

Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 3, 2023 | 6:00 pm

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

Town Staff Present: Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Attorney Jak Reeves, Police Chief Brad Jordan, 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 July 3, 2023 Agenda – Alderman Barr made the motion to approve the agenda as written. Alderman Reeves seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Regular Session

Approval of Minutes – With no discussion, Alderman Barr made the motion to approve the minutes for the June 5, 2023 Regular Meeting. Alderman Reeves seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Consideration of Order to Collect Taxes – Mayor Hartman stated each year the town is required by general statute to adopt the order to collect taxes which directs the tax collector to collect the taxes charged in the tax records and receipts. Alderman Reeves made the motion to adopt the order to collect taxes. Alderman Shoemaker seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Consideration of Fire Contract Addendum – A copy of the fire contract along with the addendum from the county was provided to the board for their review. All departments are good with continuing with the 2017 contract with the addendum. Alderman Barr made the motion to approve the audit contract as presented. Alderman Reeves seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Consideration of Transportation Highway Projects for Ashe County – Mayor Hartman explained that the state has started accepting requests from counties on new transportation projects. The county would like to submit the following projects if the board is in agreement: new terminal building at the airport, US Highway 221 from the courthouse to US Highway 16, US Highway 163, and the US Highway 88 connector. With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the projects as presented. Alderman Barr seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Consideration of Resolution for completes Service Line Grant – The state is requiring that each public water supply system complete a lead service line inventory to be completed by October 16, 2024. A solicitation application is needed to let the federal government know an estimate of the funds needed for the inventory of lead water lines. The solicitation can be turned

into a full application for a loan based on 20 year with 0% interest with the possibility of up to 49% loan forgiveness for a total of \$1,173,300 without loan forgiveness. With no discussion, Alderman Barr made the motion to approve the resolution. Alderman Reeves seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Consideration of Resolution of Intent to Close Alley-College Avenue & W. Fourth Street –

The Morris family and Shelton family both have an alleyway on their property. Each property owner has requested to close the alleyways that run through their properties. In order to do so the board must pass a resolution of intent. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to adopt the resolution of intent. With no second, no action was taken on this item.

Consideration of Mural Application-Naked Creek Farmacy – Kelly Vannoy, owner of Naked Creek Farmacy would like to paint a mural on the wall of her building adjacent to East First Street. The town board must approve the mural before work can begin. Kelly Vannoy came before the board to ask for approval of the mural and the closing of the parking space in front of the mural. Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the mural application as presented. Alderman Barr seconded the notion with a vote of 4-0 in favor. The board agreed to consider the closing of the parking space at a later date.

Consideration of Golden LEAF Budget & Agreement – After some discussion, Alderman Barr made the motion to approve to remove the rain garden project from the scope of work and revs the budget prior to formally approving the project budget. Alderman Green seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

Discussion of Board of Adjustment Date – The board was in consensus to meet Monday, August 7, 2023 at 5:30pm before the regularly scheduled alderman meeting.

Police Report – Chief Jordan gave his report to the Board. A total of 198 calls were dispatched through the communications center including 12 motor vehicle crashes, 7 larcenies, 1 drug case, 4 minor citations, 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 7 inches of rain were recorded for the month. The heavy rains did not affect the plant as the highest flow was only around 500,000 gallons. Both filter are running about 100,000 gallons per day. The Board thanked Brandon for his report.

Maintenance Report – none

Town Managers Report – Brantley Price, Town Manager, gave his report to the Board beginning with project updates. The town will be reviewing the RFQs received for the AIA water and sewer project. Taxes collected to date total 97.5% of the levy. Sales tax for March was up 9% over the prior year with year-to-date sales tax up 14%. The EV chargers were used 56 times behind Badger's Funeral Home and 164 times in the public parking lot beside the Tavern for the year. The July 4th fireworks display will be held on the hill between West Jefferson and Walmart again this year. The ABC Board approved the fiscal year budget increasing the quarterly amount given to the town by \$20,000. The town celebrated a successful Christmas in July. Brantley thanked all the town employees and all the volunteers for the event. Brantley also thanked the employees that attended the town picnic. Lastly, Brantley reminded the board members that it is

an election year. Filing begins on July 7th at Noon and ends at Noon on July 21st. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

Public Comments – none

Aldermen Comments – Alderman Shoemaker asked about the timeline for cleanup on the Cobble Creek Lumber site and if there was anything that could be done to speed up the process.

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

Tom Hartman, Mayor

Rebecca Eldreth, Town Clerk