



The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held today Tuesday, September 4, 2018 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: Benny Orders  
Alderman: Terry Yount  
Alderman: Dennis Anthony

Others present:

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

Mayor Ritchie opened the meeting and asked Alderman Orders to lead 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 Anthony, seconded by Alderman Yount.

**Drexel First Church of God Impact Week** - Pastor Jake Eldridge and Sheree McCaw was present to review the details for the Impact Week project Drexel First Church of God will be initiating during the week of September 17 – 22, 2018. Sheree McCaw will be leading a group of volunteers that will be working on this project. Pastor Jake went over the scope of the project which includes clean up of the overgrowth and removal of the shrubbery in the front of the R.O. Huffman Center and along the bank located beside the breezeway drive thru. Once this is removed and cleaned up then mulch will be placed throughout these areas and some plants will be placed along the bank. Settlemyer Nursery has offered to donate the plants that would be placed along the top of the bank and Pastor Jake asked if the Town would be willing to purchase more to be placed along the remainder of the bank and the volunteers will plant them. He would also like to try transplanting some of the existing hosta located on the property. The project will also include work at Drexel Elementary and the Pregnancy Care Center on Main St. Sheree McCaw spoke to the Council about how she would also like to include the town hall in the project with clean up and pressure washing of the building and sidewalk and to possibly take that clean up project on down past the Post Office. Ms. McCaw would like this project to be an annual event and inspire other churches and individuals to invest in the improvement of our community and she would like for this project to grow each year. Pastor Jake and Sheree invited the Board and the community to come to the celebration of the project at the end of Impact Week on Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:45 am at the Drexel First Church of God.

**Petitions and Communications** – Brenda Bjorkland, owner of 401 Mt View Street was present to express her gratitude to Drexel for trying to understand her situation and explain to the Board that she is just now learning how to get to the right people to ask for what she needs and deserves in her situation.

**Burke Transit Update** – Averi Ritchie, WPCOG was present to give an update on the new bus routes scheduled to begin on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Ritchie explained that there will be 2 buses in Morganton and 2 buses in Valdese/Drexel and the buses will run from 6 am until 6 pm. She also reviewed the budget for the 2 year plan and possibly a 3<sup>rd</sup> year according to how funding works out. This will be an asset to our citizens who may not have any other way to get to appointments, grocery store and even to visit relatives or friends. Burke Transit will also be hosting an “elected officials”

ride day in the next few weeks so that you can experience first-hand what is available to our citizens. The route schedules are attached as part of the minutes.

**2017-2018 Audit Report** – Ronnie Crump with Boggs, Crump & Brown presented the annual audit report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. Mr. Crump stated we had a good year. The highlights of the report are as follows:

- Current ration 18.5 to 1 (5,291,767/286,024)
- Electric fund had a net income increase of \$6,650
- Water/Sewer Fund net income decrease of (\$128,096)
- Investment earnings for all funds was \$5,252 which is a increase over last year.
- General Fund revenues are down by \$509,596 compared to last year and expenditures are down by \$671,253
- Public Safety expenditures decreased by \$24,431
- General Government increased by \$3,233, Capital Outlay decreased by \$38,089
- 98.33% Collection Rate on Property Taxes which is above the state average
- Fund Balance increased by \$190,694
- Unrestricted Funds available \$1,305,400
- Assets >Liabilities \$6,738,383 increase from last year of \$6,735,781
- Property tax decrease of \$15,838, Sales tax, franchise, and sales tax refund increase \$11,824
- Debt: Grapple Truck vehicle lease \$112,627 and NCDENR loan of \$400,423

**2017-2018 Annual Tax Settlement** – Chelsea Carswell, tax collector presented the 2017-2018 annual tax settlement. The tax collection rate for the tax year ending June 30, 2018 was 98.7%. A copy of the tax settlement is attached as part of the minutes.

**Departmental Reports** – The Council reviewed the Financial, Police and Tax reports for the month of August, 2018. A copy of each report is attached as part of the minutes.

**2018 Tax Releases** – A total of \$170.61 in tax releases was presented for approval by the Board. A listing of the releases are as follows:

- Unending Love Photography - \$4.34
- Bryant - \$10.75
- Coleman - \$4.41
- Drexel Baptist Church - \$149.39

A motion was made by Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Orders to approve the above-listed tax releases and the vote was unanimous.

**Recreation Department** – Manager Bradshaw gave an update on recreation department activities. Fall signups are completed and there will be 3 soccer teams, 3 volleyball teams and 1 girls softball team. Football signups did not show enough interest.

**Attorney Report** – Nothing to report at this time but he will be working on finalizing the procedures for trucks using the Drexel Parking lot.

**Miscellaneous** –

- Alderman Anthony proposed that the Board dedicate the baseball field to Carroll Franklin in honor of the time he spent there as a coach and the service he has given to the town over the years. A motion was made by Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Yount to dedicate the baseball field to Carroll Franklin and the vote was unanimous. Mayor Ritchie asked if Alderman Anthony and Alderman Yount take the lead on this project and see that plaques are made for Carroll Franklin for the baseball field and Johnny Tate for the football field and they were both in agreement.
- Mayor Ritchie made a request to the Board that we reschedule next month’s meeting from Tuesday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> to Monday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> due to schedule conflicts. Council voted unanimously to reschedule the October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to October 1<sup>st</sup> by a motion from Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Yount.

**Adjournment** - With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m. upon a motion from Alderman Orders, seconded by Alderman Anthony.

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

MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_

ALDERMAN \_\_\_\_\_

ALDERMAN \_\_\_\_\_

ALDERMAN \_\_\_\_\_

ALDERMAN \_\_\_\_\_