**Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**May 1, 2023 | 6:00 pm**

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

**Town Staff Present:** Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Attorney Jak Reeves, Town Clerk Rebecca Eldreth, 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 May 1, 2023 Agenda** – Alderman Barr made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman Miller seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

**Regular Session**

**Approval of Minutes** – With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the minutes for the April 3rd Regular Meeting and the April 20th Special Meeting. Alderman Barr seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

**Discussion of Short Term Rentals and ETJ Senate Bills** – Attorney Jak Reeves reviewed both bills with the Town Board and explained where the bills are in the approval process. The Board thanked Jak for his information.

**Consideration of Resolution to Allow the Sale of Personal Property** – Mayor Hartman stated that the Town has several items that need to be disposed of by auction including two police cars, a maintenance truck, and several miscellaneous items. Alderman Barr made the motion to adopt the resolution for the sale of the items on Saturday, June 3, 2023. Alderman Reeves seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

**Consideration of ABC Appointment** –Mayor Hartman led a discussion concerning an ABC appointment. Derek Green’s term has expired and is willing to be reappointed if the Board desires. Alderman Barr made the motion to reappoint Derek Green to another term. Alderman Shoemaker made a second motion however only one motion may be on the table at a time. Mayor Hartman asked for a second to Alderman Barr’s motion to reappoint Derek Green. Alderwoman Miller seconded the motion to reappoint Derek Green with a vote of 2 in favor, opposed by Alderman Shoemaker and Alderman Reeves. Mayor Hartman broke the tie in favor of the reappointment of Derek Green.

**Discussion of Board of Adjustment Date** – The Board agreed to meet on Monday, June 5th at 5:30pm.

**Consideration of Tax Release**– With no discussion, Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the tax release. Alderman Barr seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

**Police Report –** Chief Jordan gave his report to the Board for the month of April. A total of 204 calls were dispatched through the communications center including 12 motor vehicle crashes, 11 larcenies, 2 drug cases, 10 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 5.75 inches of rain were recorded for the month with a total of 18” for the year. Hauling sludge to the field has been put on hold due to the truck becoming inoperable. A new part to fix the truck is on order. Both filters are currently running, and the spring has plenty of water with all the rain over the past few weeks. The Board thanked Brandon for his report.

**Maintenance Report** – Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller gave his report to the Board. A total of 31 one call tickets were located, 3 water leaks, 2 sewer issues were reported for the month. The department has repaired the hydrant on Backstreet, installed a new meter at Westview Terrace, replaced the water line along East Second to the sewer plant, made 4 trips to the landfill, and unstopped the drain tiles. Eric then gave an update on the fire department. A total of 27 calls were received including the deck collapse in Stonebridge. The board thanked Eric for his report.

**Town Managers Report** – Brantley Price, Town Manager, gave his report to the Board. Taxes collected to date total 97% of the levy. Sales tax for the month of January was up 26.7% over prior year with year-to-date sales tax up 16%. Hometown Strong will be in town to discuss top priorities including paddy Mountain project, issues with pump stations, sidewalk feasibility study, infrastructure grant and will be touring the West Jefferson Hotel. The Ebenezer Share-a-thon is scheduled for May 5th with the Shriners fundraising the following weekend. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

**Public Comments** – Gary Raines and Devin Vandercheck, property owners in Highland Cove, expressed his feelings to the board about the short term rental regulations in place and how they negatively impact them.

**Aldermen Comments** – Alderman Reeves spoke about the short term rental regulations assuring everyone that the board was still working on amending the regulations, Alderman Barr followed Alderman Reeves stating that he would like to see the planning board review again. Alderwoman Miller expressed her interest in “Painting the Town Purple” to show support to the schools during events and special occasions. Mayor Hartman asked for pray for the county and all the students.

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

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Tom Hartman, Mayor Rebecca Eldreth, Town Clerk