

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 6:00 pm 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 January minutes by a motion from Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Johnson.

Petitions and Communications - Services for Benny Orders will be on Thursday, February 6, 2020 at Heritage Funeral Service with receiving from 2:30 until 3:30 pm and the funeral service at 3:30 pm. Mr. Orders served as Alderman for the Town for many years and was also with the Drexel Fire Department from 1965 until 1999 in different capacities but he spent the most of his fire department years as Fire Chief.

Service Animals – Mayor Ritchie asked Attorney Willcox to research what the Town could do to regulate animals being allowed in the building. Would like to get something on the books referencing this issue. Mayor Ritchie would like for only registered service animals to be allowed in the building.

NC ABC Commission Delegated Official – A resolution needs to be approved appointing the town manager as the delegated official to sign off on applications for businesses within the town limits to sale/serve alcoholic beverages. Manager Bradshaw stated that she would be willing to be the delegated officer since she is in the office all the time. Alderman Cline asked if the manager would then have a say as to whether the business request would be approved. Manager Bradshaw stated that she would be able to approve or deny the request within the town limits as the zoning ordinance permits. A motion was made by Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Johnson to adopt the resolution appointing Manager Bradshaw as the delegated official to sign off on applications for businesses within town limits to sale/serve alcoholic beverages and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the resolution is attached as part of the minutes.

Partial Road Abandonment Request – Mark Benfield has purchased a portion of land located off Zion Road and Amherst Roads in the area of New Eastwood Circle. Mr. Benfield is requesting the closing of a portion of Kenmore Drive, located in Drexel's ETJ. This street was originally planned for a recorded subdivision that is no longer being developed. The land was originally going to be a continuation of Eastwood Circle by Roy Morris years ago. The street is now an overgrown wooded area. Manager Bradshaw explained to the Council that upon approval of the request, General Statute requires the adoption of a resolution for advertisement of the street closing and also all adjoining property owners will need to be notified of a public hearing. Alderman Johnson has

researched the property and has determined that all owners will have access to their property and he has no issue with granting the request. Mayor Ritchie states if the owner should decide to sell then it will be their responsibility to develop the right-of-way. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Anthony to call for a public hearing on March 3rd for the partial road abandonment request and the vote was unanimous.

Unifour Hazard Mitigation Plan – Manager Bradshaw presented the Unifour Hazard Mitigation Plan which must be reviewed and adopted every 5 years to assure that the Plan is in compliance with all State and Federal regulations. This plan is needed in order for the Town to be eligible to receive future FEMA funds in the event of a natural disaster. A motion was made by Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Cline to adopt the Unifour Hazard Mitigation Plan and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the resolution is attached as part of the minutes.

Drexel Properties Update – Manager Bradshaw stated that we haven't had any update from DEQ about the onsite burial of the debris. She states that DEQ is not willing to accept liability for burying the debris onsite as long as the site is an unpermitted landfill. She stated that they have pushed to get the representative to come visit the site but that has not been successful so far. Alderman Johnson asked if he really understands that right now the debris is left exposed to the public as opposed to burying it where it won't be exposed. Manager Bradshaw said that he has been told that we planned to bury, cap and fence the area and that portion would not be used for anything else. Alderman Cline and Alderman Johnson both asked if we should contact some of our federal representatives to help with this application and Manager Bradshaw suggested we wait until the awards are announced for the EPA grant so that we don't hinder that process in any way.

Manager Bradshaw also stated that Electricities is developing a site plan for the back acreage of the Drexel Properties with the funding received through the Smart Sites Grant we received last year. The plan they are developing will provide two rail spurs. Norfolk Southern has given their approval for the two rail spurs for this site. North Carolina Rail has funding to help with developing new rail spurs and Alliance Engineering is willing to talk to them in this matter.

ARC Grant Application for Rehab of Sewer on the property is in the 2nd stage now and Manager Bradshaw said that it looks positive. Erin Schotte with WPCOG is also drafting a letter to request some CDBG funds that are possibly available in the amount of \$500,000.

Departmental Reports – The Council reviewed the Financial and Tax reports for the month of January, 2020. A copy of each report is attached as part of the minutes.

Drexel Police Report – Chief Treadway was present to review the Police report for the month of January, 2020. Alderman Anthony thanked Chief Treadway for the detailed and very informative email he sent regarding the homeless in the Drexel area. A copy of the report is attached as part of the minutes.

Recreation Department Report – Manager Bradshaw updated the Council on recreation. Basketball is finishing up. Soccer signups are complete and they have 15 indoor soccer teams. Volleyball signups have started. AAU Football will be starting games April 1st. They will be paying rental fees for the use of the field. AAU will receive all gate fees and recreation department will receive concession monies.

Miscellaneous –

- Next meeting will be March 3, 2020 at 6 pm
- Budget Workshop will be March 17, 2020 at 10 am
- Manager Bradshaw updated the Council that the Reid St. maintenance project is still a work in progress and Roger has spoken with Marty Chapman about when he will be back to complete the job and he said that the rain has hindered his work and he is waiting until it dries up enough to finish.
- Alderman Anthony asked if estimates had been obtained for the R.O. Huffman Center bathroom renovations. Manager Bradshaw stated that she has not gotten estimates yet but was planning to include them with the new budget and present them at the budget workshop.
- Alderman Cline would like for the Town to do something in honor of Benny Orders. He suggested we change the name of the fire department to include Benny’s name.

Adjournment – A motion was made by Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Yount to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:42 p.m. and the vote was unanimous.

TOWN CLERK _____

MAYOR _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____