

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held on Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Municipal Building.

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
Attorney: Rod Willcox

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

Approval of Minutes: The Council voted unanimously to approve the June 26th minutes by a motion from Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Anthony.

Drexel Properties Update – Brian Kvam, CARDNO, was present to give an update on the clean up progress of Drexel Properties. He explained first that we didn't receive the EPA clean up grant and that the scoring was very competitive. Our score was 89 with the highest score being 95 and he stated that no one in North Carolina was awarded the grant. EPA will be giving us a report reflecting the weaknesses in our grant application so that we can work on those points. Mr. Kvam said that we can apply again for the fiscal year 2020. The grant announcement will be sometime around the first of October and the deadline will be around the first of December with grant awarding around May or June of 2020. Mayor Ritchie asked if being denied for the EPA grant would have any impact on our Brownfields Agreement. Mr. Kvam stated that the EPA and the Brownfields were mutually exclusive from each other. Mr. Kvam stated that some activity needs to start happening on the property and we can use the CDBG funding through WPCOG for this purpose. He also reiterated that Brownfields said that the Town would not be allowed to bury the material on the site but they have two project managers within the organization working on other alternatives for how we can dispose of the materials. It's possible we could use a Solid Waste Program. He stated that we can start on removing the building on the property but first the asbestos must be removed from the building. DEQ has requested more assessments of the property. They would like monitoring wells placed on the property for collecting ground water along with more soil sampling on the back portion of the property. Mayor Ritchie asked if we were back at square one and Mr. Kvam stated that we are much farther along than when we started so we are definitely not at square one. Also, he mentioned that the Smart Site Program through ElectriCities and Burke Development were still moving forward with paperwork and involvement in the project.

2018-2019 Budget Amendment – Manager Bradshaw explained that a budget amendment was needed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 which would cover multiple clean-up items for the fiscal year. A motion was made by Alderman Cline, seconded by Alderman Johnson to approve the 2018-2019 budget amendment and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the budget amendment is attached as part of the minutes.

2019/2020 Charge to Tax Collector - A motion was made by Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Cline authorizing the tax collector, Chelsea Carswell to collect the taxes set forth in the tax records for the 2019-2020 fiscal year and the vote was unanimous.

MINUTE BOOK # 60

PAGE 3

AUGUST 6, 2019

Code of Ordinances Book Update - Manager Bradshaw stated that our Code of Ordinances Book needs to be updated. She has spoken with WPCOG and they are willing to help us with the updates but it will take some time to go through the whole book. We will be starting with that in the near future.

Banking Discussion – Manager Bradshaw updated the Council on the different rates from our bank along with other banks. First Citizens has agreed upon .70 earnings rating along with eliminating service charges. First Citizens is not in favor of CD's but would rather use municipal bonds. Capital Bank has a CD rate of 1.5%. Once Manager Bradshaw approached BB&T with the ratings First Citizens was willing to give us then they agreed that they could do the same earnings rating and their CD rate would be 1.7%. Our Money Market rate now is 1.61%. Alderman Johnson expressed his concern with BB&T because they only stepped up to the plate and agreed to change their rates when we started asking for rate comparisons with other banks. Alderman Johnson stated that BB&T dropped the ball and should have come to us when rates changed. He also suggested splitting our banking needs by keeping our CD monies with BB&T since they have the better CD rates but taking our general checking to First Citizens. Manager Bradshaw stated her concerns with making the switch because we do have a lot that comes in and out of our checking and it would take a tremendous amount of work to change everything over. She suggested meeting with BB&T again and explain to them that the Council has concerns with our banking with BB&T and is suggesting changing banks to see if they would be willing to make some changes in what they provide for us. Mayor Ritchie suggested opening an account with First Citizens that would just be used for checks only in order to do a trial run with the bank. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson to move the 3 million into 3 different \$1 million CD's for 6 months each at the 1.7% rate and maintain the accounts with BB&T until we feel more comfortable with moving everything to another bank and the motion was seconded by Alderman Anthony with 3 votes for the motion and one vote against the motion from the Council.

2018 Tax Release – A tax release is needed for Compass Group in the amount of \$3.21 because Burke County decreased the value of the equipment. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Cline to release taxes in the amount of \$3.21 for Compass Group and the vote was unanimous.

Departmental Reports – The Council reviewed the Financial reports for the months of June and July, 2018 and the Tax report for June, 2018. A copy of each report is attached as part of the minutes.

Attorney Report – Nothing to report at this time.

Recreation Department Report – Manager Bradshaw updated the Council that we will be having football teams this year. Lisa already has enough signed up to a full 5-7 year old team and is now recruiting for the 8-9 year old team. Lisa will be attending open house on August 22nd at Drexel Elementary to recruit soccer sign ups. Volleyball starts in September. Also, Mendell Derreberry started working for recreation department on July 29th.

Miscellaneous –

- Next meeting will be September 3rd at 6 pm
- Manager Bradshaw made the Council aware that Jerry Baker, Asst Fire Chief will be Interim Fire Chief until a new fire chief is hired. She stated she is hoping to start interviews for this position by the end of August.
- West Consultants has started the surveying and prep work for the resurfacing of Hollar Street. She explained that we can either add the sidewalk, curbing and guttering to the street making the street narrower or obtain right of ways from the customers and put it on their properties. If we put it on the street we would still be within the permitted width. Council was in agreement to put sidewalk, curbing and guttering on the street.

Adjournment – A motion was made by Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Cline to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:05 p.m. and the vote was unanimous.

TOWN CLERK _____

MAYOR _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____