



The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. 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 August minutes by a motion from Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Cline.

**Petitions and Communications** – Victoria Shuffler, President of Relay for Life and also a member of the Drexel Fair Board was present to ask if the Board would approve use of the fairgrounds for a Music Festival to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Ms. Shuffler explained that the music event would bring an agenda of Bluegrass and Country music from several local bands and a few from out of town and she already has 4 bands confirmed. The event would be for one day only running from around 1 pm until 11 pm. Food vendors will be on site and a beer garden can be provided but only if the town is in approval. She is good whether alcohol is served or not. There will be an admission charge to attend and the event is scheduled for September 5, 2020. Ms. Shuffler has spoken with the police and they are willing to provide security. She stated they will be handling payment of all police officers and all cleanup will be taken care of by them. No cost to the town except for providing the facility. Insurance will be provided by the American Cancer Society. Alderman Yount mentioned that alcohol served on town property would violate our town ordinance and this would have to be changed. Alderman Cline stated that he is totally against the serving of alcohol for the event. Alderman Johnson is in favor of the event without the serving of alcohol and we can see after next years event how it goes and determine whether we would like to change the ordinance to allow alcohol for the day. Alderman Anthony made a motion to allow the use of the fairgrounds on September 5th, 2020 for a Music Festival to raise funds for the American Cancer Society without the serving of any alcoholic beverages during the event, seconded by Alderman Cline and the vote was unanimous.

**Interlocal Agreement/Burke Business Park** – Manager Bradshaw presented the amendment to the Interlocal Economic Development Agreement for the Burke Business Park. She stated that the original amendment approved in April needed some clarity in the language. Nothing has changed in the content of the agreement as far as reimbursement to entities fronting funds or services at the business park only clarifying language. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson to approve the amendment to the Interlocal Agreement, seconded by Alderman Yount and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the updated amendment is attached as part of the minutes.

**2018-2019 Audit Report** – Ronnie Crump with Boggs, Crump & Brown presented the annual audit report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. Mr. Crump stated we had a good year. The highlights of the report are as follows:

- Current ratio 21.5 to 1 (5,601,978/260,078)
- Electric fund had a net income increase of \$202,539
- Water/Sewer Fund net income increase of \$606
- Investment earnings for all funds was \$28,074 which is an increase over last year.
- General Fund revenues are down by \$12,743 compared to last year and expenditures are up by \$138,270
- Public Safety expenditures increased by \$15,511
- General Government decreased by \$4,560, Transportation increased \$137,060
- 98.83% Collection Rate on Property Taxes which is above the state average
- Fund Balance increased by \$33,623
- Unrestricted Funds available \$1,420,162
- Assets >Liabilities \$6,871,803 increase from last year of \$6,738,383
- Property tax increase \$16,981, Sales tax, franchise, and sales tax refund increase \$49,156
- Debt: Grapple Truck vehicle lease \$85,565 and NCDENR loan of \$376,869
- General Fund Additions – Police Car
- Electric Fund Additions – Service Truck
- Sewer Fund Additions – Sewer Lines

A motion was made by Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Anthony to accept the audit report as present by Ronnie Crump and the vote was unanimous.

**Annual Tax Settlement** - Chelsea Carswell, tax collector presented the 2018-2019 annual tax settlement along with the monthly tax report. The tax collection rate for the tax year ending June 30, 2019 was 98.6%. A copy of the tax settlement is attached as part of the minutes.

**2019 Tax Release** – Several tax releases are needed and are as follows:

- Unending Love Photography      \$ 3.79
- Matthew Hastings                      \$ 6.88
- Maledia Coleman                      \$ 3.97
- Frank Bryant                              \$ 9.92

The above tax releases no longer live in the Town of Drexel.

- Christopher Brown                      \$ 1,411.49    County Billing Error (Corrected amount \$24.49)

A motion was made by Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Johnson to release taxes in the total amount of \$1,436.05 for the above-mentioned taxes and the vote was unanimous.

**Departmental Reports** – The Council reviewed the Financial report for the month of August, 2019. A copy of the report is attached as part of the minutes.

**Police Report** – Chief Treadway presented the police report for the month of August, 2019. He stated that they had a very busy month.

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

**Recreation Department Report** – Manager Bradshaw updated the Council on the recreation department. She stated the department has 4 soccer teams, 4 volleyball teams, 1 football team and 23 cheerleaders.

**Gaming Establishments** - Mayor Ritchie has a question directed to the attorney concerning gaming establishments. He would like to know what we can do to keep these establishments from coming back. He states he feels like this area is being targeted for these types of establishments. Mayor Ritchie would like for the attorney to research writing a tougher ordinance dealing with the gaming establishments. Attorney Willcox suggested bigger penalties and that he will research what the towns options would be in this matter. Chief Treadway stated that the zoning violations would not be considered criminal activity so therefore these violations would need to be handled in civil court. Alderman Cline asked if we could reach out to the owners of the buildings and ask if they could be more selective in the tenants they place in their buildings. A motion was made by Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Anthony to empower the attorney to research this matter dealing with gaming establishments as suggested by the Mayor and the vote was unanimous.

**Drexel Properties** – Manager Bradshaw brought a request before the Board from Eric Greene concerning leasing a portion of the Drexel Properties. She stated he was interested in putting a mulch yard on the asphalt parking lot inside the fenced area. She stated he is aware that if things should open up for us to start doing work on the property then he would have to move off the property. Mayor Ritchie asked if this is approved would it threaten our grant efforts. She stated that she spoke with those involved with our grants and they didn't see any problem with this request. Alderman Anthony does not feel that we need to allow this, he just doesn't think it's the right thing to do. Alderman Cline asked what the liability would be? Manager Bradshaw stated that it would be a leased property and fall under the town. Alderman Cline also brought to the Boards attention that there are houses pretty close to that area and that we would probably get phone calls if we allow this to happen. He thinks there will be problems once the mulch gets wet and we don't need more issues with this property and recommends we don't go through with leasing to Mr. Greene. Alderman Yount feels that we should treat every citizen the same because we leased to Rick Ramsey and now we are turning down Mr. Greene this could cause us issues down the road. Alderman Anthony says if it was anything else but mulch he may consider it. Mayor Ritchie is split in his decision. He states it's not a matter of who put it there but what is put there. Mayor Ritchie asked for a show of hands vote and the result was 1 for and 3 opposed to leasing to Mr. Greene.

**Miscellaneous** –

- Next meeting will be October 1st at 6 pm
- Drexel First Church of God Impact Week is September 16-20, 2019. Manager Bradshaw said they were planning to paint the ballfield fence, cut walnut trees at the center, do restriping at the post office and clean up around the boy scout hut. The paint for any work on town property will be provided by the town.
- Alderman Cline thanked Town crew and Manager for barricading the Drexel Parking lot. It looks good.
- Alderman Yount would like for town attorney to research information on writing a town ordinance dealing with all the untagged vehicles in town in which the town is not receiving any tax revenue. Manager Bradshaw made the Council aware that the town is allowed to charge a motor vehicle tax per vehicle per residence in addition to vehicle taxes already in place, if the town would be interested in implementing this fee.

**Adjournment** – A motion was made by Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Anthony to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:20 p.m. and the vote was unanimous.

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

MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_

ALDERMAN \_\_\_\_\_

ALDERMAN \_\_\_\_\_

ALDERMAN \_\_\_\_\_

ALDERMAN \_\_\_\_\_