

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the Assembly Hall of the Municipal Building.

The following members of the Governing Body were present:

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

Others present:

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

Mayor Ritchie opened the meeting with 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 Anthony, seconded by Alderman Yount.

Resolution for Lease of Communications System – Burke County’s current communication system is expiring and they are in the process of negotiations with Motorola Solutions for an updated public safety software solution that allows all municipalities in the county to be included at a reasonable rate. Joining this system would ensure added safety for our officers in their daily service. The town’s investment will be \$27,330.00 over a period of five years. Payments will begin with the 21-22 budget at \$5,776 per year. This expense will replace the annual expense now paid to Southern Software for the current public safety software used for reporting. Alderman Johnson asked Chief Treadway if he recommended this system for the Police Department. Chief Treadway addressed this with a yes. He states that this system will give our officers call history for an address, has GPS through the walkies in order to know where officers are located, easy access to criminal records and will provide added safety for our officers. He also stated that our radios are out of date and we needed to keep up with the times. A motion was made by Alderman Yount to approve the resolution for lease of communications system, seconded by Alderman Anthony and the vote was unanimous.

2021 Meeting Schedule – A motion was made by Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Anthony to approve the 2021 Meeting Schedule and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the schedule is attached as part of the minutes.

Barn Lease – Manager Bradshaw explained that since Animal Control is now under the county manager’s office in Burke County we would need to change the entity that would be leasing the barn.

The lease originated in September, 2016 when the Burke County Sheriff's Department Animal Control Division was the lease tenant. The updated lease removes the Sheriff's Department as tenant and adds

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Burke County Animal Enforcement Division as the new tenant. Manager Bradshaw reminded the Council that the lease agreement provides Burke County with a barn to temporarily house large animals that might be rescued or confiscated until permanent housing can be found. A motion was made by Alderman Cline, seconded by Alderman Johnson to approve the barn lease update and the vote was unanimous.

N.C. Department of Public Safety Sharing Agreement – Manager Bradshaw explained that this was an agreement between the NC Department of Public Safety for its Office of Recovery (NCORR) and Resiliency and the Town of Drexel. The purpose of this agreement is to allow for the safe and compliant sharing of the customer and applicant data so that the NCORR can successfully and compliantly administer COVID-19 relief operations. Manager Bradshaw stated that this program disburses the HOPE Funds which is designated for evictions and utility bills. This agreement legally allows for utility information to be released to them in the process of approving the application for these funds. Mayor Ritchie recommends the approval of this agreement. A motion was made by Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Cline to approve the Data Sharing Agreement and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the agreement is attached as part of the minutes.

Departmental Reports – The Council reviewed the financial and tax reports for November, 2020. A copy of each report is attached as part of the minutes.

Drexel Police Department – Chief Treadway reviewed the November Police report and stated it was a pretty quiet month. He stated that he has encouraged his officers to be careful with their contact in their daily duties due to the Covid threats at this time. A copy of the report is attached as part of the minutes.

Attorney Report – Nothing to report at this time.

Recreation Department – Sign ups have been slow for football, soccer and cheerleading. Manager Bradshaw is not sure at this time if we will be having recreation activities because the County is following the school system schedule and they have limited sports activities at this time.

Planning & Zoning Report – Some discussion was made concerning the Jason Ramsey issue at 2775 US 70 E. Alderman Anthony asked what we can do concerning Jason Ramsey. The discussion focused on the fact that not much has been done to clean up and the front of the business is a safety hazard with all the vehicles obstructing the view of the road when turning from Mt. View Dr. onto Hwy 70. Mayor Ritchie recommends the need to issue a citation to Jason Ramsey after the allowable time has expired for clean-up. Alderman Cline agrees with this recommendation, he feels it has been longer than 60 days. Attorney Willcox stated that the extended time Mr. Ramsey asked for is up and a citation could be issued at any time. Manager Bradshaw stated she will contact our code enforcement officer

concerning the issuance of a citation to Mr. Ramsey. A motion was made by Alderman Cline, seconded by Alderman Johnson to approve the issuing of a formal citation to Jason Ramsey and the vote was unanimous.

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Miscellaneous –

- Next meeting will be January 5, 2020 at 6 pm
- Office closed for Christmas and New Years on December 23rd, 24th, 25th and January 1st.
- Christmas Drive-Thru Celebration is Thursday, December 17th from 10 am until 12 noon
- Santa’s Sleigh Run December 12th starting at 11 am. The sleigh will be hitting many streets in the town limits with Santa and many friends on the sleigh. Treats will be given to all the kids.
- Alderman Anthony wanted to make the Council aware that he had recently been released from quarantine and had been tested 3 times for COVID resulting in all negative results. One test was due to a family member testing positive and he was around that person and the others were due to an anonyms letter sent to his employer stating that he had been in contact with someone with COVID and needed to be tested since he works with the school system.
- Alderman Cline asked that the Council pray for the safety of the Town during this pandemic. Also, he asked everyone to remember law enforcement through these tough times.
- Alderman Anthony wanted to alert the Council that he had an incident with solicitors from AT&T internet. Officer Auton responded to the call and he wanted to let the Chief know that Officer Auton acted on a very professional level and did a thorough job with the indicent.

Adjournment – A motion was made by Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Johnson to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:35 p.m. and the vote was unanimous.

TOWN CLERK _____

MAYOR _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____