

**Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
April 2, 2018 | 6:00 p.m.**

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

**Town Staff Present:** Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Clerk Rebecca Eldreth, Police Chief Jeff Rose, and Wastewater Superintendent Charles Call

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 led the invocation. Those in attendance then stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the April 2, 2018 Agenda** – With no changes, Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman Summey seconded with a unanimous vote in favor.

**Regular Session**

**Approval of Minutes – March 5, 2018 Regular Meeting** – With no changes, Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Alderman Summey seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Text Amendments to Zoning Ordinances** – The Mayor stated the need for the amendments were to correct typos and wording of the regulations. All recommended amendments were suggested by the Town Attorney, David Paletta and recommended by the planning board. With no discussion, Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the amendments. Alderman Summey seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Statements that Shows Consistency with the 2008 Land Use Plan** – With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the amendment. Alderman Reeves seconded with a unanimous vote in favor.

**Discussion of FY 18-19 Budget Workshop** – Brantley Price, Town Manager, discussed with the Board a potential date for the next FY 2018-2019 Budget Workshop. Brantley stated the week of April 30<sup>th</sup> would be ideal to allow time for the insurance company to supply an updated quote. Alderman Green suggested Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Board agreed on this date at 5:30pm.

**Discussion of Special Meeting to Purchase Street Sweeper** – Brantley Price, Town Manager, explained to the Board that the Town must advertise in the paper before the exchange of Town property, so he would like to schedule a special meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup> to finalize the exchange of the current street sweeper for the 2014 Crosswinds street sweeper. The Board agreed to meet on this date.

**Police Report** – Police Chief Jeff Rose gave the police report for March. There were 214 calls dispatched through the communications center, 15 auto collisions were investigated, 12 people were arrested with

DWI, larceny, assault, and drug related crimes. A total of 7 persons were arrested/charged for drug violations. The Board thanked Chief for his report.

**Water/Wastewater & Maintenance Report** – WWTP Superintendent Charles Call gave an update on the WWTP. Charles stated there have been several inspection on the waste water treatment plant collection system that have all went well. Both units are operational at the filter plant pumping about 80,000 gallons a day. The Board thanked Charles for his report.

**Maintenance Report** – absent

**Town Managers Report** – Brantley Price, Town Manager, updated the Board on the new well site, belt press, and water/sewer extensions. Bid opening for the project was March 22<sup>nd</sup>. There were only 2 bidders; however, 3 bidders are required so, the project must be advertised again. The new bid will open Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. The bid will be awarded this week since there is no longer a requirement on the amount of bidders, and work should start in the next few weeks. Michael Vannoy is moving forward with the Dr. Pepper museum and soda shop, Doc's on Main, and should be opened by June. Mountain Outfitters annex is moving along. The deck is almost completed on the outside of the building, and they have started cleaning out the inside. He is also hoping to be opened in June. Taxes collected to date totals 97.3% of the levy. The charging station has been used over 30 times by users from but not limited to Raleigh, Albemarle, Kannapolis, and Huntersville. Brantley stated he had just returned from the annual Main Street Conference which is a requirement to keep the Main Street status. A seminar at the conference referenced The Florence Thomas Art School and The Honey Hole. These examples provide publicity and great promotion for the Town. The Ebenezer's group has scheduled their annual share-a-thon to be held on Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Effective March 6<sup>th</sup>, banners, flags, streamers, spinners, placards and pennants became prohibited signs, and several businesses have been contacted to have these types of signs removed. Several of the business owners have voiced their opinions against the new regulations. These business owners have been directed to come to public comment to express their opinions to the Board. Brantley then read an email from the owner of Go Postal who was unable to attend the meeting asking for consideration to approve the use of flags for businesses that are located a certain distance off the main highway. Brantley stated a vigil will be held at the Backstreet Park April 14<sup>th</sup> for sexual assault awareness. Also, Brantley notified the Board that Reverend Cason Jones will be in Town on Saturdays between the hours of 10am to 2pm and will be reading scripture and passing out literature. There will be no amplification, and he is aware that he may not block the sidewalks at any time. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

**Public Comments** – Joey Ignoffo addressed the Board with his desire to continue the use of the pennant flags and banners that are now prohibited to attract customers to his shops. Joey suggested a provision allowing the signs to be used on the weekends. Next, Connor Hart with Hart Power Equipment addressed the Board about the newly prohibited list of signs. Connor stated they were not aware of the change and asked why the signs were now prohibited.

**Aldermen Comments** – Alderman Shoemaker spoke on behalf of the Board in response to the remarks during public comment. Alderman Shoemaker started by stating he understood the concerns of the business owners, but the regulations have been put in place to protect the Town and to make the Town attractive. Visitors come to West Jefferson to enjoy the peaceful and tranquil setting that our Town provides, and our goal as a Town is to keep it that way. Alderman Shoemaker thanked the business owners for taking an interest in the Town and helping the Town grow. Alderman Green proposed the idea of notifying business owners by letter of any future changes instead of using the local paper or the

radio. Alderman Reeves stated that the business owners were welcome to address their concerns with the planning board at the next meeting.

**Adjournment** – With nothing further, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Green seconded with a unanimous vote in favor.

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Dale Baldwin, Mayor

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Rebecca Eldreth, Town Clerk