

**Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**October 1, 2018 | 6:00 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 Staff Present:** Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Clerk Rebecca Eldreth, Town Attorney Jak Reeves, Police Chief Jeff Rose, 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 October 1, 2018 Agenda** – With no changes, Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the agenda. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

**Regular Session**

**Approval of Minutes** – With no changes, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve all minutes from the September 4<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting, September 11<sup>th</sup> Emergency Meeting, and September 19<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting as presented. Alderman Summey seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor. (Alderman Jerry McMillan arrived to the meeting after this vote)

**Introduction and Welcome to Jak Reeves, Town Attorney** – Mayor Baldwin introduced and welcomed Jak Reeves to the Board as the interim Town Attorney. Attorney Reeves thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve the Town.

**Budget Amendment #1** – Mayor Baldwin stated that there were few items with paving that needed to be added that increased the budgeted amount. First, the maintenance lot required grading and gravel before paving to add an adequate base. The initial quote provided by Shatley paving did not include this grading or gravel. Shatley also found a storm pipe on Midway Avenue that runs under Ridge Avenue that had separated and required replacement. Then, the residents on the southside of Bare Avenue requested a berm to be added to reduce the amount of water runoff in their yards. Bare Avenue needed to be widened by two feet in a section. The total cost of paving increased \$27,700 with all the requested changes. The Mayor then stated that a budget amendment would need to be adopted for the changes. With no further discussion, Alderman Summey made the motion to adopt the budget amendment as presented. Alderman McMillan seconded with the vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Discussion of Cemetery** – Mayor Baldwin stated that a purchase and a repurchase of two plots in the West Jefferson cemetery need Board approval. David and Martha Long of West Jefferson would like to purchase two plots in the West Jefferson Cemetery. Mayor Baldwin stated limited plots available in the old section of the cemetery, but several plots are available in the new section. Alderman Summey made a motion to approve the purchase of plots in the new section of the cemetery. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor. Vickie Milam would like to sell back two plots she inherited. The plots located in the old section were originally purchased in 1943 for \$3.75 each. According to the current cemetery policy the Town may repurchase cemetery plots at a price they deem appropriate. Alderman Summey asked the Board on what they would consider a reasonable price. Alderman Reeves suggested half of the current purchase price of \$250 per plot. With nothing further, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to repurchase the plots at \$250 each. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Tax Releases-** The Mayor stated the following tax bills are proposed to be released and the Board would vote on the items collectively:

- a) CIT Technology – double taxed - \$292.41
- b) Highland Forestry Land and Timber – property not located within the city limits - \$22.58
- c) Coe Hank and Patricia Carter – property not located within the city limits - \$ 12.98
- d) Schuster Physical Therapy – property not located within the city limits - \$116.48
- e) Robert and Teresa Sheets – property not located within the city limits - \$604.80
- f) J Mathis Christopher – property not located within the city limits - \$24.96
- g) Mountain Auction – property not located within the city limits - \$8.76
- h) Barker Brothers – property not located within the city limits - \$616.14
- i) GE Capital information Tech – property was billed twice - \$36.59

With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to release the tax bills. Alderman McMillan seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Police Report** – Police Chief Jeff Rose gave the Police report for the month of August. There were 236 calls dispatched through the communications center: 23 auto collisions were investigated; 15 people were arrested on charges of larceny, assault, and drug related crimes. A total of 4 persons were arrested/charged for drug violations. The Board thanked the Chief for his report.

**Water/Wastewater & Maintenance Report** – WWTP Superintendent Brandon Patrick gave a report to the Board on the WWTP. Brandon stated that the Town received a total of 12.25 inches of rain for the month of September with 6 inches of rain in a 24-hour period during hurricane Florence. Jody Walters and Nick Walters worked through the night to ensure the plant remained fully operational. A technician is scheduled on October 18<sup>th</sup> to troubleshoot the issues with the number 2 filter. The Board thanked Brandon for his report.

**Maintenance Report** – Absent

**Town Managers Report** – Brantley Price gave his report to the Board. Brantley thanked the Town's maintenance and water department for their efforts in preparing for hurricane Florence. Brantley provided an update on USDA ARC project for the new well site, belt press, and sewer lines as the project started on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Sewer lines are being added by Cardinal Lanes off Highway 221 Business and water lines being added on Ray Taylor Road. Doc's on Main was not able to have the jobs in place by the deadline of September 15<sup>th</sup>, so they will have to reimburse the grant funds provided to the project. North Carolina DOT will hold another public meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 4pm concerning the intersection of Highway 194 and Beaver Creek School Road. Taxes collected to date total \$955,450 which is 73% of the levy. The Town is slightly ahead of where we were last year in collections. An RFP for the planning and designing of wayfinding signage will be advertised this month. North Carolina DOT would like to set up a time to meet with the Board concerning the aesthetics project for the Highway 221/163 project. The Antiques Fair is scheduled for Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, so Jefferson Avenue will be closing Thursday night to allow setup time for vendors on Friday morning. Mountain Outfitters has scheduled a sidewalk sale on October 13<sup>th</sup>, Mo's Boots is planning a sidewalk sale on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, and Ashe Services for the Aging has scheduled their annual roadblock on October 19<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of October 26<sup>th</sup>. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

**Public Comment** – Mark Poteat and wife, Mary, asked Chief for extra patrol in their neighborhood on Lewis Drive as they have noticed several teens frequenting the wooded area nearby

**Aldermen Comments** – Alderman Shoemaker welcomed Attorney Jak Reeves. All other Alderman mirrored the welcome and look forward to working with Attorney Reeves in the future.

**Closed Session** – The Mayor asked for a motion to enter closed session per G.S. 143.318.11(a)(3) to consult with the attorney over attorney-client matters. The Mayor stated they would return to open session before adjourning. Alderman Green made the motion to go into closed session. The time was 6:25pm.

**Adjournment** – The Board returned to open session at 7:10 pm. 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 5-0 in favor.

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Dale Baldwin, Mayor

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Rebecca L. Eldreth, Town Clerk