

Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 1, 2022 | 6:00 pm

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

Town Staff Present: Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Attorney Jak Reeves (absent), 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.

Approval of August 1, 2022 Agenda – Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderwoman Miller seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Public Hearings

Consideration of Rezoning – Mayor Hartman stated the purpose of the public hearing is to hear any comments on the proposed rezoning for the future middle school project. The public hearing was open at 6:02pm. Several members of the community and the school board were present for the hearing. Residents from the Oakwood Road community Steve Johnson, Lonnie Gilley, and Neil Staunton expressed their concerns for the location of the building in reference to their homes, if a buffer would be required and the points of access to the school. Allison Kemp-Sullivan and Diane Eldreth responded to the comments on behalf of the school board. Earnest Crosby and Drew Martin voiced concerns for the need for the school and time on the bus for students in outlying areas. A question was asked if the board rezoned to Residential Agriculture could conditions be added to the rezoning. The board was informed that if the rezoning of the property was Residential Agriculture, then school would become a Special Use and would need special consideration from the Board of Adjustment to proceed. With nothing further, Mayor Hartman closed the public hearing at 7:12pm.

Regular Session

Approval of Minutes – With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting held on July 11, 2022. Alderwoman Miller seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Consideration of Rezoning – Alderman Shoemaker stated that he would like to see the proposed school building move forward but without doing harm to the neighboring property owners. With no further discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to postpone the vote until a later meeting. Alderman Barr seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Consideration of Statements of Consistency – With no motion on the rezoning there were no statements of consistency.

Review of Stormwater Plan – Mike Trew with Municipal Engineering reviewed the Stormwater Management Plan that was funded through a grant from High Country Council of Government. No formal action was taken at this time.

Consideration of Conflict of Interest and Internal Controls Policies – With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the policies. Alderman Barr seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Budget Amendment #1 – Budget amendment #1 includes the repair on the damaged fire truck and to replace a galvanized water line as discussed at the last meeting. With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the budget amendment. Alderwoman Miller seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Discussion to Install Plaque on Bathroom Wall – The board was in agreement to let Town Manager Brantley Price select the location for the plaque.

Discussion of Street Paving – Town Manager Brantley Price and Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller reviewed the streets for paving and have had Shatley Paving quote each street. Brantley put together 3 options for paving for the board to choose from with the funds available. Alderman Green made the motion to approve the street paving of option 1 that includes Witt/High Drive, School Avenue, and Fifth Avenue upon the suggestion of Eric Miller. Alderwoman Miller seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Consideration of Resolutions for Street Closures – With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the Resolutions for the Street Closures. Alderwoman Miller seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Discussion on September Meeting Date – The board was in consensus with the next meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 6th.

Police Report – Chief Jordan gave his report to the Board for the month of July. A total of 337 calls were dispatched through the communications center including 19 motor vehicle crashes, 3 larcenies, 10 drug cases, 9 minor citations, 2 DWIs, 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 5.5 inches of rain were recorded for the month of July. The flow at the plant has been reduced by 10,000 gallons per day after it was reported that a resident had a sump pump for groundwater connected to the sewer. A new brand of pump was installed at the Beaver Creek pump station. The new pump was \$18,000 less than the previous brand and so far, it is performing just as well. The filter plant is pumping between 30,000 and 40,000 gallons with one filter running. The Board thanked Brandon for his report.

Maintenance Report – Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller gave his report to the Board. A total of 22 one call tickets were located, 1 water leak and 2 sewer issues were reported for the month. The maintenance department completed several trips to the landfill, relevelled all pavers, picked up all the brush, street swept in the residential areas, reported several outages for streetlights, and other general maintenance. 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 at 344 clients per day. The town did not receive any funding for grants in the first round as the projects did not score well and will automatically go into the fall round. The state budget was approved with \$1,500,000 for water and sewer projects approved. The aesthetics project at the intersection of Highway 221 and 163 has been completed. Taxes collected to date equals 98.6% of the levy with 2022 bills mailed. Sales tax for the month of April is up 11% with a year to date is up 13.5%. Our State has finished the video featuring West Jefferson. Blue Ridge Energy should be installing

decorative streetlights on North Jefferson Avenue this week. Benches, picnic tables, and trash cans have been ordered. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

Public Comments – West Jefferson Business owner Jason Lambert came before the board to express his disappointment with the layout of the 2022 Christmas in July Festival that included placing the emergency vehicles on West Ashe Street blocking the view of his business and negatively impacting his sales for the day. Mr. Lambert fears that other festivals will have similar footprints that will have the same impact on his business. Mr. Lambert then requested to be placed on the September agenda for further discussion.

Aldermen Comments – The Board thanked everyone in attendance.

Adjournment – With nothing further, Alderman Shoemaker 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