

Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 5, 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 (absent), 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 December 5, 2022 Agenda – Mayor Hartman made the request to add a discussion of sidewalk feasibility study. Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the agenda with the addition. Alderman Barr seconded with a motion of 4-0 in favor.

Regular Session

Approval of Minutes – With no discussion, Alderwoman Miller made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Alderman Barr seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Discussion of Grant Funds for Stormwater Projects – Kelly Coffey with the High Country Council of Governments came before the board to discuss the stormwater projects eligible for grant funding. A list of projects was presented to the board to give the opportunity to prioritize the projects. A resolution of support would need to be adopted to pursue grant funding for the projects. Alderman Barr made the motion to adopt the resolution as presented. Alderman Reeves seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 passing the resolution.

Consideration of 2023 Stomp and Brew Festival – Festival committee members Harry Galer and Jon Gatewood came before the board to share the success of the 2022 Stomp and Brew Festival despite the rescheduling due to the weather. Funds raised at the event total over \$20,000 which will be donated to the nonprofit Shoes for Kids. Mr. Galer and Mr. Gatewood asked the board for their consideration to hold the 2023 event on October 6th and 7th in the same footprint as the previous years. The footprint is to include East Main Street starting below Third Avenue to Sixth Avenue, the town's parking lot and East First Street from Fourth to Fifth Avenue. Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the dates and footprint for the 2023 festival. Alderwoman Miller seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Consideration of Ashe County Comprehensive Transportation Plan – David Graham with the High Country Council of Governments along with James Upchurch with NCDOT reviewed the Ashe County Transportation Plan Socio-economic and Traffic Growth with the board. Included were the recommendations of the Ashe County Comprehension Plan. Alderman Barr made the motion to approve the projected socio-economic data and future traffic growth to identify future deficiencies. Alderman Reeves seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in support.

Consideration of Sidewalk Feasibility Study – David Graham also spoke about the sidewalk feasibility plan. The purpose of the plan is to improve pedestrian, bike lanes, and multimodal transportation and to allow the town to apply for funds. The program will not supply a final design but will pinpoint issues and identify costs. Alderman Barr made the motion to move forward with the feasibility study with the town contributing up to 10% of the cost. Alderman Reeves seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in support.

Consideration of Structure on Graybeal Avenue – Chris Phipps with Phipps Construction presented his plans for the proposed structure at 102 Long Street facing Graybeal Avenue. The structure would extend 16 feet into the street right of way and would permit foot traffic to access the building more easily to allow the warehouse to be converted into retail space. The request of a 16 foot encroachment would leave a 24 foot wide section of roadway accessible by vehicular traffic. Alderman Reeves made the motion to waive the setback requirements and to allow a 16 foot encroachment into the street right of way on Graybeal Avenue. Alderman Barr seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Police Report – absent

Water and Wastewater Report – Wastewater Superintendent Brandon Patrick gave his report to the Board. A total of 6 inches of rain were reported for the month with almost 4 inches of rain in one day. The flow has remained below 1 million gallons due to the sewer lining completed earlier this year. Both filters are running and producing about 90,000 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 21 one call tickets were located, 2 water leaks, 3 sewer issue, 1 main line clogged, 2 water taps, and 3 sewer taps were made for the month. A crew is onsite cutting right of way and cutting back limbs throughout the town. Christmas lights have all been installed. Benches and table are in the process of being installed at the park. The board thanked Eric for his report.

Town Managers Report – Brantley Price, Town Manager gave his report to the Board. Sewer rehab began today on at the intersection of Buck Mountain and Ford Street above the old Catawissa facility and Fourth Street behind Town Hall. Section E of highway 221 widening is 55% complete and scheduled to be completed in 2025. Taxes collected to date is 81.3% of the levy. Sales tax for the month of August is up 20% over the prior year with year-to-date sale tax up 16%. An insurance update on the Cobble Creek fire was given to the board. Christmas in July was awarded Carolina's Finest Festival for 2022 by Carolina Country. Brantley then extended an invitation to the board to the Christmas lunch. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

Public Comments – None

Aldermen Comments – The Mayor thanked those in attendance and recognized James Upchurch with NCDOT. The board wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

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

Tom Hartman, Mayor

Rebecca Eldreth, Town Clerk