

**Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2017 | 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. (absent)

Town Staff Present: Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Clerk Rebecca Eldreth, Police Chief Jeff Rose, and Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller.

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. Mayor Baldwin invited those in attendance for a moment of silence. Alderman McMillan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the November 6, 2017 Agenda- With no changes, Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman McMillan seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Public Hearing

Consideration of Closure of Proposed Roadway - off Fairview Dr. Mayor Baldwin stated the resolution to permanently close the 265' section of the road was voted on and approved at the September meeting. The Resolution of Intent has been advertised in the Ashe Mountain Times for four (4) consecutive weeks. The approval to order the official closure of the street has been delayed until the December meeting to allow time for the paperwork to be completed. The Mayor then invited any of those in attendance to speak about the closure. David Ashley spoke to let the board know he has initiated the process to start a survey of the property in order to complete the paperwork. Town Manager, Brantley Price, said after the survey is completed and given to the Town a new deed will be drawn up by the Town Attorney. David Ashley thanked the Board for their consideration. The Mayor closed public comment at 6:04 pm.

Regular Session

Approval of Minutes-October 2, 2017 Regular Meeting - 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.

ABC Board Report- Haskell McGuire, ABC Board Chairman, gave a report to the Board on the 1st Fiscal Quarter of the ABC Store for FY 2017-18. Haskell said the total sales for the quarter was \$490,366, a 7.17% increase from sales during this quarter last year. A check for \$16,250 was delivered to the Town for the 1st Fiscal Quarter. Haskell stated the increase in sales is welcome but has created a problem with inventory space in the warehouse so they are looking at expanding that area. They would also like to add a loading dock in the future. He will report the details of the project as planning progresses. Haskell then asked if the Town would consider adding a sidewalk in front of the ABC store. In addition the ABC board would like to see a crosswalk added to the intersection of South Jefferson Avenue and Buck Mountain Road. The Board thanked Haskell for his report.

Appointment of Chief and Assistant Fire Chief WJVF – The Mayor stated Donnie Miller has agreed to serve again as Chief and Eric Miller has agreed to serve as Assistant Chief. Alderman Green made the motion to appoint Donnie Miller as Chief. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote 4-0 in favor. Mayor

Baldwin then stated that Eric Miller has agreed to serve as Assistant Fire Chief. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to appoint Eric Miller. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Discussion of Garbage Rates – Town Manager, Brantley Price, addressed the board to discuss the increase in commercial rates by Republic. Brantley stated the rate has gone from \$24.63 to \$30 for commercial businesses and with the increase the Town is not receiving back 50% of what they are being charged by Republic. Brantley proposed an increase of 10-20% over a period of 1 or 2 years. Alderman Green spoke against the increase. The Board agreed to discuss the increase again when the budget for next fiscal year will be discussed. Alderman Green made the motion to leave the rates the same. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Consideration of Tax Releases- The Mayor stated the following tax bills are proposed to be released and the Board would vote on each item separately:

- a) GDMI Leasing - billed a late fee incorrectly - \$2.93- Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to release this tax bill. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Consideration of Mayor Signing Promissory Note for New Truck – With no discussion Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the Mayor signing the promissory note in the amount of \$55,892.21 for the new truck and dump bed. Alderman McMillan seconded with a 4-0 vote.

Police Report- Police Chief Jeff Rose gave the police report for October. There were 220 calls dispatched through the communications center, 18 auto collisions were investigated, 18 people were arrested with DWI, larceny, assault and drug related crimes. 12 persons were arrested/charged for drug violations. The Board asked the Chief to increase Police presence at the ABC Store along with the Speedway Gas Station at night. The Board thanked the Chief for his report.

Maintenance Report- Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller gave an update on the Maintenance Department. Eric said there was a total of 61 one call tickets up from 56 last month, 9 customers had leaks on their side of the meter, 4 leaks on our side, 3 stopped up sewer lines, and 2 water and sewer taps for the month. The maintenance department is working on cleaning out the storm drains and have made 3 trips to the landfill. Jessica Welborn, with the High Country Council of Governments, has been working with the Maintenance Department to GPS the new waterlines to update the maps for accuracy. The public park facilities have been shut for the year. The maintenance department has started decorating the town with Christmas lights and should be finished by the end of the week. The Board thanked Eric for his report.

Town Managers Report- The well site, belt press, and water extension are one item away from bid. The Town Attorney is reviewing the survey and easements and found one issuer he is working on with the surveyor. After that is completed and the attorney signs off the project can go to bid. Taxes collected are \$974,477 which is 76.8% of the levy. The TDA has approved another Pandora promotion for the spring and updating the website before the promotion starts in April. The charging station was used 5 times in October for a total of 21 times since it has been installed. The Department of Commerce and Small Town Main Street Programs have sent out their statistics for fiscal year 16-17. Since the beginning of the year \$10,494,664 in downtown public and private investment was done on the Main Street project, 196 new jobs, 24 building renovations, 45 façade improvements, 24,398 volunteer hours, with a total value of \$560,000. Since the program's inception in 2003 the program boasts \$103 million in

downtown public and private investments, net gain of 1400 jobs and a net gain of 470 business. West Jefferson in fiscal year 16-17 there were 5 façade improvements, 1 public improvement, 3 building renovations, 11 job gains, with 9 new businesses opening and 5 closing. Total private and public investment was \$254,000 with 1,146 volunteer hours that includes Christmas in July and WJCP events. New equipment for the playground has been ordered and will be delivered and installed later this month which leaves \$7000 in the miscellaneous park budget. The Holiday Parade has been scheduled for Saturday, November 18th and Light Up the Town will follow. Town Hall will be closed on Friday, November 10th in observance of Veteran’s Day as well as November 23 and 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Earl Sheets asked Brantley to thank the Chief for looking out for his store during his illness. Brantley then read a letter from Wesley Barker addressed to the Board and Town employees reflecting on his time spent at Town Hall as the previous Clerk. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

Aldermen Comments – Alderman Green thanked the board for their support for him and his family during the loss of family.

Closed Session per G.S. 143.318.11(a) (6) to consult with the Town Attorney over personnel. The Mayor stated the Board would be entering into closed session per G.S. 143.318.11(a) (6).

Adjournment- Alderman McMillan made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Alderman Reeves. A vote of 4-0 in favor.

Dale Baldwin, Mayor

Rebecca Eldreth, Town Clerk