

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019 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

Others absent:

Attorney: Rod Willcox

Mayor Ritchie opened the meeting and Alderman Cline led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

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

WPCOG Technical Assistance Agreement – Manager Bradshaw explained that this agreement with WPCOG is for assistance in reviewing and updating Drexel’s Code of Ordinances. The Town Code has not been revised or updated in a long time. The process will start January 1, 2020 and be completed by August 31, 2020. The fee will not exceed \$8,000 and will be billed in equal monthly payments of \$1,142.86. A motion was made by Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Anthony to approve the WPCOG Technical Assistance Agreement for the provision of Town Code revision and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the agreement is attached as part of the minutes.

Drexel Properties Update – Brian Kvam with CARDNO was present to give an update on the EPA Grant application process for 2020. Mr. Kvam stated that he has spoken with the original project manager for our grant and she doesn’t think the project is dead for onsite burial of the debris. He states that she seems optimistic that there could be a reverse of opinion on the onsite burial issue. Mr. Kvam said that Foothills Regional Landfill quoted a price for removal of the debris of \$77 per ton and that is only for disposal fee. They estimated the removal amount at approximately 31,000 tons. Mayor Ritchie asked if there was a certain person that was a stumbling block in this process that we could maybe invite to come out and look at our site. Mr. Kvam said it may not be a bad idea to invite him to come and view the site. It was mentioned that we could also write a letter to our state and federal delegation to speak on our behalf. Mayor Ritchie stated that he knows this grant was on the state level and he asked if we could get the federal system involved. Mr. Kvam said that yes we could possibly consider taking this to a federal level. He also said that he may entertain the idea of applying for emergency removal action. Mayor Ritchie asked if we received an explanation on the deduction of points on our application. Mr. Kvam said that we did receive that explanation and he stated that in our FY20 EPA Cleanup Application we will clarify the points that caused the deductions. Our project team is still committed to working with NCDEQ on the most efficient and cost effective manner to handle the debris at the site. The due date for the new application is December 3rd, 2019. Award announcements will be in late spring of 2020 and if awarded, funding would be available on October 1st, 2020. Alderman Cline asked if we could talk with McDowell County about their cleanup process. Manager Bradshaw explained that she had looked into their process and it was a joint effort through City of Marion and McDowell County.

Alderman Cline also asked if we were planning to tear down the standing building on the site. Manager Bradshaw stated that we were planning to use the CDBG funds to tear down the building but Erin Schotte suggested that we should considered keeping those funds just in case we need them for matching monies on the grant. Mr Kvam also stated that they would consider applying for a cost share waiver that is in place for small communities under 10,000 in population.

Departmental Reports – The Council reviewed the Financial, Police and Tax reports for the month of October, 2019. A copy of each report is attached as part of the minutes.

Recreation Department Report – Manager Bradshaw updated the Council on recreation activities. Mighty Mites Soccer team won their season and they are in the finals to move into the tournament process. Football and Volleyball both had good seasons. Basketball signups are underway and they have 8 teams so far. Alderman Johnson stated that he helped with some games and they had such a good turnout that they had to keep ordering more pizzas for concessions. Alderman Anthony asked if Lisa has ever had the recreation signups announced at the schools. Manager Bradshaw said that Lisa asked the principals to do the robocalls to all parents and she attends PTO meetings and open houses. Alderman Anthony stated that the basketball tryouts for girls were still open at Heritage at this time but would be complete by Friday and he would speak with the Coaches so they could let those who didn't make the cut know that they have an option to signup with Drexel if they are interested in playing this season.

Miscellaneous –

- Next meeting will be December 3, 2019 at 6 pm
- Manager Bradshaw let the Board know that the Planning and Zoning granted the variance to Mr. Hipple and Mr. Cook for 304 Mimosa Ave. to subdivide the property. She stated the Planning and Zoning Board decision stands alone and will need no further discussion. Mr. Hipple and Mr. Cook have already gotten approval and recorded the plats as well as paying all connections fees and acquired all permits required.
- Thanksgiving Breakfast – November 20th at 9 am upstairs in the Assembly Room
- Christmas Luncheon – December 18th at noon at the R.O. Huffman Center
- Firemen's Christmas Party – December 20th at 6:30 pm at the R.O. Huffman Center
- Christmas Parade – December 14th at 10 am
- Mayor Ritchie stated that Reid Street needs some maintenance on the road and Manager Bradshaw said that Roger has already made calls to schedule a motor grader to come in and work on this street.
- Alderman Cline asked if Kirk Page on Dearborn Street has spoken to anyone about the tree in his neighbor's yard across the street that is hanging across the highway. He is afraid it will fall on his house. Manager Bradshaw stated this tree is in the neighbor's yard and would be the responsibility of the owner. Roger has been out to check on this tree and this is not a town problem, this is between the residents of the two homes.

Adjournment – A motion was made by Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Yount to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:39 p.m. and the vote was unanimous.

TOWN CLERK _____

MAYOR _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____