

**Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 7, 2022 | 6:00 p.m.**

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

**Town Staff Present:** Town Attorney Jak Reeves, Town Clerk Rebecca Eldreth, Town Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller, and WWTP Superintendent Brandon Patrick.

At 6:00 p.m. Mayor Hartman called to order the meeting of the Board of Aldermen. After the Mayor offered the invocation, those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Alderman Reeves.

**Approval of the February 7, 2022 Agenda** – Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderwoman Miller seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Regular Session**

**Approval of the January 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes** – With no discussion, Alderman Barr made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Alderman Reeves seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of 2022 Farmers Market Lease** – Farmers Market Manager Carol Griffith introduced the president of the board, Jenifer Ley, to the board. Jennifer thanked the board for the improvements to the draining and requested the renewal of the lease for the 2022-2023 season. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to renew the lease for new season. Alderman Reeves seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Patio Addition on Third Avenue** – Kelly Vannoy, owner of Naked Creek Farmacy on Third Avenue requested to remove part of the pavement in front of the building under the awning to construct a brick patio to divert the water away from the building. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the patio addition. Alderman Barr seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of 2022 Antique Fair** – Keith Woodie came before the board to request the road closure for the 2022 Antique Fair. A suggestion was made to poll the business on Jefferson Avenue before the road closure is approved. Alderman Barr made the motion to table the matter pending the opinions of the business owners. Alderman Green seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Vision Homeless Shelter Fundraiser** – Representatives from the Vision Homeless came before the board to ask permission to hold a fundraiser at the park on Saturday, April 9, 2022. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the fundraiser in the park. Alderman Green seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**ABC Report** – Haskell McGuire presented his report to the Board for the second fiscal quarter. An increase of 9.7% in sales was reported from the same quarter in the previous

year. A check in the amount of \$45,000 has been delivered to the Town. Haskell reported during the second quarter of the 2021-2022 budget year that sales continue to exceed budget and last year's results. The Board thanked Haskell for his report.

**Discussion of Outdoor Dining** – Last year the board approved outdoor dining at the restaurants on Jefferson Avenue by allowing Slice WJ and the Brewhaus to utilize the parking spaces directly in front of them to place tables while Burgers Y'all and Blackjacks used spaces on East First Street and the bumpouts closest to each restaurant. The times allowed were from Friday at 4pm to Sunday at 8pm to end on October 31<sup>st</sup>. After some discussion, the consensus of the board was to allow the Town Attorney to solidify the regulations in writing to ensure uniformity for all restaurants. Regulations are to include the period of April 1 through November 30 from 4pm on Friday to 9pm on Sunday with no tables to be placed on East First Street. The amount of seating allowed will be stated in the new regulations. The new regulations will be presented at the March meeting.

**Discussion of Midnight Runners Cruise Ins** – Mayor Hartman led a discussion concerning the Blue Ridge Midnight Runners Cruise Ins as they have started to advertise the Saturday events starting in April. After some discussion a recommendation to require permit for the event. The Town Attorney was asked to present the permit application to the board at the next meeting.

**Discussion of WJFVD Air Med Care Network** – Three years ago the Fire Department provided Airmedcare coverage for each volunteer, as they had budgeted the funds for the coverage. The coverage will be expiring, and the members would like to renew the coverage but was not budgeted for this fiscal year. The fire department has funds in fund balance to cover the cost of the coverage. Alderman Barr made the motion to approve the expense. Alderwoman Miller seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Resolution Supporting Existing High Country Workforce Development** – The High Country Council of Governments & the High Country Workforce Development Board is requesting support by resolution to not support any final recommendation that separates these seven counties, merges them into larger areas, or consolidates other Local Workforce Development Areas. With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to adopt the resolution as presented. Alderwoman Miller seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of ARP Funds** – Town Attorney Reeves gave an overview to the board. With no discussion, Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the grant ordinance and cost principal policy. Alderman Shoemaker seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0.

**Discussion of Board of Adjustment Date** – Board consensus was to hold the Board of Adjustment meeting on Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> before the regularly scheduled board meeting.

**Tax Releases** – With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the tax releases as presented. Alderman Barr seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Police Report** – Police Chief Brad Jordan gave his report to the Board. A total of 299 calls were dispatched through the communication center including 12 motor vehicle crashes, 9 larcenies, 7 drug cases, 2 DWI, and several other citations. The Board thanked Chief Jordan for his report.

**Water/Wastewater & Maintenance Report** – WWTP Superintendent Brandon Patrick gave his report to the Board. Rain totals for the month were reported at 2.5 inches. Last year the Town

pumped almost 91 million gallons of water averaging 250,000 gallons per day with a 30% loss of 30,000,000 gallons through leaks. The wastewater treatment plant treated over 100,000,000 gallons in which 39,000,000 gallons were from infiltration from groundwater and rain. The filter plant is running due to the amount of rain and snow last week. The Board thanked Brandon for his report.

**Maintenance Report** – Maintenance Supervisor gave his report to the Board. A water leak was identified and repaired on the Backstreet, and snow removal has been completed. The Board thanked Eric for his report.

**Town Managers Report** – absent

**Public Comments** – Town resident Kyle Hall spoke to the Board concerning funds for repairing the infrastructure for the Town’s water system.

**Public Comments** – None

**Closed Session** – Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to enter closed session per GS 143.318.11(a)(3) to consult with the Town Attorney over Attorney-Client matters. Alderwoman Miller seconded with a vote of 5-0 on favor. The time was 7:41pm.

Return to Regular Session – The Board returned to regular session to adjourn the meeting.

**Adjournment** – With nothing further, Alderman Barr made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Alderwoman Miller. A vote of 5-0 in favor.

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Tom Hartman, Mayor

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Rebecca Eldreth, Town Clerk