

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held today Tuesday, August 7, 2018 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: Benny Orders
Alderman: Terry Yount
Alderman: Dennis Anthony

Others present:

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

Mayor Ritchie opened the meeting and asked Alderman Orders to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

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

AIA/GIS Presentation and Report from WPCOG - Trey Schweltzer with Western Piedmont Council of Governments was present to report and give a demonstration of the GIS program of the electric, water and sewer distributions systems. Drexel was awarded a grant for Asset Inventory and Assessment of its sewer system in 2017. The town paid for the electric and water systems to be included in the process. As part of the grant, a presentation was to be made to the Board upon completion of the project. Mr. Schweltzer and Tom Bell worked from July 2017 until June 2018 with the mapping and GIS portion of the project. Mr. Schweltzer gave us a review of how the multi-utility view web application works and how this tool will aid the public works department tremendously by providing quick access to viewing all water, sewer and electric infrastructure throughout the Town's service area.

2017-2018 Budget Amendment – A budget amendment was needed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 which would cover additional revenue/expenses of sales tax refunded and paid, alcohol/beverage tax and multiple other clean-up items for the fiscal year. A motion was made by Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Yount to approve the 2017-2018 budget amendment and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the budget amendment is attached as part of the minutes.

WPCOG Code Enforcement Contract – Hunter Nestor, our current Planner from WPCOG was present to answer any questions the board may have dealing with the Code Enforcement Contract. Manager Bradshaw recommended a change from the current technical assistance planning agreement to a combined effort of code enforcement and planning assistance. Mr. Nestor explained that his presence at the town would change from ½ day per week to an on-call basis. The combined cost for the two contracts is \$25,800 versus the currently approved \$12,794. Code Enforcement Services is much needed in the town. This contract will consist of a trained WPCOG code enforcement officer which would receive complaints, identify violations, conduct site visits and investigations, issue code violation warning letters and notices of violations, working with property owners and other parties responsible for code violations, assessing civil fines to violators, and filing property liens as necessary. A variety of nuisance violations will be handled under this contract also such as overgrown properties, junked vehicles, illegal dumping and junk accumulation on residential and non-residential properties. A motion was made by Alderman Orders, seconded by Alderman Anthony to approve the WPCOG Code Enforcement Contract and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the contract is attached as part of the minutes.

Election of Mayor Pro Tem – Mayor Ritchie would like to hold off until we have a full Board of Aldermen before a new Mayor Pro Tem is appointed. A motion was made by Alderman Orders, seconded by Alderman Anthony to appoint the new Mayor Pro Tem once the town has a full board again and the vote was unanimous.

2018-2019 Charge to the Tax Collector - A motion was made by Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Yount authorizing the tax collector, Chelsea Carswell to collect the taxes set forth in the tax records for the 2018-2019 fiscal year and the vote was unanimous.

Board Member Appointment – Mayor Ritchie stated that he would like for the citizens of Drexel to have a voice in the appointment of our new board member replacing Alderman Franklin. He has suggested a committee consisting of appointed board members and citizens of Drexel be involved in the interview process. Mayor Ritchie contacted Attorney Willcox for further advice on the application, interview process and procedures in appointing an individual to fill a vacant seat now and in the future. Mayor Ritchie asked the Attorney to explain the suggested protocol for appointment of Board of Alderman replacement. Attorney Willcox explained that he has received a list of citizens in Drexel that the Attorney will utilize to select three names to serve on the committee and two alternates. Attorney Willcox stated that an advertisement will be placed in the News Herald by Friday, August 16th to let everyone know that the town will be accepting application for 2 weeks from publication date and after this time has expired then the interview process will begin. The committee will make their recommendation of qualified candidates and bring them before the Board at the September meeting in which the Board will be allowed to vote by paper ballot on the candidate of their choice. The candidate receiving the majority of votes (2) will be declared the winner. A copy of the protocol and application is attached as part of the minutes.

Transportation/Bus Route Update – Manager Bradshaw presented the newest map and bus route information for the proposed transportation system. Marketing is set to begin soon with a limited route proposed to start October 1st. The Drexel route will include stops at Autumn Care, Drexel Downtown Park, Pregnancy Care Center, R.O. Huffman Center and Drexel Discount Drug. The bus fare will be \$1.25 for a single ticket, \$0.60 for Senior and Disabled and 5 and under will be free. The bus will run from 6 am until 6 pm.

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

Police Report – Chief Treadway was present to review the police report for the months of June and July, 2018. A copy of each report is attached as part of the minutes.

Recreation Department – No one was present to give a report for the recreation department.

Drexel Properties Update – Manager Bradshaw stated that surveying is being scheduled for dividing the property to accommodate the Brownfield Agreement for on-site landfill for contaminated debris. The application for the Brownfield monies is in the works. She also stated that August, September and October will be the finalizing of Phase II and the application will be completed by the end of October or first of November.

Miscellaneous –

- Next Meeting will be September 4, 2018.
- ElectriCities Annual Conference will be August 20-22, 2018 in Asheville, NC
- BDI Thrive '22 Open House will be August 14th
- NCLM Annual Conference will be in Hickory, September 19th through 21st .

Adjournment - With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m. upon a motion from Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Orders.

TOWN CLERK _____

MAYOR _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____