

The January 5th Board meeting was rescheduled to January 12, 2016.

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held today Tuesday, January 12, 2016 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: Richard Propst
Alderman: Benny Orders
Alderman: Terry Yount

Others present:

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

Mayor Ritchie opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

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

Fire Department Board of Trustees Appointment – The State Firemen’s Relief Fund requires an appointment date for the fire department Board of Trustees on the new online annual update. The members on file are Mr. Donald Anthony, Mr. Craig Baker, Mr. Christopher Brown, Mr. Benny Orders and Mr. William Secrest. A motion was made by Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Yount to reappoint the above mentioned members of the Board of Trustees and the vote was unanimous.

NCSFA Firemen’s Roster Certification – The annual certification of Drexel Volunteer Firemen includes 27 individuals and needs approval by the Council. A motion was made by Alderman Orders, seconded by Alderman Franklin to approve the annual certification of 27 firemen and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the roster is attached as part of the minutes.

2016 Regular Meeting Schedule – The meeting dates for 2016, including a budget workshop and holiday luncheon, were presented for approval. A motion was made by Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Orders to approve the meeting schedule for 2016 and the vote was unanimous.

Proposed Lease Agreement for Fairground Barn – Burke County Animal Control along with the Sheriff’s Department contacted Don Deal, Fair President, about the use of the barn on the fairground property in November. The department was needing the barn to house abused animals for an unspecified period of time once the warrants were served. Manager Bradshaw contacted the insurance about this arrangement and they suggested a lease agreement between the parties which would protect the Town and the Fair. A draft was prepared by Attorney Willcox for review. The lease would be for one year at a time and the spring carnival and annual fair dates would be unavailable. The Burke County Animal Control would be responsible for all utilities, cleaning and maintenance issues while in use. A motion was made by Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Yount to approve

the proposed lease between the Town, Drexel Community Fair Board and Burke County and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the lease is attached as part of the minutes.

Street Name Duplications – Manager Bradshaw explained that Drexel and Morganton have eight streets with the same name which consist of Abee Street, Center Street, Church Street, Mimosa Street, Mountain View Street, Pinewood Drive, Valdese Ave and Williams Rd. Several residents are having issues with package delivery because Drexel does not have a mail delivery route. If a mailbox is placed at their residence then Morganton is responsible for mail delivery. Manager Bradshaw stated that she has contacted the Regional Postmaster requesting a mail route in Drexel and has not received a response on this request. If this should be approved then Drexel would have another zip code. Our local postmaster says there is enough demand for a mail route in Drexel. If a mail route is not set up for Drexel then we would need to prepare for changing street names. Erin Schotte with Western Piedmont Council of Governments will be helping with this process.

Planning and Zoning Amendments – The Planning and Zoning Board has approved some new amendments in reference to manufactured homes and also revisions to our zoning map. The revisions were made in order to be compliant with State Statutes along with strengthening our manufactured home design standards. The Board is also recommending a rezoning of all R-20 Residential Property within the Town limits be rezoned to R-12 Residential. In this proposed amendment Mobile Home Parks will no longer be allowed within the Town limits. Those parks already established in Drexel will be grandfathered and can remain. The Planning and Zoning Board met on January 11th and approved the proposed changes. The Council called for a public hearing for our February 2nd meeting by a motion from Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Franklin and the vote was unanimous.

Drexel Property Update – Manager Bradshaw said that according to Bill Wagner with NCDENR, Mr. Godley hand delivered a \$9,000 check to Raleigh to cover the fines imposed on him for the improper demolition of the buildings on his property. The Town has not had any other contact with Mr. Godley since the end of the year concerning his donation of the property to the Town. Title Search on the property came back good. Manager Bradshaw stated that West Consultants gave a cost of \$3,500 to do the Phase I analysis of the Drexel Properties. Depending on the findings of Phase I we will know if we would need to move forward with Phase II in order to receive assistance with the clean-up.

Street Schedule & Plan – The two gravel streets have been reworked and are in better shape. Mayor Ritchie stated that since the last rain Reid Street is in poor shape again. Manager Bradshaw asked the Council to approve the advertisement for bids to seal cracks on ten streets, patching on Pruitt Street and the resurfacing of Drexel Drive. The work is scheduled to be done in the spring and will be paid for through Powell Bill funds. A motion was made by Alderman Propst, seconded by Alderman Orders to approve the advertisement for bids for street project and the vote was unanimous.

Departmental Reports – The Council reviewed the Financial and Police reports for the month of December, 2015. A copy of each report is attached as part of the minutes.

Miscellaneous –

- February meeting will be February 2, 2016
- Dick McCall would like for Town to take a look at house on Mimosa Street that has refrigerator sitting outside and lots of garbage in the yard

Closed Session – The Council entered into closed session at 7:37 p.m. for the purpose of discussing litigation matters per G.S.143-318.11(a)(1) by a motion from Alderman Orders, seconded by Alderman Propst. The Council returned to regular meeting at 7:56 p.m. by a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Yount.

Adjournment - With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m. upon a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Orders.

TOWN CLERK _____

MAYOR _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____