

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, December 4, 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: Terry Yount
Alderman: Dennis Anthony
Alderman: Matt Johnson

Others present:

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

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

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

Property Maintenance Code – Alison Adams, Planning Director with WPCOG was present to give details on the proposed Property Maintenance Code. Ms. Adams stated that they are working with 6 municipalities to make this Property Maintenance Code uniform within each municipality. Ms. Adams reviewed the changes that are requested to be made to put the following codes in place for enforcement: Nuisance, junk and abandon cars, minimum housing code, non-residential minimum code and abandoned mobile homes. She explained that the code enforcement vehicle has been purchased and the Code Enforcement Officer position has been filled and the goal is to have this officer on the ground by January 2nd. The Ordinance to adopt the Property Maintenance Code will need to be adopted tonight in order to put his position in place by January 2nd.

Public Hearing – Mayor Ritchie opened the public hearing for the Property Maintenance Code at 7:07 pm by a motion from Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Anthony. Alderman Anthony asked if the vehicle was something the WPCOG furnished and Ms. Adams said that they do furnish the vehicle and are looking at January 2nd for the officer to be trained and ready to start. She stated that the GIS applications are ready to go. A motion was made by Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Johnson to close the public hearing at 7:10 pm.

Adoption of Property Maintenance Code Ordinance – Mayor Ritchie asked for a motion to repeal all of Division II, Part 8, chapters 3 and 4, chapter 6, Sec. 8-6021 (a) and (b) and amend (c) and (d) to become (a) and (b), Division II, Part 9, chapter 1, Article A. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Anthony to approve the above-mentioned repeals and the vote was unanimous. Mayor Ritchie asked for a motion to adopt the proposed Property Maintenance Code with replacements and new language. A motion was made by Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Anthony to adopt the Property Maintenance Code and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the newly revised code is attached as part of the minutes.

Resolution Declaring Property as Surplus and Authorizing Sale - Manager Bradshaw explained the resolution is declaring the oldest police vehicle surplus and authorizing the sale of the same vehicle. The 2008 Ford Crown Victoria is currently parked due to a blown head gasket. Manager Bradshaw recommends taking this vehicle out of service due to mileage and the expense of repairs. A motion was made to adopt the resolution declaring property as surplus and authorizing sale and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the resolution is attached as part of the minutes.

Scout Hut – Mayor Ritchie stated he spoke with the Scoutmasters and District Representatives concerning the name change for the Scout Hut and they think this is a wonderful idea and a final name will be brought before the Board for approval at the January meeting.

Drexel Properties Update – Manager Bradshaw gave an update concerning the Phase II analysis. The Phase II is still being compiled into a formal report. Once completed, the Brownfield Agreement application can be completed and submitted. The EPA Cleanup Grant application is also being completed. She stated that BDI has submitted the back portion of the property to two different projects and the rail site has made it to the second round of review by a European manufacturer anticipating a \$55 million investment.

Drexel Parking Lot Signs – Manager Bradshaw hasn't moved forward on the parking lot signs because she needs guidance on whether they would like to sell or lease the property that is being used by Rick Ramsey for storage trailers. Mayor Ritchie asked for input from the Board and Alderman Yount and Alderman Anthony are not in favor of selling and would like to look into leasing the property. Mayor Ritchie stated that Rick Ramsey is trying to do some cleanup on the property. Attorney Willcox suggested the discussion be tabled until the January meeting in order to allow him to check into the lease option. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Yount to table the discussion on the parking lot sale/lease option until the January meeting and the vote was unanimous.

Resignation of Alderman Benny Orders – Mayor Ritchie stated that a verbal resignation had been made on behalf of Alderman Orders by his daughter which has power of attorney for her father. This resignation is due to health issues and living arrangements. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Anthony to accept the verbal resignation from Alderman Orders daughter and the vote was unanimous. Mayor Ritchie would like for a proclamation to be made in honor of the long term contributions made by Alderman Benny Orders throughout his years with Drexel as Alderman and Fire Chief. A motion was made by Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Johnson to approve the making of a proclamation in honor of Alderman Orders and the vote was unanimous.

Mayor Ritchie stated that it is the obligation of the Board to replace the vacant position. The Board members are all in agreement to use the same committee members as before for the selection process. Mayor Ritchie asked the Manager to issue a call for applications by a motion from Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Johnson and the vote was unanimous. Mayor Ritchie asked for input from Board on whether the applicants from before should need to go through the interview process again if they are interested in making application again. The Board were all in agreement to leave that decision to the discretion of the committee members as to whether past applicants should have to interview again by a motion from Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Johnson. Manager Bradshaw stated she would have the Board vacancy advertised this Friday, December 7th and the applications will be due by December 21st.

Meeting Schedule – The Board unanimously approved the 2019 meeting schedule. The 2019 meeting time change for regular meetings will be 6:00 pm starting January 8th, 2019.

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

Recreation Department – Tim Rhoney, Recreation Director was present with updates for the month of November which include an increase in rentals for the center due to events and holidays. Basketball games have started. Christmas 5K Chase will be on December 22nd at 9 am. Registration will be from 8 – 8:45 am. You may register online at racingtoes.com.

Recreation Department Continued – Mr. Rhoney explained to the Board that the PartF Grant for Parks and Recreation had been released. He spoke with our Western Regional Consultant and the application is due May 1st, 2019 but they recommend a draft application be sent in by April 1st for review. Mr. Rhoney states that the application needs to be started by January and he would need an amount the Town is willing to commit toward the grant by the next Board meeting. The grant is a 50/50 match. As far as what projects need to be requested in the grant, he suggests we start with the beginning of the recreation plan. The Regional Consultant recommends that we do another survey to the citizens. The number of surveys going out versus those coming back in needs to be at least 10% in order to even consider making application for this grant. Mr. Rhoney also said that part of the grant project can be used for ADA projects. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Anthony to have surveys sent out to citizens for the recreation department and also to table further discussion until the January 8th meeting and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Rhoney updated the Board that the doors are in ordering process and as soon as they come in they will be scheduled for installation. Gym windows are in process also but the company is backed up in their schedule and will get to them as soon as possible. Manager Bradshaw stated that the Town did receive the \$41,000 in Rural Economic Development Grant monies.

Attorney Report – No issues to report this month.

Miscellaneous –

- Valdese Library Groundbreaking will be Friday, December 3rd at 3 pm
- Drexel Christmas Parade – December 8th at 1 pm
- Drexel Christmas Luncheon – December 18th at 12 noon at the R.O. Huffman Center
- Drexel Firemen’s Christmas Party – December 15th at the R.O. Huffman Center Zumba Room
- Christmas Holidays – December 24th – 26th and New Year’s Holiday - January 1st
- Next meeting January 8th, 2018

Adjournment – A motion was made by Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Johnson to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:43 p.m. and the vote was unanimous.

TOWN CLERK _____

MAYOR _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

