

**Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**September 9, 2019 | 6:00 pm**

**Board Members Present:** Mayor Dale Baldwin, Alderman Rusty Barr, Alderman Calvin Green, Alderman John Reeves, Alderman Stephen Shoemaker, Jerry McMillan (absent)

**Town Staff Present:** Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Clerk Rebecca Eldreth, Police Chief Bradley Jordan, 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. Those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance after the Mayor offered a moment of silence.

**Approval of the September 9, 2019 Agenda** – With no changes, Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the agenda. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a vote of 3-0 in favor as Alderman Barr arrived after the vote.

**Regular Session**

**Approval of August 5, 2019 Minutes** – With no changes, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Asset Inventory Assessment Grant** – Mayor Baldwin informed the Board that the Town would like to apply for a grant, which if awarded, would allow us to video our sewer lines for water infiltration. Mike Acquesta came before the Board to further explain the scope of work that could be completed with the grant funds stating that the grant could aid the Town in preparing a wastewater asset inventory and assessment study. With no further discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the resolution as presented. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 4-0.

**Consideration of Third Day Market Agreement** – Mayor Baldwin stated Town Attorney Jak Reeves completed the agreement between Third Day Downtown and the Town to allow Third Day Downtown to install a statue beside the seating area in front of their store. After some discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the lease as presented. Alderman Reeves seconded with a unanimous vote of 4-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Resolution to Support the 2020 Census** – Mayor Baldwin informed the Board that a representative for the 2020 Census met with the Town to explain the importance of the Census. The Town has been asked to pass a resolution supporting the 2020 Census. With no further discussion, Alderman Barr made the motion to adopt the resolution as presented. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

**Tax Releases** – Mayor Baldwin stated there are several accounts that need to be released. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the releases as presented. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

**Police Report** – Police Chief Bradley Jordan gave the Police report for the month of August. A total of 362 calls were dispatched through the communications center: 19 auto collisions were investigated; 7 larcenies; 3 drug cases; 7 driving while impaired; 8 minor traffic stops; 2 breaking and entering; 1 missing person; 2 fraud cases; 1 trespassing; and 1 embezzlement. The Board thanked the Chief for his report.

**Water/Wastewater Report** – WWTP Superintendent Brandon Patrick gave a report to the Board. A pump was rented at the beginning of August to pump the raw wastewater into the plant when the third influent sewer pump stopped. The Town has three pumps, normally one pump is operating on an alternating 12-hour schedule. Two of the three pumps went out within a week of each other and were sent out for repair. Fred Summers from Rural Water assisted in the repair of one pump, so we currently have two working with repairs on the third to be completed this week. A sewer spill occurred on Beaver Creek School Road on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approximately 8,000 gallons spilled before the maintenance crew was able to repair the line. Currently only one filter at the filtration plant is running due to the low rain amounts. Total rain for the month of July was 5.17 inches while there was only 2.41 inches in August. The Board thanked Brandon for his report.

**Maintenance Report** – Absent

**Town Managers Report** – Brantley first gave an update on the beltpress, well site, and water extension project stating the easements to extend sewer lines of Wade Vannoy Drive have been completed and the work will be complete next week. As Brandon mentioned a sewer leak was reported at 3pm on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and repaired by 6:30pm. The paving project on Library Drive and the fire department are almost complete. The completion date for Section A and B of the Highway 221 project has been estimated to be July 2021 and Section C in January of 2021. The intersection improvement project that proposed a roundabout at the intersection of Highway 194 and Beaver Creek School Road has been reprioritized to start in 2027. Taxes collected to date total 63.8% of the levy which is more compared to last year because the tax base is higher. Occupancy tax collected this year is up from last year. The occupancy tax collected is used to promote West Jefferson and encourage people to visit the area. The TDA's fall digital campaign with Pandora and Facebook has started with results for visits to the website doubling in the first week of the promotion. The tourism impact of 2018 numbers have been compiled. Tourism spending in the County total \$60.73 million which is a 5.3% increase over last year. Tourism saves each county resident \$231 per year. Total state and local tax revenue generated by tourism equals \$6.4 million in tax receipts. The charging station located in the public parking lot has been used 107 times since January. A flat fee of \$5 per charge will be implemented to help recover some of the cost to the Town. Blue Ridge Energy is working on the streetlight outage due to a line being damaged during paving or sidewalk repair. Poles and signs for the wayfinding project have been ordered and hope to have them installed before November. Ashe Pregnancy Care Center has a Walk for Life planned for September 28<sup>th</sup> through a residential section of Town with a start and end of the walk at the Backstreet Park. Ashe County Senior Center will hold a fuel assistance roadblock on October 4<sup>th</sup>. A representative with the 2020 Census will be present at the November meeting to present to the Board. Representatives with the City of Graham visited West Jefferson to inquire about the impact of the streetscaping project. The NC DOT will have a plan for the Board to review in March or April of 2020 for the intersection of Highway 221 and 163. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

**Public Comment** – None

**Aldermen Comments** – Alderman Shoemaker welcomed all those in attendance and reflected on the wonderful summer months in West Jefferson. Alderman Reeves echoed the comments of Alderman Shoemaker. Alderman Barr informed all those in attendance that a group of 200-300 cars have schedule a cruise through the Town on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, so merchants can plan to offer additional hours on Sunday, if needed.

**Adjournment** – With nothing further, Alderman Reeves made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Barr. A vote of 4-0 in favor.

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Dale Baldwin, Mayor

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Rebecca L. Eldreth, Town Clerk