

Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 2, 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 (absent)

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 Alderman. After the invocation was given, those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearings

Consideration of Text Amendment to Article II – Mayor Hartman stated the purpose of the public hearing is to hear any comments on the proposed text amendment to Article II. The public hearing was open at 6:05pm. With no comment, Mayor Hartman closed the public hearing at 6:06pm.

Consideration of Text Amendment to Article V – Mayor Hartman stated the purpose of the public hearing is to hear any comments on the proposed text amendment to Article V. The public hearing was open at 6:06pm. With no comment, Mayor Hartman closed the public hearing at 6:07pm.

Regular Session

Approval of Minutes – With no discussion, Alderwoman Miller made the motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on April 4, 2022 and Special Meeting held on April 19, 2022. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Consideration of Text Amendments – With no discussion, Alderman Barr made the motion to approve the text amendments as presented. Alderman Reeves seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Consideration of Statements of Consistency – With no discussion, Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the statement as presented. Alderman Barr seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

ABC Report – Haskell McGuire presented his report to the Board for the third fiscal quarter of 2021-2022. An increase of 3.39% in sales were reported from the same quarter in the previous year. A check in the amount of \$45,000 has been delivered to the Town. Haskell stated they are pleased to achieve steady growth year over year following such a banner sales performance last year. Supply problems are slowly improving with inventory levels returning to normal. Haskell then reported that deliveries for the store have slowed with no deliveries in the last month. The Board thanked Haskell for his report.

Consideration of Downtown Bike Tours – Catherine Massey presented her proposed route to the board which included her main pick-up area on West Ashe Street. The Board has asked Catherine to return in June with insurance information and for final approval.

Consideration of Resolution to Adopt the High Country Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan – Patty Gambill reviewed with the board the Hazard Mitigation Plan that has been revised. After the discussion,

Alderman Barr made the motion to adopt the resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Miller with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Consideration of Resolution of Street Closure for Christmas in July – With no discussion, Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the resolution as presented. Alderman Barr seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Consideration of Amendment for ARPA Grant Project Ordinance – With no discussion, Alderman Barr made the motion to approve the revised Grant Project Ordinance as presented. Alderwoman Miller seconded the motion with a vote of -0 in favor.

Tax Release – With no discussion, Alderman Green made the motion to approve the tax release for Roads End Auto Works. Alderman Barr seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

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 Monday, April 23 at 5:30pm.

Police Report – Chief Jordan gave his report to the Board for the month of April. A total of 339 calls were dispatched through the communications center including 6 motor vehicle crashes, 19 larcenies, 28 drug cases, 93 minor citations, 1 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 2.5 inches of rain were recorded for the month of April. The first part of the sewer lining has been completed. Suez installed a new interior lining in the West Tank. The lining process is completed once every 10 years. The tank was down for about a month but refilled in a few days. The annual water system inspection was completed last month, and everything went well. The filter plant is averaging over 100,000 gallons per day. The Board thanked Brandon for his report.

Maintenance Report – Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller gave his report to the Board. A total of 36 one call tickets, 8 water leaks were reported for the month and 10 trips to the landfill. The park well was pulled, and pipe was replaced. Maintenance has been assisting with the relocation of the water and sewer lines at the old hotel and the raising of meter boxes on North Jefferson Avenue for the sidewalk. A water tap will be installed on Helen Blevins Road as well as a sewer line at New River Brewery. We are awaiting a quote on the repairs to Third Avenue. The board thanked Eric for his report.

Town Managers Report – Brantley Price, Town Manager gave his report to the Board. The average daily users of the town Wi-Fi is up to 246 clients per day. A total of \$160,000 in American Rescue Plan funds have been utilized with \$50,000 remaining of the original funds. The second round of funds will be disbursed in August. The High Country Council of Governments assisted with the first report for the ARPA funds due April 30th. The North Jefferson sidewalk project was delayed due to 300 feet of bad curb and gutter. The NCDOT has approved to pay for the concrete to place the curb. The aesthetics project team will be cutting and chipping all locust in the plantings. They are also reviewing the area below the billboard due to the rocky ground and may have to substitute some of the plants. Taxes collected to date total 97.6% of the levy. Sales tax for the month of January is flat with a year to date increase of 13%. The TDA is partnering with Our State magazine to do a video promotion in late May or June. The Ashe Shriners are planning their paper drive on May 5-7. The library has updated the story walk throughout the park. The insurance claim on the water damage at the old Catawissa building has been closed since no quotes have been received. Brantley read a letter from DEQ about the outstanding efforts of WWTP Superintendent Brandon Patrick. The requested changes have been made to the budget that will be presented at the June meeting. The board was in consensus not to allow the Christmas in July festival to

light the trees in the bumpout with white lights and to allow Footsloggers to place a tent on the sidewalk during Christmas in July. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

Public Comments – Andrew Cole from the Ashe County Museum invited the board to the Spring Fling to be held this Saturday at the museum.

Aldermen Comments – The Board thanked everyone in attendance and recognized WWTP Superintendent Brandon Patrick for his job well done.

Adjournment – With nothing further, Alderman Barr made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Alderwoman Miller with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Tom Hartman, Mayor

Rebecca Eldreth, Town Clerk