



The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held today Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Municipal Building.

The following members of the Governing Body were present:

Mayor: Danny Ritchie  
Alderman: Carroll Franklin  
Alderman: Benny Orders  
Alderman: Terry Yount  
Alderman: Richard Propst  
Alderman: Dennis Anthony (newly elected)

Others present:

Town Manager: Sherri Bradshaw  
Town Clerk: Sherry Dula  
Attorney: Rod Willcox

Mayor Ritchie opened the meeting by introducing two Drexel Elementary students, Emily & Elijah Birchum, who lead in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Council voted unanimously to approve the November minutes by a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Orders.

**Oaths of Office and Organizational Meeting** – Mabel Lowman, Burke County Clerk of Court, was present to administer oaths of office for our reelected and newly elected Council members: reelected Alderman Carroll Franklin, newly elected Alderman Dennis Anthony and reelected Mayor Danny Ritchie. Carroll Franklin was appointed as Mayor Pro-Tem by a motion from Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Yount.

**Public Hearing for CDBG Grant** - The public hearing was opened by a motion from Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Franklin. Sherry Long with Western Piedmont Council of Governments was present to review the process and grant opportunities for the Community Development Block Grant. She stated this public hearing is the first of two public input hearings that are required in the application process for the grant. This grant would allow us funds for the completion of demolition and cleanup at the Drexel Heritage site. Mayor Ritchie asked with the list of all the things this grant could be used for, does this meeting show that our application is specific and targeted to the monies requested? Ms. Long stated this is the generic informational meeting to review all funds that can be attained through this grant and the next public hearing will be specific and target the actual monies requested for the project of demolition and cleanup for Drexel Heritage site. Mayor Ritchie asked for clarification that this is part one of the application process with the next public hearing being the specific grant target for the Town. Ms. Long confirmed this for the Mayor and went further to say that we will be able to apply for the other grant projects at any time and the committee meets every other month. She also stated that the demolition project will require a 25% match and this particular project does not require a commitment to create and retain permanent full-time jobs. Infrastructure and economic development grant projects will require a commitment to create and retain permanent full-time jobs if in the future we move forward in applying for these grant projects. The public hearing was closed at 7:13 pm by a motion from Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Franklin.

**Drexel Property Update** – Manager Bradshaw updated the Council on the status of Drexel Properties. She stated that the BRIDGE crew is working sporadically on cleaning the fence line and undergrowth on the Drexel Heritage site. Mr. Troy Akers, NC Rail System, has visited the site and will be submitting the property as a recommended site for a potential rail spur. She stated that the

BDI meeting and the rail system was very positive and Mr. Akers hopes to have the engineers' recommendation by the January meeting.

**WPCOG Policy Board Appointment** – Western Piedmont Council of Governments is governed by a Policy Board which includes delegates and alternates appointed by each of the 28 city and county member governments. Each entity has one vote. The Town needs to appoint a delegate to the Policy Board. A motion was made by Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Yount to appoint Alderman Anthony to the WPCOG Policy Board and the vote was unanimous.

**2017-2018 Annual Audit Contract** – The Council unanimously approved the annual audit contract for fiscal year 2017-2018 from Boggs, Crump & Brown for \$11,100 by a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Anthony.

**Departmental Reports** – The Council reviewed the Financial, Tax and Police reports for the month of November, 2017. A copy of each report is attached as part of the minutes.

**Attorney Report** – Attorney Willcox has no issues to report at this time.

**Recreation Department** – Tim Rhoney was present to update the Council on recreation activities. All the regular programs are still running as normal. Youth Basketball is running at this time with 75 kids making up 9 teams. The Fall programs generated approximately \$6,000. There is an increase in room rentals now due to the holidays. We have had a few more wrestling matches. Mr. Rhoney said that the recreation teams have expressed that they would like to change their mascot name back to the Wolverines which was the Drexel High School mascot and is now the Drexel Elementary mascot also. He stated the vote among the teams was unanimous to change the name back. He explained that the Town would incur uniform expenses but the current uniforms are outdated, worn out and need to be replaced soon anyway. He stated the uniform expenses would be approximately \$5,000. A motion was made by Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Yount to proceed with changing the name back to the Wolverines and the vote was unanimous.

**Miscellaneous** –

- Drexel Parade will be December 16<sup>th</sup> at 11 am with Mayor Danny Ritchie leading the parade as Grand Marshall
- Carols in the Park will be December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm with lots of local singers and groups
- Employee, Retirees and Public Officials Christmas Luncheon – December 19<sup>th</sup> at the RO Huffman Center at Noon
- Fire Department Christmas Meal will be on December 16<sup>th</sup> at the R.O. Huffman Center Banquet Room
- Christmas Chase/5K Run on December 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Office closed for Christmas on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> & New Year's Day on January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Next Meeting January 2, 2018

Adjournment - With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. upon a motion from Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Orders.

TOWN CLERK \_\_\_\_\_

MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_

ALDERMAN \_\_\_\_\_

ALDERMAN \_\_\_\_\_

ALDERMAN \_\_\_\_\_

ALDERMAN \_\_\_\_\_