

Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2022 | 6:00 pm

Board Members Present: Mayor Tom Hartman, Alderman Rusty Barr, Alderman Calvin Green, Alderwoman Crystal Miller, Alderman John Reeves, and Alderman Stephen Shoemaker

Town Staff Present: Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Attorney Jak Reeves, Police Chief Brad Jordan, Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller, and Wastewater Superintendent Brandon Patrick

At 6:00 pm Mayor Hartman called to order the meeting of the Board of Aldermen. After the invocation was given, those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the April 4, 2022 Agenda – Mayor Hartman stated that consideration for a resolution supporting the interconnect of waterlines between West Jefferson and Jefferson would need to be added to the agenda. Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the addition of the resolution to the agenda. Alderwoman Miller seconded the with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Public Hearings

Consideration of Rezoning Parcel 19223 423 and 19223 395 from Community Shopping to Medium Density Residential – Mayor Hartman stated the purpose of the public hearing is to hear any comments on the proposed rezoning of the parcels to construct townhomes on the property. The mayor opened the public hearing at 6:06pm. Alan Maness and Tom Holden spoke on behalf of Barnett Properties and gave an overview of the project. Donald Denny, property owner in Highland Cove asked if there were plans for a landscaping or buffering. With no further comment, Mayor Hartman closed the public hearing at 6:08pm.

Regular Session

Approval of Minutes – With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on March 7, 2022 and Special Meeting held on March 22, 2022. Alderman Barr seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Rezoning Parcel 19223 423 and 19223 395 – With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the rezoning of parcel 19223 423 and 19223 395 from Community Shopping to Medium Density Residential. Alderman Reeves seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Statements of Consistency – With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the statement as presented. Alderwoman Miller seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Presentation of Creative Placemaking Project – Megan Grubb, Community Developer for Atlas Studios presented the findings for the Creative Placemaking Project Action Plan.

Consideration of Street Closure for Firewalking Event – Founder and CEO of Fire Walk Productions Dave Albin came before the Board seeking permission to close West Market Street to hold a firewalking event on Sunday, July 3rd. With no further discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the road closure. Alderman Reeves seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Downtown Bike Tours – Catherine Massey presented to the Board the idea of bike tours in downtown and the residential areas of West Jefferson. The rider would transport passengers and packages in a seat pulled behind a tricycle to the parking lots in town. Catherine also proposed the idea of using golf carts to carry passengers throughout town. The Board was in favor of the ideas but would like additional information. Catherine will return at the next meeting for approval.

Consideration of ABC Appointment – Mayor Hartman stated that Haskell McGuire’s term on the ABC Board is set to expire but is willing to serve an additional term. With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to appoint Haskell McGuire to an additional term. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Miller with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Resolution for Waterline Interconnect – With no discussion, Alderman Barr made the motion to approve the resolution as presented. Alderwoman Miller seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Resolution for ARPA Grant Funds – With no discussion, Alderman Barr made the motion to approve the resolution as presented. Alderwoman Miller seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Discussion of Downtown Flower Baskets – Local business owner, Todd Loy came before the Board to request additional flower baskets on the light poles on the southside of town and down East Second Street. The Board was in consensus to add 4 flower baskets at the intersection of Market Street and Jefferson Avenue and 4 baskets down East Second Street.

Discussion of Board of Adjustment Date – Mayor Hartman explained that a Board of Adjustment meeting date needs to be set. The Board agreed to meet Tuesday, April 19 at 5:30pm.

Police Report – Chief Jordan gave his report to the Board for the month of March. A total of 297 calls were dispatched through the communications center including 17 motor vehicle crashes, 13 larcenies, 3 damage to property, 6 fights, 21 drug cases, 27 minor citations, 2 DWI, and other miscellaneous calls. The Board thanked Chief Jordan for his report.

Water and Wastewater Report – Wastewater Superintendent Brandon Patrick gave his report to the Board. A total of 4.5 inches of rain were recorded for the month of March. A sewage leak was reported on Beaver Creek School Road where there was a hole found in the bottom of a forced main from the Beaver Creek pump station. A crew has been working to line the sewer lines and patch unused taps on North Jefferson Avenue, Wilton Avenue, and North Church Avenue. The filter plant is current running and producing 90,000 gallons per day. The water tank located on Water Tank Street is currently having the lines replaced as part of routine maintenance. The Board thanked Brandon for his report.

Maintenance Report – Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller gave his report to the Board. A total 31 one call tickets, 1 water leak, and 2 sewer line issues. The meters have been raised in the alleyway so paving can be completed. The maintenance department has assisted with locating old taps in the sewer lines, have taken 10 trips to the landfill, and assisted with the roof at Hobby Barn. The board thanked Eric for his report.

Town Managers Report – Brantley Price, Town Manager gave his report to the Board. After cleaning and videoing the lines for repair, the crew from Granit Inliner have recommended for the town to complete 23-point repairs and line 1854 feet of 8-inch sewer lines. The sidewalk replacement on North Jefferson Avenue began today and will start on the sidewalk replacement in front of Town Hall in the next few weeks along with the sidewalk below the Tavern. Work is scheduled to begin on the aesthetics

project at the intersection of Highway 221 and 163 with a completion date of May 31. Taxes collected to date total 97.5% of the levy. Sales tax is up 13% in December. The insurance company is still waiting on quotes from the waterline break on Buck Mountain Road that flooded the old Catawissa building. Midway Baptist Church's Youth ministry will hold a music event at the Backstreet stage on April 23rd. Boondocks has decided not to have their event this coming weekend due to the cold weather. The Tavern would like to have outdoor music for the first Chamber Blast on April 21st. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

Public Comments - Ashe County Public Librarian Laura McPherson invited the board to the library's open house on April 9th.

Aldermen Comments – The Board thanked everyone in attendance.

Closed Session – Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to enter closed session per GS 143.318.11(a)(3). Alderman Barr seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor. The time was 7:25pm.

Adjournment – With nothing further, Alderman Reeves made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Alderman Shoemaker with a vote of 5-0 in favor. The time was 8:25pm.

Tom Hartman, Mayor

Rebecca Eldreth, Town Clerk