

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Municipal Building.

The following members of the Governing Body were present:

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

The following members of the Governing Body were absent:

Alderman: Benny Orders

Others present:

Attorney: Jonathan Jones
Town Manager: Sherri Bradshaw
Town Clerk: Sherry Dula

Alderman Ritchie opened the meeting with prayer

Approval of Minutes – The Council approved the previous minutes for the month of February by a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Yount and the vote was unanimous.

Petitions & Communications - Wilt & Vivian Birchfield, of 3826 Castle Drive were present to request to be released from the Town's electric system. Their complaint is concerning high electric bills and would like to switch to Duke Power. Mrs. Birchfield stated that they are not in the town limits and doesn't think she should be forced to stay with the town electric system. They requested to be released in 2005 and the Council chose to deny their request at that time. They were also complaining that it takes the Town too long to restore electricity during power outages and that the transformer near their house has blown fuses several times and they feel it is not large enough to carry the number of houses on that street. She has contacted Duke Power and they will place her on their system as long as they have a signed release from the Town of Drexel. Mayor Propst stated that the Council would review their request and contact them when they have made a decision.

Workforce Investment Act Youth Program – Jason Adams was present to explain his request to the Council. Mr. Adams stated that the Workforce Development Program is based out of Hallyburton Academy and the program is paid for with Federal grant monies. The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Formula Grant provides economically disadvantaged teenagers and young adults with a summer training program to learn a variety of work skills. Mr. Adams is the director of the program and would like for the Town to allow the 15 students enrolled in the program to help with projects around town. He states that the students will be well supervised by school employees and will be covered under the Burke County Public School Insurance policy. Also, the program will not cost the town any money. The students can work 8 – 10 hours per day but no more than 40 hours per week. Mr. Adams would like to implement the program during the month of June. Alderman Ritchie made a motion to accept the proposal to allow the students in the Workforce program help with projects around town and Alderman Franklin seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Burke Co-Operative Water Board Memorandum of Understanding – The memorandum establishes a formal agreement for the listed entities to provide mutual aid and assistance to each other in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency. The memorandum is between public and private water and wastewater facilities of Burke County. A motion was made by Alderman Ritchie, seconded by Alderman Franklin to approve the memorandum of understanding from the Burke Co-Op Water Board and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the memo is attached as part of the minutes.

Resolution Opposing Legislation that Provides for the Forced Taking of Municipal Water Systems - The resolution is in direct support of one of the legislative advocacy goals set at the NCLM meeting in January. The City of Asheville's water system is at risk of being transferred to the Metropolitan Sewer District by legislation originally proposed in 2011. While the forced transfer was not enacted, legislation was passed to begin the process of taking the water system from Asheville. The forced taking of any local government infrastructure would set a dangerous precedent that could effect future decisions to invest in needed infrastructure in the future. By adopting the resolution, we would be in support of having the League of Municipalities lobby against the forced taking of our water systems. A motion was made by Alderman Ritchie, seconded by Alderman Yount to adopt the above-mentioned resolution and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the resolution is attached as part of the minutes.

Resolution Authorizing the Disposition of Vehicle - The resolution would allow for the disposition of the 1995 Chevrolet sedan used by the Fire Department. Chief Baker states the needed repairs will cost more than the vehicle is worth. A motion was made by Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Ritchie to adopt the resolution authorizing the disposition of vehicle and the vote was unanimous.

Police Chief Position - A motion was made by Alderman Ritchie, seconded by Alderman Franklin to authorize the Manager to start the process for replacing the Chief of Police by advertising the position.

2012 Delinquent Tax Advertisement – The Council voted unanimously to approve the advertisement of delinquent 2012 tax liens on April 7, 2013 by a motion from Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Ritchie and the vote was unanimous.

Departmental Reports – The Council reviewed the Police, Tax and Financial reports for the month of February, 2013. A copy of each report is attached as part of the minutes.

Executive Session - The Council entered into Closed Session as permitted by GS 143-318.11.(6) at 7:40 p.m. by a motion from Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Franklin and the vote was unanimous for the purpose of discussing the architect report in reference to the R.O. Huffman Center. The Council adjourned back to the regular meeting at 8:05 p.m. by a motion from Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Ritchie in order to allow for Alderman Danny Ritchie to be dismissed from the meeting due to sickness.

While in open session, the Council voted unanimously by a motion from Alderman Ritchie, seconded by Alderman Franklin to allow Attorney Jonathan Jones share the architect report with the Drexel Foundation.

Executive Session – The Council entered back into Closed Session as permitted by GS 143-318.11(6) at 8:06 p.m. by a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Yount. The Council discussed further details on the lawsuit against Burke County and the Attorney questioned the architect on various aspects of his report. The Council adjourned back to the regular meeting at 8:50 p.m. by a motion from Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Franklin.

Miscellaneous – Manager Bradshaw made the Council aware of the dates for the Electricities Regional Meetings.

Adjournment - With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m. upon a motion from Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Franklin.

TOWN CLERK _____

MAYOR _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____