

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Hallyburton Academy Media Center.

The following members of the Governing Body were present:

Mayor: Danny Ritchie
Alderman: Terry Yount
Alderman: Dennis Anthony
Alderman: Matt Johnson
Alderman: Rick Cline

Others present:

Town Manager: Sherri Bradshaw
Town Clerk: Sherry Dula

Absent:

Attorney: Rod Willcox

Mayor Ritchie opened the meeting and Alderman Cline led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

Approval of Minutes: The Council voted unanimously to approve the March minutes by a motion from Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Johnson.

Capital Bank Presentation – Mr. Shaun Cline with Capital Bank was present to discuss the banking services they can offer to the town and thanked the town for the opportunity to consider their business for banking needs. Mr. Cline introduced David Martin, Commercial Relationship Manager and Marsha Mistry, Treasury Management Sales Officer. Mr. Martin reviewed the advantages of partnering with Capital Bank which include a consultative, solutions-based approach to business needs, experience of their team, strength of their regional commitment and strength of their company. Mr. Martin reviewed Capital Bank's rate proposal. The checking account rate would be at .55%, money market rate savings would be 1.61%, 6 month CD would be 1.85% and 12 month CD would be 2.00%. Marsha Mistry reviewed the customer analysis statement for the town prepared based on the current town needs. The analysis and presentation review are attached as part of the minutes.

NC Department of Commerce – Mr. Wesley Barker, ARC Community Development Planner was present to give an overview of the services provided by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The NC Main Street & Rural Planning Center works with municipalities, county governments and other organizations in rural areas to provide economic development planning and implementation services, technical support, and training. Mr. Barker stated that this organization can provide workshops, assessments, plan development and resources to help with our economic development needs. Alderman Anthony asked if they could help with downtown revitalization and Mr. Barker said that they do provide those services to help with downtown design and façade grant improvement programs. A copy of his presentation is attached as part of the minutes.

Proclamation for Coach Shull – Mayor Ritchie would like for the Board to adopt a proclamation in honor of Coach Shull. A ceremony was held at Hallyburton Academy gym formerly the old Drexel gym on Sunday, March 31st to dedicate and name the gym the Merlin B. Shull gym in honor of Coach Shull. A motion was made by Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Anthony to bring a proclamation in honor of Coach Shull back to the Board at the next meeting for approval and the vote was unanimous.

Drexel Properties Update – Manager Bradshaw updated the Board on the progress with Drexel Properties. She stated the Brownsfield Agreement application was received, reviewed and approved. A \$2,000 fee is required but this fee is covered by the grant received through Burke County that included the Town. She stated the first meeting on the property site will be April 10th at 1 pm if anyone is interested. Also, she stated that we are submitting another grant application in April through ARC to help with Sewer Line Rehab funding for the Drexel site. There will be an ElectriCities conference call on April 18th because we were selected to be part of the Smart Sites program and will receive up to \$25,000 in grant monies for due diligence and marketing of the property.

PARTF Grant Update – Manager Bradshaw stated the application has been completed and pictures were sent to Ashley to submit with the grant. Tim Rhoney, Hunter Nestor, Ashley Kale and Manager Bradshaw met with Judy Francis, Western Region Representative for NC Parks and Recreation, on Monday, March 18th. Manager Bradshaw stated that she was impressed and excited with our project and helped us with some tips for completing the grant. Ms. Francis was all for us submitting the grant but she did say that this was a very competitive grant with 28 other applications submitted just within our region.

Parking Lot Lease – Manager Bradshaw stated that we still have need of a lease amount for the small lot adjoining Rick Ramsey's property and needs some guidance from the Board. She stated that the realtors she spoke with don't have experience with the small lots and couldn't give any guidance. Mayor Ritchie stated that we could do our own stipulations for the leasing agreement. Alderman Cline asked if the Board would be held liable for any kind of accident that would happen while the trucks are on the property and leasing from the town. Manager Bradshaw said that the town would not be responsible for any issues with the trailers and the lease agreement addresses that issue along with asking for each trucker's insurance information. Also, Alderman Cline suggested that we base our lease amount on the number of trailers on the lot. Mayor Ritchie stated there is a difference in the trailers on the large lot which would cause damage to the lot surface because they are not stationary and the trailers on the smaller lot which are never moved and cause no damage. Alderman Yount expressed his concern that the Fire Department has no idea what is in those trailers in case of an emergency involving the vehicles. Alderman Cline asked if the rent is not paid for the trailers, are we allowed to have them removed? Manager Bradshaw said that we do have the right to have them towed. Alderman Anthony asked if Rick Ramsey will be moving his trailer from the large lot and Manager Bradshaw said that he will be moving it sometime during the month of April. Mayor Ritchie asked that the Board bring their suggestions for leasing the small lot to the budget meeting on April 16th.

Amendment to Interlocal Economic Development Agreement for Burke Business Park – Manager Bradshaw stated that the amendment to the agreement states that any entity fronting the costs of building infrastructure (including engineering fees, legal fees, construction costs, grant matches, etc.) will be reimbursed in full once the property is sold before proceeds are distributed to partners. Manager Bradshaw stated that the town has the smallest percentage paid among the five entities that are partnered in this agreement. A motion was made by Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Anthony to approve the amendment to the Interlocal Economic Development Agreement for Burke Business Park and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the amendment is attached as part of the minutes.

Drexel Alumni Association Mega Reunion – Drexel Alumni Association is planning the next mega reunion of the Drexel High School graduates. The reunion date is set for October 20, 2020 and will be held at the R.O. Huffman Center. The Alumni Association has requested funds from the Town to help with this event. The Town provided \$1,500 for the last mega reunion in 2000. Manager Bradshaw suggested that we contribute \$750 in the current budget year and \$750 in the next budget year. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Yount to provide the funds of \$750 in the current budget year and \$750 in the next budget year and the vote was unanimous.

Departmental Reports – The Council reviewed the Financial, Police and Tax reports for the month of March, 2019. Mayor Ritchie reviewed the police report. Alderman Cline expressed concerns from residents about the amount of traffic on Dearborn Street and would like for this to be looked into by the police department. A copy of each report is attached as part of the minutes.

Advertisement of Unpaid Property Taxes – Chelsea Carswell, Tax Collector will need approval to advertise 2018 unpaid property taxes on April 7th. A motion was made by Alderman Cline, seconded by Alderman Anthony to approve the advertisement of unpaid property taxes and the vote was unanimous.

Recreation Department – Manager Bradshaw updated the Board on recreation department activities. T Ball, baseball and softball sign-ups have been completed and they are full in the 7/8 year old teams, full in 9/10 year old teams but they only had five to sign up for 11/12 year olds so they were sent to Valdese.

Code Enforcement Violation Report – The Board was provided with code enforcement violations updates for review. A copy of each report is attached as part of the minutes.

May Meeting Rescheduled – The Board will be rescheduling the May Board meeting from May 7th to May 14th due to scheduling conflicts. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Anthony to reschedule Board Meeting for May 7th to May 14th and the vote was unanimous.

R.O. Huffman Center Improvements – Alderman Anthony suggested that the Town use the remaining funds from the \$41,500 in recreation grant monies we received to do some improvements to the tile in the game room. Manager Bradshaw stated that she had already started getting some pricing for improvements to that room. Alderman Cline asked if we were sure that asbestos wasn't present in the floor of that room. Manager Bradshaw said that the pricing would include the removal of any asbestos if found. She also made the Board aware that one AC unit was completely out in the Zumba Room and would need replacing.

Miscellaneous –

- Budget Workshop will be April 16th at 10 am
- WPCOG Annual Meeting will be April 25th at 6 pm at the Hickory Metro Center
- Town-Wide Clean Up will kick off on Saturday, May 18th and the Shred-It truck will be at the R.O. Huffman Center that morning. Clean up event will run from May 18th through May 27th

Adjournment – A motion was made by Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Anthony to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:09 p.m. and the vote was unanimous.

TOWN CLERK _____

MAYOR _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____