



The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the R.O. Huffman Center.

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 Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

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

**2018-2019 Budget Amendment** – Manager Bradshaw reviewed the changes this amendment addresses. The following is a list of several items that must be amended in the current budget:

- Motor Vehicle Gap Billing – a new state mandated billing for individuals that paid motor vehicle registration and personal property taxes late.
- Interest rates have increased on the money market rate savings account.
- Alcohol/Beverage Tax is a new revenue for Drexel following the November 2017 vote to allow alcoholic beverage sales throughout Burke County. The amount we received the first year only reflected three months of sales so therefore the \$5,000 is a projected amount until we know for sure the exact amount we will receive.
- Reduction in projected fees on the lease of spaces to tractor trailers in the old Drexel Heritage parking lot due to the permitting not being implemented as planned.
- Replacement of Personal Protective Equipment (SCBA) that was priced wrong in the fire department's grant application.
- Older Police Department vehicle experiencing transmission issues and other maintenance items.

**PARTF Grant Application** – A public comment meeting was held at 5 pm just before the regular board meeting to receive comments and suggestions concerning the proposed PARTF Grant outdoor park. Several residents were present for comments at the public comment meeting.

At the regular meeting, the board briefly discussed the grant options and monies involved in each level of the cost estimates. The different estimates are as follows:

1. Proposed outdoor park and bathroom renovations at \$905,748 with 50% match of \$452,874
2. Proposed walking track, picnic shelter and bathroom renovations only at \$607,307 with a 50% match of \$303,519
3. Proposed walking track, renovated tennis courts and bathroom renovations only at \$484,912 with a 50% match of \$242,456

4. Removing bathroom renovations from the picture – just the outdoor park at \$642,098 with a 50% match of \$321,049

A motion was made by Alderman Johnson for option #2 which proposes a walking track, picnic shelter and bathroom renovations only at \$607,307, with a second from Alderman Anthony and the vote was unanimous.

**Parking Lot Lease** - The parking lot lease or sale was tabled at the last meeting pending the manager speaking with Rick Ramsey. Manager Bradshaw did speak with Mr. Ramsey and he stated that he might consider a lease but would prefer to purchase the lot. After some discussion concerning the sale or lease of the property, the Board leaned more toward the lease option because we would have more control over the property. Alderman Yount expressed his concerns and stated that he was not in favor of either option because we would be opening up a can of worms for future inquiries for leasing town properties. Mayor Ritchie stated that each inquiry would be brought before the board for review before any other properties were leased. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Cline to lease the Drexel Property Parking lot with three in favor of the motion and one not in favor. Motion carries with majority vote. Mayor Ritchie addressed Attorney Willcox with a few items to be placed in the lease such as the lease will be for a one year term and if the town should get a new business on the Drexel Properties and they should have need of the parking lot then the lease would terminate upon this condition. Alderman Johnson stated that a realtor should be contacted to get an idea of a standard lease amount appropriate for this property.

**Departmental Reports** – The Council reviewed the Financial and Tax reports for the month of February, 2019. Chief Treadway was present to review the police report. A copy of each report is attached as part of the minutes. A motion was made by Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Johnson to release taxes for Matthew Hastings for \$79.97 due to the fact that he doesn't live in Drexel any longer and the vote was unanimous.

**Recreation Department** – Tim Rhoney was present along with Lisa Butler to update the Board on the Recreation Department for the month of February. Mr. Rhoney stated they are in their 4<sup>th</sup> week of soccer. Baseball and Softball signups have started. He also stated that he will starting to work on the ballfields to get them ready for games. He also let the Board know that the Karate class had moved out and they are trying to come up with some ideas for the use of that room.

**Attorney Report** – Nothing to report at this time.

**Miscellaneous** –

- Budget Workshop will be March 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 am
- WPCOG Annual Meeting will be April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the Hickory Metro Center
- Next meeting is April 2nd and Mayor Ritchie announced the next meeting will be held at Hallyburton Academy at 6 pm
- Town-Wide Clean Up will kick off on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> and the Shred-It truck will be at the R.O. Huffman Center that morning. Clean up event will run from May 18<sup>th</sup> through May 27<sup>th</sup>

Adjournment – A motion was made by Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Johnson to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:19 p.m. and the vote was unanimous.

TOWN CLERK \_\_\_\_\_

MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_

ALDERMAN \_\_\_\_\_

ALDERMAN \_\_\_\_\_

ALDERMAN \_\_\_\_\_

ALDERMAN \_\_\_\_\_