

**Board of Aldermen
Regular Meeting
April 6, 2015
6:00 P.M.
Minutes**

Present: Mayor Dale Baldwin, Alderman Calvin Green, Alderman Tom Hartman, Alderman John Reeves, Alderman Stephen Shoemaker, Alderman Brett Summey, Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Clerk Wesley Barker and Town Planner Matthew Levi were 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 and those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of April 6, 2015 Agenda- Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the agenda. Alderman Hartman seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Public Hearing

Consideration of Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments:

- a. Recommendation of text amendment to Section 503.2 Conditional Uses of the Residential Agriculture Zoning District (R-A).
- b. Recommendation of text amendment to Sections 508.1, 508.11, 508.2 and 508.3 of the Industrial Zoning District (M-1).
- c. Recommendation of text amendment to Section 511.41 Manufacture (Mobile) Home Parks of the Manufactured (Mobile) Home Zoning District.
- d. Recommendation of text amendment to Article VIII, Sections 800 and 801.04.
- e. Recommendation of text amendment to Section 900.3, Continuation of Nonconforming Uses.
- f. Recommendation of text amendment to Article X, Landscaping Screening and Buffering for Development.

The Mayor explained this public hearing is in reference to proposed amendments to the Town Zoning Ordinance for salvage yards/junk yards. The proposed amendments can be found in the following sections of the Town's Zoning Ordinance: Section 503.2 Conditional Uses (within the Residential Agriculture District), Section 508- M1 Industrial District- subsections 508.1, 508.11, 508.2, 508.21 (i)(ii)(iii), Section 511.4 Buffering and Landscaping Requirements, Section 800 Conditional Uses, Section 801.04, Section 900.3 Continuation of Nonconforming Uses and Section 1004 Landscaping. The Mayor then opened public comment at 6:03 p.m. to anyone who wished to speak. With no comment, the Mayor closed public comment at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes- March 2, 2015 Regular Meeting

With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Approval of Minutes- March 23, 2015 Special Meeting

With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

State Park Update- Joe Shimel

Joe Shimel, Superintendent of New River State Park and Mt. Jefferson State Natural Area, gave an update to the Board on the parks. Joe said Mt. Jefferson State Natural Area averaged about 100,000 visitors per

year while New River State Park averaged about 200,000 visitors per year. Many educational programs are offered at both parks during the year which include nature hikes and hands-on activities. 490 programs were offered between the two parks in 2014. New River State Park offers hiking, camping and river access. Mt. Jefferson offers hiking, and a new 2-mile hiking trail is currently being constructed from the bottom to the top of the mountain. Joe also spoke on a downhill skateboard race which would take place on April 18-19 on Mt Jefferson. He said this would be a 2 mile race down the mountain with skateboarders reaching speeds of 50+ mph. Joe said he looks for this to be an annual event and a big draw to Mt. Jefferson and West Jefferson which could potentially be the only event like this in the entire State of North Carolina. A short video was then shown to the Aldermen of the skateboarding event that would take place on Mt. Jefferson. The Board thanked Joe for his report.

Discussion of Centennial Car Show- Ricky Goodman

Ricky Goodman of the Heritage Iron Club spoke to the Board on the potential of having a car show on the Backstreet in connection with the Town's centennial. This car show would be held on Saturday, May 30, 2015 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Ricky said he would like to close Backstreet from the Farmers Market to Parsons Farms. He projects over 200 cars to be at this event. Discussion took place about using Main Street up by the old depot to College Avenue and then wrap around Backstreet down to the Farmers Market in an attempt to keep traffic flowing and to not hamper any businesses on the Backstreet. Ricky said he would come back to next month's meeting to finalize the road closures. The Board thanked Ricky for his report.

Centennial Commission Update- Lynn Rees-Jones

Lynn Rees-Jones gave an update on the Centennial events planned. Lynn said over 350 people attended the birthday celebration in February. Lynn said the Ashe County Library is hosting several special programs including a book club, lego contest and movie club in conjunction with the Centennial. A photography contest is kicking off which will feature the best photos of West Jefferson with a winner to be determined later in the year. The Centennial Commission will be sponsoring the first Backstreet Concert on Friday, May 29th featuring Wayne Henderson and Helen White. A car show is planned for Saturday, May 30th. The Centennial Mile foot race is scheduled for June which will run along Jefferson Avenue from Smoky Mtn. Barbecue into downtown. Lynn said late July will be a "Welcome Home to West Jefferson" weekend which will feature a West Jefferson school reunion, community picnic, and community church service. Centennial merchandise for sale includes pictorial postmark, videos, shirts, a centennial beer brewed by Boondocks, beer glasses and calendars. Lynn also explained that several articles will be published announcing the Centennial in Carolina Mountain Life magazine and All About Women magazine as well as the Mountain Times printing a special edition newspaper detailing a history of West Jefferson with stories, photos and more. Finally, Lynn said the Centennial magazine should be ready at the end of this month. The Board thanked Lynn for her report and work with the Centennial.

Consideration of Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments:

Brantley said the Planning Board had reviewed each of the proposed text amendments for the Zoning Ordinance in reference to salvage yards/junk yards and have recommend that the Board accept the changes as proposed. Brantley said if the Board would like to approve the proposed amendments, each item would need to be adopted separately.

- a. **Recommendation of text amendment to Section 503.2 Conditional Uses of the Residential Agriculture Zoning District (R-A).** Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve this text amendment, seconded by Alderman Reeves. The vote of 5-0 in favor.
- b. **Recommendation of text amendment to Sections 508.1, 508.11, 508.2 and 508.3 of the Industrial Zoning District (M-1).** Alderman Hartman made the motion to approve this text amendment, seconded by Alderman Summey. The vote of 5-0 in favor.
- c. **Recommendation of text amendment to Section 511.41 Manufacture (Mobile) Home Parks of the Manufactured (Mobile) Home Zoning District.** Alderman Reeves made the

motion to approve this text amendment, seconded by Alderman Hartman. The vote of 5-0 in favor.

- d. **Recommendation of text amendment to Article VIII, Sections 800 and 801.04.** Alderman Green made the motion to approve this text amendment, seconded by Alderman Hartman. The vote of 5-0 in favor.
- e. **Recommendation of text amendment to Section 900.3, Continuation of Nonconforming Uses.** Alderman Hartman made the motion to approve this text amendment, seconded by Alderman Summey. The vote of 5-0 in favor.
- f. **Recommendation of text amendment to Article X, Landscaping Screening and Buffering for Development.** Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve this text amendment, seconded by Alderman Hartman. The vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Statement that shows consistency/no consistency with the Town's Land Use Plan.

With no discussion, Alderman Hartman made the motion to approve the statement that all proposed Town Zoning Ordinance amendments are consistent with the Town's Land Use Plan. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Cemetery Plot Purchase

The Mayor said Jan Caddell would like to purchase 4 cemetery plots and per the Town's cemetery policy, the Board must approve all cemetery plot sales. With no objection, Alderman Hartman made the motion to approve the purchase of 4 cemetery plots by Jan Caddell. Alderman Summey seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Budget Amendment #4- FY 14-15

Brantley explained to the Board that this budget amendment is for the repair of the street sweeper which has had no major repairs since purchased over 10 years ago. The hopper and screens in the truck must be replaced. The cost to repair is \$8,300. The revenue to repair the sweeper is from unrecognized tax revenues. These repairs should allow the truck to sweep for many more years, as a new truck would cost in excess of \$300,000. With no discussion, Alderman Green made the motion to approve the budget amendment, seconded by Alderman Summey. The vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of ABC Board Appointment

Brantley said Jak Reeves' term on the ABC Board expires in April 2015. Jak is interested in being reappointed to the ABC Board for another three year term and Haskell McGuire, Chairman, recommends him for the position. With no comments, Alderman Summey made the motion to appoint Jak Reeves to another three year term to the ABC Board, seconded by Alderman Shoemaker. The vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of FY 2015-16 Budget Meeting

After some discussion the next budget meeting was set for Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Police Report

Chief Rose gave a report on the Police Department. Chief said during the month of March, 230 calls were dispatched through the communications center, 18 auto collisions were investigated, 12 people were arrested including charges of DWI, larceny, assault and drug related crimes. Further, the Chief said 4 persons were arrested for drug violations. The Board thanked the Chief for his report.

Water/Wastewater Report

Charles said the SCADA system was being worked on, the spring line at Mt. Jefferson had recently been mapped by GPS by the High Country Council of Governments, the water flow with the spring was good,

the filter plant was doing well, over 300,000 gallons of sludge had been hauled off from the plant and several reports had been published in the paper. The Board thanked Charles for his report.

Maintenance Report

Eric said during the month of March, 3 sewer line issue had been found and repaired as well as several water leaks. The high priority sewer lines had been inspected per state requirements with the employees walking the sewer lines to check for leaks that are around water sources. The department has been chipping brush and cleaning up and the park would be open soon. Further, 2 new employees for the maintenance department have been hired and would begin work soon. The Board thanked Eric for his report.

Town Manager's Report

Brantley said taxes collected to date is \$995,746 or 96.5% of the levy. The Virginia Tech design team recently presented their initial ideas for the Backstreet and Main Street streetscape project to the WJ Community Partnership and would be giving their final presentation on May 11th at the Ashe County Arts Center at 5:30 p.m. Further, the streetscape project at Jefferson Avenue and Second Street would be going out to bid in the next few weeks with work to begin in May. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

Public Comment

The Mayor opened public comment at 6:55 p.m. With no public comment, the Mayor closed Public Comment at 6:56 p.m.

Aldermen Comment

The Aldermen thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Closed Session-Legal

The Mayor said the Board would now be going into closed session to discuss legal matters with the Town Attorney and would come back into regular session before adjourning. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to go into closed session, seconded by Alderman Hartman. The vote of 5-0 in favor.

Return from Closed Session/Adjournment

The Board returned to open session at 7:40 p.m. Alderman Hartman made the motion to bring the current Town Noise Ordinance up to date and limit the scope of the ordinance to 11 p.m. until 7 a.m. for action at the next Board meeting. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

With nothing further, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to adjourn the Board of Aldermen meeting, seconded by Alderman Hartman with a vote of 5-0 in favor. The time was 7:41 p.m.

Dale Baldwin, Mayor

Wesley M. Barker, Town Clerk