

**Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**F, 2024 | 6:00 pm**

**Board Members Present:** Mayor Tom Hartman, Alderman Rusty Barr, Alderman Calvin Green, Alderman John Reeves, Alderwoman Shelton, and Alderman Stephen Shoemaker

**Town Staff Present:** Town Manager Brantley Price, Assistant Town Manager Rebecca Eldreth, 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 Aldermen. After the invocation was given, those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of March 4, 2024 Agenda** – Alderman Barr made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman Reeves seconded with a motion of 5-0 in favor.

**Public Hearings**

**Consideration of Voluntary Annexation of Parcel 19267415** – Mayor Hartman stated the purpose of the public hearing is to hear any comments on the proposed voluntary annexation of David and Joy Miller located at 447 Oakwood Road. The public hearing was open at 6:01pm. With no comment, Mayor Hartman closed the public hearing at 6:02pm.

**Regular Session**

**Approval of Minutes** – With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the minutes to the regular meeting on February 5 and Special meeting on February 19 as presented. Alderman Barr seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Rezoning Parcel 19267411 & 19267464** – Mayor Hartman provided the results of the road study stating that Oakwood Road has the capacity for 9200 cars per day with the latest traffic count at 600 cars per day in 2022. Alderman Barr made the motion to approve the rezoning of the property to medium density residential. Alderman Shoemaker seconded the motion with a vote of -0 in favor.

**Consideration of Statement of Consistency** – With no discussion, Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the statements of consistency as presented. Alderman Shoemakers seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration Voluntary Annexation of Parcel 19267415** – With no discussion, Alderman Green made the motion to approve the annexation of the property. Alderwoman Shelton seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of 2024 Farmers Market Lease** – Farmers Market Manager Carol Griffith provided an update on the 2023 markets and requested approval for the lease for the 2024

season. The market saw over 20,000 visitors and reported over \$280,000 in sales with only 60% of the vendors sharing sales data. Carol introduced Carrie Vargus as the Farmers Market president. Carrie spotlighted the SNAP, Double Up, WIC, and Senior programs available at the market. SNAP has received funding through 2027 while the others are no longer funded. The cost to fund the programs is \$3700 for the season. Alderman Barr expressed interest in supporting the unfunded programs for the market. Alderman Barr made a motion to provide \$2000 towards the Double Up, WIC, and Senior Programs. Alderman Shoemaker seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor. Then Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the lease for the 2024 season. Alderman Shoemaker seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of 2024 Antique Fair** – The discussion from the February meeting continued for the 2024 Antique Fair. Before any discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to keep the footprint the same as previous years. Alderman Reeves seconded the motion. Pagie Fairchild with Sisters on Main spoke after Mayor Hartman opened the floor for discussion. Paige made it clear that she is not opposed to the fair but wished the footprint could be extended to include other businesses. Keith Woodie was present to represent the fair. He assured the board along with Pagie that he would do his best to spread the vendors out to cover the entire footprint. Mayor Hartman called for a vote from the motion made by Alderman Shoemaker and seconded by Alderman Reeves. The vote was 4-1 in favor of the 2024 Antique Fair footprint to remain the same as previous years with Alderman Barr opposing.

**Consideration of Health & Safety Ordinance** – Town Attorney Reeves went over the changes to Chapter 94 of the nuisance ordinance. Alderman Barr made the motion to adopt the ordinance as presented. Alderman Shoemaker seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Revised Penalty** – Town Attorney Reeves informed the board the revision on the penalty was to clarify the \$100 per day Alderwoman Shelton made the motion to approve the grant application with the match. Alderman Reeves seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Awarding Lead Service Line Contract to Municipal Engineering** – Mayor Hartman stated that Municipal Engineering was the only firm that responded to the advertisement for the Request for Qualifications for engineering services to complete our lead service line inventory and replacement project. Alderman Barr made the motion to award the contract to Municipal Engineering. Beth Shelton seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Discussion of Board of Adjustment Date** – The board agreed to meet Wednesday, March 13 at 5:30pm.

**Discussion of Budget Meeting Date** – The board agreed to meet Monday, March 25 at 6:00pm.

**Tax Releases** – With no discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the tax releases as presented. Alderman Barr seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Police Report** – Chief Jordan gave his report to the Board for the month. A total of 242 calls were dispatched through the communications center including 15 motor vehicle crashes, 7 larcenies, 2 drug cases, 2 DWIs, 1 trespass, 26 minor citations, and other miscellaneous calls.. The Board thanked Chief Jordan for his report.

**Water & Wastewater Report** – Wastewater Superintendent Brandon Patrick gave his report to the Board. A total of 2.5 inches of rain were reported for the month. Land App and Wastewater Inspections were completed, and both went well. The filter plant is producing about 100,000 gallons per day. The Board thanked Brandon for his report.

**Maintenance Report** – Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller gave his report to the Board. Monthly totals were reported with 32 locate tickets, 2 water leaks, and 2 sewer issues. The department has flushed 98% of the sewer lines, the fire hydrant at the pump station on Beaver Creek School Road was raised, and they completed other general maintenance. Eric then gave an update on the fire department stating they assisted over 4 days flushing lines and the at the fire at 402 School Avenue is still under investigation. The Board thanked Eric for his report.

**Town Managers Report** – Town Manager Brantley Price gave his report to the Board. Blue Ridge Conservancy was funded for a sidewalk feasibility study to connect Paddy Mountain to Mount Jefferson State Park via Highway 221 Business to Academy Street in Jefferson. The study is contingent on a \$10,000 match that would be split between West Jefferson, Jefferson, and Ashe County. The trail on Paddy Mountains is moving forward hopefully to be complete next month. The final layer of asphalt on the last section of Highway 221 is scheduled for June or July. High Country Rural Transportation is reviewing the Daniel Boone Parkway bypass around Boone. Taxes collected to date total 94.6% of the levy. Sales tax is up .6% over last year. The police department received \$28,000 from the NC Governor's Crime Commission Grant to purchase radios, tasers, and update body cameras. The town is in communication with a group requesting to construct a 5000 square foot building for a doctor's office with three physicians beside Skyline Bank on Mount Jefferson Road. The hope to close on the property this month with a completion date of December 31<sup>st</sup>. Mo's Boots have sidewalk sales scheduled for April 26-27, June 14-15, and October 18-19. The Ebenezer Share-a-thon is planned for May 31<sup>st</sup>. Ashe Pregnancy walk for life is scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup> from 7:30am to 12:30pm at the Backstreet Park. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

**Public Comments** – none

**Aldermen Comments** – Alderman Green thanked the fire department for their work on the latest fire investigation. Alderman Green also complimented Town Manager Price of his support of the workers on scene for the fire. Alderwoman Shelton stated that she enjoyed the Essentials of Municipal Government class and the joint meeting between the towns and the county. Alderman Barr also stated that he enjoyed the joint meeting and thanked Commissioner Todd McNeill for setting up the meeting and Senator Hise and Representative Pickett for attending. Alderman Shoemaker welcomed the new farmers market president and extended his appreciation to the town, police, and fire department. Mayor Hartman reminded those in attendance to go vote.

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

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Tom Hartman, Mayor

Rebecca Eldreth, Town Clerk