

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held today Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Municipal Building.

The following members of the Governing Body were present:

Mayor: Danny Ritchie
Alderman: Carroll Franklin
Alderman: Benny Orders
Alderman: Terry Yount
Alderman: Richard Propst

Others present:

Town Manager: Sherri Bradshaw
Town Clerk: Sherry Dula
Attorney: Rod Willcox

Mayor Ritchie opened the meeting with Alderman Orders leading in 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 Franklin, seconded by Alderman Propst.

Public Hearing – Zoning Text Amendment – A motion was made by Alderman Orders, seconded by Alderman Propst to open the public hearing at 7:04 p.m. to allow comments from the public on the proposed zoning text amendment to allow home occupations and daycares in the B-2 General Business zoning district. With no one present with comments the public hearing was closed at 7:05 p.m. by a motion from Alderman Orders, seconded by Alderman Franklin.

Ordinance to Amend the Drexel Zoning Ordinance - The Planning and Zoning Board recommends the proposed zoning ordinance text amendment to allow for home occupations and daycares within the B-2 General Business district. The Council unanimously voted to approve the Ordinance to Amend the Drexel Zoning Ordinance by a motion from Alderman Propst, seconded by Alderman Franklin. A copy of the ordinance is attached as part of the minutes.

Resolution in Support of Public Power Week – Public Power Week will be October 2-8, 2016 and is the annual opportunity to recognize the importance of locally owned and operated electric utility services. All Public Works Employees will be recognized during this week. A motion was made by Alderman Orders, seconded by Alderman Franklin to approve the Resolution in Support of Public Power Week and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the resolution is attached as part of the minutes.

National Recovery Month Resolution – Mr. Joe Marks, Burke Recovery Executive Director, has requested that the Town of Drexel adopt a resolution proclaiming September, 2016 as National Recovery Month. This resolution references all the state and county organizations that are requesting participation in this effort to help more people achieve and sustain long-term recovery from mental and/or substance abuse disorders.

Budget Amendment – A budget amendment is needed to clean up and close out the Water Sewer Fund for 2015-2016 fiscal year budget. A motion was made by Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Orders to adopt the 2015-2016 budget amendment and the vote was unanimous.

Fairground Barn Lease – Manager Bradshaw presented the revised lease agreement which was approved by the Board allowing Burke County Animal Control to use the barn located at the fairground temporarily if needed for abused animal seizures. Burke County requested some changes regarding the lease payment and utilities charged. The original lease allowed use of the barn at no charge other than utility usage. Burke County suggested that there be a \$35 per day charge which would also include utility charges. A motion was made by Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Propst to approve the revised lease agreement and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the lease agreement is attached as part of the minutes.

VEDIC Funding Request – Last month Alderman Franklin requested that we consider contributing to the VEDIC program. Kerri Poteat with VEDIC was present to explain the VEDIC partnership and how our contribution and support could make a difference. The funds in this financing program provides loans for small businesses and helps established businesses expand across the North Carolina. She explained that they are also a USDA Funds Intermediary Lender for anywhere in North Carolina. They currently have 47 loans on the books at this time. She also stated that 100% municipality support would help with their applications for USDA grants. A motion was made by Alderman Propst, seconded by Alderman Franklin to participate in the VEDIC program with a \$2,000 contribution per year and the vote was unanimous.

2015-2016 Annual Audit Report – Ronnie Crump with Boggs, Crump & Brown was present to review the annual audit report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. Mr. Crump stated that the Town had a good year but some areas still need to be closely monitored going forward.

- Current ratio was 12.2 to 1 (\$5,030,299/\$413,978)
- Electric fund had a net increase of \$97,166
- Water/Sewer Fund net income was at a loss (\$68,959)
- Investment earnings for all funds was \$5,401 which is a increase over last year.
- General Fund revenues are up by \$13,582 compared to last year and expenditures are down by \$7,072
- Public Safety expenditures decreased by \$35,001
- General Government decreased by \$8,179, Capital Outlay decreased by \$39,307
- 98.46% Collection Rate on Property Taxes which is above the state average
- Fund Balance increased by \$63,635
- Unrestricted Funds available \$996,350
- Assets >Liabilities \$6,341,172 increase from last year of \$68,534
- Factors effecting budget: Service Truck Purchase, Sewer Pump Station, Jetter in Sewer Department, property tax decrease of \$10,117, no capital outlay for this year.

Annual Tax Settlement - Chelsea Carswell, Tax Collector was present to review the tax settlement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. The tax collection rate for the year ending June, 2016 was 98.46%. Mayor Ritchie commended Mrs. Carswell for all her hard work. A copy of the tax settlement is attached as part of the minutes.

Departmental Reports – The Council reviewed the Financial and Police reports for the month of August, 2016. A copy of each report is attached as part of the minutes.

Attorney Report – No issues to report at this time.

Chargers Update – Lowell Summey updated the Council on the Chargers. Football games starting soon. Chargers have only one team this year. Basketball starts November 1st. Chargers have donated a \$100 credit card to William Perkins, a disabled resident of Drexel. Mr. Summey would

like to have the gate locks at the field house changed out because they are rusted. Manager Bradshaw stated that we are already working on this and a clock for basketball games also.

Recreation Department – Lisa Butler and Tim Rhoney were present to update Council on ROH Center activities. Recreation revenues for the month were \$1,195.25. The center was closed the week of the fair. Tim Rhoney started his first day of work as the new recreation director on September 6, 2016.

Attorney Report – No issues to report at this time.

Miscellaneous

- NCLM Conference will be October 22-25, 2016 in Raleigh.
- Next meeting October 4, 2016.

Adjournment - With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. upon a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Yount.

TOWN CLERK _____

MAYOR _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____