

Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen
Special Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2020 | 8:00 am

Board Members Present: Mayor Tom Hartman, Alderman Rusty Barr, Alderman Calvin Green, Alderwoman Crystal Miller, Alderman John Reeves, and Alderman Stephen Shoemaker

Town Staff Present: Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Attorney Jak Reeves, Town Clerk Rebecca Eldreth

At 8:00 am Mayor Hartman called to order the special meeting of the Board of Aldermen along with the Ashe County Board of Commissioners.

Regular Session

Consideration of GE Incentive Agreement Revision – Chris Robinson addressed the Boards to provide insight on the current and future operations along with an assessment of the long-term viability of the West Jefferson facility. Then, Chris presented the responsibilities of GE under the revised incentive agreement including minimum employment requirements and total tax base. Chris Lambert informed the Boards that GE currently retains the largest tax base for the Town and County alike. Mayor Hartman provided examples of how the facility employs an efficient workforce to secure major contracts and how the work force assists in supporting the permanency of the facility. Larry Coldiron with Business Development stated the plant continues to offer quality products even with the changing times. The plant has introduced 25 new products the facility can produce with the current equipment.

Public Hearing

Consideration of GE Incentive Agreement Revision – Mayor Hartman stated the purpose of the public hearing is to hear any comments on the proposed revision of the GE incentive agreement. Mayor Hartman opened the public hearing to allow comments at 8:30am. GE employee, Jim Blevins spoke in favor of the revision of the incentive as the facility employs many members of the community in a pleasant work environment. With no other comments the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Return to Regular Session

Consideration of GE Incentive Agreement Revision – With nothing additional, Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the revised incentive agreement as presented. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a unanimous vote of 5-0 in favor for the Town and a concurring vote of 4-0 for the County.

Adjournment – With nothing further, Alderman Reeves made the motion to adjourn the special meeting, seconded by Alderman Barr with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Tom Hartman, Mayor

Rebecca Eldreth, Town Clerk