

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held on Tuesday, January 7, 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 Alderman Yount led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

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

WPCOG Agreement – Town Code Revision – Manager Bradshaw explained that the technical assistance agreement for code revision adopted in November, 2019 had an incorrect payment amount listed in the agreement. The total contract amount remains the same at \$8,000 but the monthly payment would be spread over an 8 month period at \$1,000 per month. A motion was made by Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Johnson to approve the corrected agreement and the vote was unanimous.

Roster Certification for Fire Department – The Board approved the annual roster certification for 28 firemen on the NCSFA roster by a motion from Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Yount and the vote was unanimous.

PARTF Grant – Manager Bradshaw made the Council aware that if they wanted to participate in the PARTF Grant for the recreation department, we would need to get started soon because the deadline for applications is May 31st. She explained that we would have to send out the citizen surveys again and do the public comment hearings again also. Alderman Anthony stated that he doesn't feel like we need to pursue this again at this time. He says that Drexel Properties should be our #1 priority at this time. He suggested that we concentrate on doing some improvements to the bathrooms at the R.O. Huffman Center on our own on a smaller basis. Manager Bradshaw stated that we replaced the sinks already. Alderman Cline agreed on repairing the bathrooms in segments. Mayor Ritchie stated that we should get estimates and ideas on bathroom upgrades and figure out what we need to do first and bring these findings back to the Board for discussion. Alderman Yount stated we need handicap accessible stalls and we need to be sure doors to bathrooms are large enough for wheelchair access. Mayor Ritchie brought back the initial question of whether we wanted to pursue the PARTF Grant. A motion was made by Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Cline to not pursue the PARTF Grant Application this year and the vote was unanimous. Also, a motion was made by Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Yount to research ideas for upgrades to the bathrooms at the center and bring them back to the Board for discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Drexel Properties Update – Alderman Yount asked if we had resubmitted the application on the \$500,000 grant. Manager Bradshaw stated that the application had been resubmitted. Alderman Yount asked how far this would help in getting started on the cleanup and Manager Bradshaw said it would be a start but not cover the whole cleanup. Mayor Ritchie states that hopefully our plea to the state to allow us to bury debris onsite, would be a great benefit toward our cleanup costs. Alderman Cline asked if we could contact Hugh Blackwell yet on behalf of the town for help with this project. Mayor Ritchie asked, “how long should we hold off before contacting our representatives to ask for some help with this cleanup project”. Mayor Ritchie stated that we should also contact our Washington Representatives to see if they could help us in any way. Alderman Cline said that if we could get the Drexel Properties straightened out then we could see things happen in Drexel. Alderman Anthony complimented Manager Bradshaw on posting the Drexel Property information sheet on the website. He states this is very helpful when people ask about the progress we are making on clean up efforts. Manager Bradshaw made the Council aware that our ARC grant application was approved on the state level and is now being submitted on the federal level. This application is for rehab on the sewer line on the Drexel Properties.

Departmental Reports – The Council reviewed the Financial and Tax reports for the month of December, 2019. A copy of each report is attached as part of the minutes. Burke County Tax Office requested tax release for Wesley Jones on a boat that is kept in Morganton for \$59.17. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Anthony to release taxes in the amount of \$59.17 for Wesley Jones and the vote was unanimous.

Drexel Police Report – Chief Treadway was present to review the monthly and yearly reports for the Police Department. After his presentation, he stated that the police had a pretty busy year. A copy of the report is attached as part of the minutes.

Recreation Department Report – Manager Bradshaw updated the Council on recreation. She said that indoor soccer signups are now open and someone would be at the center Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 4 pm until 8 pm for signups and open on Saturdays as long as they have games going on.

Miscellaneous –

- Next meeting will be February 4, 2020 at 6 pm
- Mayor Ritchie asked about the progress on the Reid St. maintenance project and Manager Bradshaw stated that Marty Chapman had started on the work but had to stop due to the rain. As soon as it’s dry enough he will finish.
- Alderman Cline asked about the homeless in Drexel and asked if we had any idea how many we have living here. He visited a friend on Bryant Rd and two homeless individuals were in his yard and they told the owner they were told by police to move on. Also, he asked if there was any where we could place them. Attorney stated that there is approximately 35 homeless camps in Morganton. Manager Bradshaw said our police department has at times transported homeless individuals to the men’s shelter in Morganton. Manager Bradshaw said she would speak with police department. Mayor Ritchie said that we could tell about the shelters and camps but can’t make them go.
- 2020 Christmas Parade – Mayor Ritchie commended Scott Dula on a great parade again this year. Mr. Dula asked the Board if they would be in approval of setting a permanent parade date as the 2nd Saturday in December at 10 am. The Board was all in agreement.

Adjournment – A motion was made by Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Yount to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:32 p.m. and the vote was unanimous.

TOWN CLERK _____

MAYOR _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____