

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was Tuesday March 6, 2012 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: Benny Orders
Alderman: Terry Yount
Alderman: Carroll Franklin
Alderman: Danny Ritchie

Others present:

Manager: Matt Settlemyer
Town Clerk: Sherry Dula
Attorney: Jonathan Jones

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 Orders, seconded by Alderman Yount and the vote was unanimous.

Burke Development Updates - Scott Darnell from Burke Development Inc. was present to review any economic developments for this year and any upcoming expansions. Mr. Darnell stated that the Burke County MSA was ranked 9th in the country for the number of industrial projects announced. There were 22 projects announced and 6 of those were from Burke County. Burke County job base consists of Furniture, Metal Working, Retail, Food Related Industry, Automotive, Government Sector, Textiles and Healthcare. Burke Development is currently trying to improve the skill level of our workers thru Project Renew (Fast Track Skill Development). At this time, the program has 49 students attending the class which meets 2 nights per week with projected graduation in May of this year. Mr. Darnell also updated us on the progress of the Industrial Park. He stated that at this time businesses are looking for existing buildings rather than constructing a new building so therefore they currently have no potential activity with the industrial park.

Alderman Ritchie asked Mr. Darnell if they had any plans or ideas for the Drexel Heritage plant. Mr. Darnell explained that they had a few prospects but no takers. He stated that he thinks the 80 acre property would be more marketable with the buildings removed.

He updated the Council on the progress of the new Walmart project. He stated they would be starting 24 hour grading this week and the projected completion would be mid 2013.

Water/Sewer Rate Increase - Manager Settlemyer reviewed the rate increase options. Proposal #1 would increase the minimum charges and the rate per thousand above the minimum. Proposal #2 would increase only the minimum and no change to the rate per thousand above the minimum. Concerned citizens, Dick McCall and Scott Coe were present and spoke in response to the proposed rate increase. Their concern was that the increase would propose a hardship on a lot of citizens in this struggling economy that live on a fixed income. After some discussion from the Council, a motion was brought to the floor by Alderman Ritchie to adopt Proposal #2. Alderman Orders spoke at this time and stated he was not ready to make a motion on this proposal. He stated he didn't think the rates should be raised all at one time. Without a second to the motion, the motion did not carry. The Council would like for the Manager to look into Electric Reserve monies and see if there are limitations or if we could possibly use a portion of that money to subsidize the water/sewer fund.

Miscellaneous –

- The digital sign for the front of the townhall had to be reordered because the original sign was recalled because of a problem with catching on fire.
- Manager Settlemyer stated that he has an engineer redesigning the intersection at Mimosa and S. Main St. The new design will include widening the median and taking out a portion of the sidewalk. He will bring this back to the Board at the next meeting.
- Grand opening for the Downtown Park will be April 21st, 2012.
- Grand opening for the new Western Piedmont Council of Governments Building will be March, 27th, 2012
- Mediation for Drexel Chargers and Drexel Booster Club will be Thursday, March 8th at the History Museum

Departmental Reports – The Council reviewed the Financial, Fire and Police reports for the month of February, 2012. A copy of each report is attached as part of the minutes.

Adjournment - With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m. upon a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Orders.

TOWN CLERK _____

MAYOR _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

