

**Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**November 2, 2020 | 6:00 pm**

**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, and Town Clerk Rebecca Eldreth

Mayor Hartman called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Alderman to order at 6pm. Alderman Reeves led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the November 2, 2020 Agenda** – Mayor Hartman added Closed Session per G.S. 143.318.11(a)(3) to consult with the Town Attorney over Attorney-Client matters. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the agenda with the addition. Alderman Barr seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Regular Session**

**Approval of Minutes** – With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the minutes for both the regular and special meetings held on October 5, 2020. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Presentation of ABC Report** – Haskell McGuire presented his report to the Board for the fourth fiscal quarter. An increase of 21.3% in sales was reported from the same quarter in 2019. A check in the amount of \$32,500 has been delivered to the Town along with a check for \$1,969 to the West Jefferson Police Department by Haskell. Combs, Tennant & Carpenter conducted the annual financial audit for fiscal year 2019-2020 with no adverse findings. The store continues to operate on a reduced hourly schedule due to the pandemic. The Board thanked Haskell for his report.

**Consideration of Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief Appointments** – Mayor Hartman explained that each year the Board is required to appoint the Chief and Assistant Chief for the West Jefferson Volunteer Fire Department. Both Eric Miller and Jody Walters are willing to serve another year if the Board so chooses. Chief Miller has requested that the Assistant Chief receive \$100 per month for serving in the position. With no discussion, Alderman Green made the motion to appoint Eric Miller as Chief, Jody Walters as Assistant Chief, and approve the pay rate of \$100 per month for the Assistant Chief. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Resolution of Support for NC DOT Aesthetics Project** – Mayor Hartman stated at the last Board meeting NC DOT presented the aesthetics project for US Highway 221 and 163 intersection using funds from the Highway 221 widening project. A resolution of support will need to be adopted to move forward with the project. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the resolution of support. Alderwoman Miller seconded the motion with a unanimous vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Town Managers Report** – Brantley Price, Town Manager gave his report to the Board. Rain totals for the month are 5.87 inches making the year to date total 74.33 inches. Parts have been ordered to repair the spring. The state of North Carolina is currently in Phase 3 under the Governor's Executive Order 169 with 541 reported COVID-19 cases in which 80 of those cases are currently active. Repairs will be made on three sewer lines where it was found that water is entering the sewer system. The booster pump at the

new well is scheduled for this week and will complete the project. Wastewater Treatment Plant ORC has been working with NC Rural Water to complete a water and sewer rate study. Invoice Cloud is online and ready to accept payments. The Town received the stormwater grant to develop a stormwater plan with the assistance of the High Country Council of Governments. This grant has no cash match. The Town received the ARC Wifi grant and has plans to move forward with the project with a completion date in the spring. Joe Blevins has given the Town permission to place the Town sign on his property. Taxes collected to date total 70.8% of the levy. The audit deadline has been extended to January 31, 2021 due to COVID-19. The TDA received a grant from Visit NC and have allocated the funds to a winter Facebook advertising campaign and a spring promotion with Our State Magazine. An additional credit through VisitNC is currently being used for an iHeart Radio campaign in the Charlotte area. The EV charging station has been used a total of 95 times which is up from the 67 times in 2019. The 2020 Census has been finalized with the hopes of having the results by the end of the year. The Ashe Shriners scheduled a paper drive for November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. The Public Works Director from Moorehead City complimented the Town and the overall cleanliness of the streets, restrooms, and alleyways. The Fire Department has plans to ride Santa around in the old fire truck since the traditional events have been cancelled. Brantley ended his report by informing the Board that an invitation to the Fire Departments annual dinner has been included in the packets. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

**Public Comments** – Mayor Hartman opened the meeting to public comment. With no comments the Mayor closed public comment.

**Aldermen Comments** – Mayor Hartman read aloud a thank you note from Ashe Services for the Aging thanking the Board for their support in allowing them to hold their fundraiser in the town.

**Closed Session** – Mayor Hartman asked for a motion to enter closed session per G.S. 143.318.11(a)(3) to consult with the Town Attorney over Attorney-Client Matters. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to enter closed session.

**Adjournment** – With nothing further, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Alderwoman Miller with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

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Tom Hartman, Mayor

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Rebecca Eldreth, Town Clerk