

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held today Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Municipal Building.

The following members of the Governing Body were present:

Mayor: Danny Ritchie
Alderman: Carroll Franklin
Alderman: Richard Propst
Alderman: Benny Orders
Alderman: Terry Yount

Others present:

Town Manager: Sherri Bradshaw
Town Clerk: Sherry Dula
Attorney: Rod Willcox

Mayor Ritchie opened the meeting with Alderman Orders leading in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

Approval of Minutes: The Council voted unanimously to approve the April minutes by a motion from Alderman Propst, seconded by Alderman Franklin.

Fairgrounds Lease Renewal - At the last meeting, the Board requested the public notice be given to redo the lease for the remaining four years but the attorney's office determined that the statute had changed and a thirty-day notice is now required for any lease of municipal owned property. Manager Bradshaw recommended that we continue with the one year lease and then in February, 2017, we could give the attorney notice for the lease renewal of the remaining three years.

US Postal Service Response – The United States Postal Service responded to our recent request in reference to a mail route and denied the request. Manager Bradshaw stated that since the mail route was denied, we will begin the process of street name changes. Pinewood Drive is the first street to be addressed with letters being mailed to the residents and the meetings for this process beginning in July.

Zoning Allowance/Request – Drexel has received a request from 2774 US Hwy 70 E for the allowance of a distillery on this property. The property is currently zoned M-1 Manufacturing which does not address the operation of a distillery directly but our Zoning Ordinance does allow the Board of Aldermen to make an allowance for “other” manufacturing uses. Manager Bradshaw made the Council aware that Mr. Jones would be tearing down the house currently on the property and building a new facility for the distillery. The product will only be made at this facility then taken off site for distribution of the product. A motion was made by Alderman Propst, seconded by Alderman Franklin to allow the distillery to be a permitted use in this zone and the vote was unanimous.

Street Improvement Project - Evans Construction is scheduled to start resurfacing Drexel Drive within the next week. They will also be doing crack sealing all over town and repair/replacement of several storm drains.

Presentation of the Proposed Annual Budget for 2016-2017 – Manager Bradshaw presented the 2016-2017 Proposed Budget and the following are highlights from the presentation:

- Tax Rate will remain the same at \$0.38/\$100
- Total Budget is \$4,670,499
- Electric Rates will remain the same at this time with the exception of Renewable Energy fee from 0.56 to 0.61 for residential and 2.69 to 2.95 for commercial
- Expense for 50' x 100' building for Public Works for storage of materials
- Water/Sewer Rate increase of 5% to cover expense of infrastructure improvements
- Health Insurance decrease of 2.2% because we changed the deductible
- Cost of Living Increase of 1.5%
- Solid Waste Fee will increase from \$5.00 to \$7.00 on the utility bills
- Fire Department Matching Grant is 28,000
- Radio Read Electric Meters – start with 48 meters

Public Hearing – A motion was made by Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Orders to call for a public hearing at our next scheduled Board Meeting on June 7, 2016 for public comments and the adoption of the Proposed 2016-2017 Annual Budget.

Departmental Reports – The Council reviewed the Financial, Tax and Police reports for the month of April, 2016. A copy of each report is attached as part of the minutes.

Chargers Update – Lowell Summey updated the Council on the Chargers. Baseball is in full swing at this time. Mr. Summey wanted to make the Council aware of one person that was banned from the games. The Council agreed to ban him for 1 year by a motion from Alderman Propst, seconded by Alderman Franklin and the vote was unanimous. At the end of 1 year, the individual will need to come before the Council to ask for permission to be allowed back on the field.

Attorney Report – Attorney is still checking on the issue with keeping the sewer only customer bills in the landlords name since we have no leverage and are not able to turn off for non-payment.

Police Report – Chief Treadway was present to talk about the issue on Westwood Drive with the dogs. He stated the dogs have caused another incident and have been taken again and quarantined for 10 days. Chief Treadway talked with the renter and they assured him the dogs would not be returning to Westwood Drive.

Miscellaneous

- Town Hall Day – June 8th
- Next Meeting will be June 7th

Closed Session – The Council entered into closed session at 7:44 p.m. for the purpose of discussing contractual matters per G.S.143-318.11(a) by a motion from Alderman Propst, seconded by Alderman Franklin. The Council returned to regular meeting at 8:07 p.m. by a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Orders.

Adjournment - With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m. upon a motion from Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Franklin.

TOWN CLERK _____

MAYOR _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____