

Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen
Special Meeting Minutes
November 8, 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 Alderman. After the invocation was given, those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of November 8, 2022 Agenda – With no discussion, Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman Barr seconded with a motion of 5-0 in favor.

Regular Session

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

Fire Department Appreciation for Cobble Creek Fire – An invitation was extended from the Board of Alderman to each of the fire departments that assisted with the Coble Creek fire along with Ashe Medics. A plaque was presented to a representative of each department to show the Town’s appreciation for the support offered the night of the fire. The Board also recognized the West Jefferson Police Department and Ashe County Sheriff Office for their hard work and dedication during the incident. Plaques will be distributed to both these departments later.

Update on Paddy Mountain and Consideration of Support the Northern Peaks Trail – Jordan Sellers, Northern Peaks Trail Coordinator with BR Conservancy gave an update on the progress of the Northern Peaks Trail and Paddy Mountain. Jordan asked the Board to adopt the resolution of support for the Northern Peaks Trail to assist with acquiring funding for the project. With no further discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to adopt the resolution of support as presented. Alderman Reeves seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

ABC Report – Haskell McGuire presented his report to the Board for the first fiscal quarter of 2022-2023. A slight decrease of .18% in sales were reported from the same quarter in the previous year. A check in the amount of \$50,000 has been delivered to the Town in addition to a \$20,000 check for fiscal year 2021-2022. Haskell stated that sales for the first fiscal quarter are essentially the same as the first fiscal quarter last year as the store continues to operate under the new hours of 10:00am to 7:00pm Monday through Saturday. The budgeted distribution to the Town for the 2022-2023 fiscal year is \$200,000. Haskell then reported that they have received no response from Raleigh, Governor’s office, Senate, House Representative, or ABC Committee Chairman regarding the unfair and illegal distribution of alcohol to small ABC Boards. They continue to communicate with other ABC stores and monitor the actions of the ABC Advisory

Committee to determine if any changes are being considered. The ABC Board is considering a follow-up letter to the same officials if action has not been taken by early next year. The Board thanked Haskell for his report.

Budget Amendment #2 – With no discussion, Alderman Barr made the motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Alderwoman Miller seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Capital Budget Ordinance for State Funding – With no discussion, Alderman Barr made a motion to adopt the ordinance as presented. Alderman Shoemaker seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration to Resolution to Dispose of Personal Property at Private Sale – With no discussion Alderman Green made the motion to adopt the resolution. Alderman Shoemaker seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Discussion of Board of Adjustment Date – The Board agreed to meet prior to the next regularly scheduled board meeting on Monday, December 5th.

Police Report – Chief Jordan gave his report to the Board for the month of October. A total of 259 calls were dispatched through the communications center including 16 motor vehicle crashes, 20 larcenies, 1 drug cases, 2 DWIs, 1 trespass, 6 warrants, 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. The conditions of the wastewater treatment plant are great going into the winter month thanks to the belt press. Reduced sampling for the some of the wells has been received due to continuing good results. The filter plant is shut down because of the dry weather. The Board thanked Brandon for his report.

Maintenance Report – Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller gave his report to the Board. A total of 61 one call tickets were located, 3 water leaks, 3 sewer issue, 2 water taps and 3 sewer taps. Repairs have been made the to the skid steer and the backhoe. All paving cuts have been patched, storm drains have been cleaned preparing for the rain forecasted, and concrete has been poured in the park for the benches and the tables. The board thanked Eric for his report.

Town Managers Report – Brantley Price, Town Manager gave his report to the Board. Sewer rehab will begin on November 14th to continue in the next few weeks to continue repairs on I & I issues. Taxes collected to date total 79% of our levy. Sales tax for the month of July is up 13%. The annual Christmas Tree 5k is scheduled December 3rd. Generation Ashe will be having their annual fuel assistance fund drive on November 18th. A note was shared from Ed Hinson praising Eric Miller for his assistance with the water leak he had after hours. The year of 2023 has been designated the year of the Trail, so the NC Division of Natural and Cultural Resources is working to make West Jefferson a designated Trail Town. We are looking at the weekend of August 4th through 6th for the trail event with additional music and vendors at the Farmers Market. An invitation was extended to the Board to attend the Veterans Day assembly at the high school on November 10th. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

Public Comments – None

Aldermen Comments – The Mayor thanked those in attendance. Alderman Green expressed his gratitude to Town Manager Price and Fire Chief Eric Miller for their work to secure funding for the Town and Fire Department. Alderwoman Miller thanked the employees of the Town. Alderman Shoemaker thanked those in attendance and all employees. Alderman Reeves stated how blessed we are as a Town. Alderman Barr expressed how important it is to have such great leadership.

Closed Session – Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to enter closed session under GS 143.318.11(a)(3) to consult with the Town Attorney.

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

Tom Hartman, Mayor

Rebecca Eldreth, Town Clerk