced in the WJ Code of Ordinances Section 94.99 which states: *"In addition to the procedure set forth above, any person, partnership or corporation that violates any section of this chapter shall be subject to a civil penalty in the amount of \$200 to be recovered by the Town."* With no discussion, Alderman Hartman made the motion to approve the WJ Code of Ordinances Revision to Section 94.16. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Call for a Public Hearing for Voluntary Annexation of Highland Community Church, Inc. - November 3, 2014

Brantley told the Board that Highland Community Church, located on Ray Taylor Rd., across the street from Ashe Services for Aging is petitioning for a voluntary annexation. Brantley said the church is requesting water service from the Town as their well is not operating properly. Brantley said he and Eric Miller had reviewed and believes there will not be an issue getting water to this location as the Town will have to bore underneath Ray Taylor Rd. The tap fee and capital reserve fees of \$955 will be sufficient funds to cover the installation. If annexed, the church will not pay property taxes as they are a church, however, a monthly water bill will be due. With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to call for a public hearing for voluntary annexation on November 3, 2014 of Highland Community Church. Alderman Hartman seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Police Report

Chief Rose gave a report on the Police Department. Chief said during the month of September, 243 calls were dispatched through the communications center, 20 auto collisions were investigated, 9 people were arrested including charges of DWI, larceny, assault and drug related crimes. Further, the Chief said 6 persons were arrested for drug violations. The Board thanked the Chief for his report.

Water/Wastewater Report

Charles Call gave a report on the status of the WWTP. Charles said the wastewater pretreatment inspection went well, there is currently one pump on at the water plant due to low flow and the Town did not receive any fines over the recent sewer spill at the plant. Charles said all is going well at this time. The Board thanked Charles for his report.

Maintenance Report

No report given.

Town Manager's Report

Items in Brantley's report included the new well site testing still waiting to be completed, streetscape design proposals by McGill, the status of Pocahontas' return is still moving forward, TDA marketing campaign with WXII-TV, TDA approving up to \$8,000 for the Light up the Town project. Further, Brantley said taxes collected to date was \$516,000 or 52% of the levy and the 2013 census showed the Town's population to be 1,347, up from 1,200 since 2010. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

Public Comments

Public comment was opened at 6:21 p.m. Jeff Caudill, Town resident, said he wants to help his neighbors and feels neighbors should help each other. Barbara Hughes, County resident, spoke to the Board stating that Jeff Caudill was always willing to help her around her house by doing work for her at no charge. Michael Lea, Pastor of First Baptist Church, spoke on Jeff's behalf stating he was not sure of the situation but knows Jeff has done a lot of work with the Church, often without them even knowing it. Michael said Jeff was always helping others and was a good neighbor. Glenda Caudill, Town resident & Jeff Caudill's wife, spoke to the Board stating she hopes Jeff can be given permission to ride his four-wheeler within the Town as he does not cause any problems with it. Further, Glenda said she had been a Town resident for 33 years and the strip of land between her and the neighboring property was owned by the Town. Glenda said everyone always maintained each side of the land with her previous neighbors and never had any problems with this until neighbor George Oros moved in and had a problem with it. Glenda asked the Town to allow her and Jeff to park vehicles on this land as they had for over 33 years. She further stated she once had a dog lot on this strip of land and the Town or former neighbors never opposed. Alderman Hartman asked Police Chief Jeff Rose is there was a state law on riding four wheelers on the road. Chief Rose said there are stipulations for riding four wheelers on a highway which

included use for farming and hunting. Chief Rose said he didn't have a problem with Jeff riding his four wheeler, but complaints were given and that was when the police said something to Jeff. With nothing further, public comment was closed at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment

With no other items to be discussed, Alderman Hartman made the motion to adjourn the Board of Aldermen meeting, seconded by Alderman Summey. The vote of 5-0 in favor. The time was 6:30 p.m.

Dale Baldwin, Mayor

Wesley M. Barker, Town Clerk