



The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held today Tuesday, June 7, 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 Alderman Orders leading in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

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

**Public Hearing for the 2016-2017 Proposed Budget** - The public hearing for the proposed 2016-2017 Budget was opened at 7:01 p.m. by a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Orders. Dennis Anthony of 112 Settlemyre Road was present with questions concerning the proposed budget. The following questions were asked by Mr. Anthony:

- Does the police department salary budget include the auxiliary officers?  
Manager Bradshaw answered, "Yes".
- Will the line item budgeted for personal protective gear in the fire department be a yearly expense?  
Manager Bradshaw stated that the SCBA equipment has to be replaced every so often and this is evaluated each year to see if any equipment is in need of replacement.
- Mr. Anthony said he knows the first installment from the County on the R.O. Huffman Center settlement was used for lawyer fees but he would like to know how the remaining installments will be used? Also, does payroll include all staff?  
Manager Bradshaw referred to the budget line items which include salaries, taxes, telephone/internet, M & R to building, utilities, insurance and reserves. Mr. Anthony wanted to know if receipts for R.O. Huffman Center activities were kept in Manager's office. Manager Bradshaw stated she has the amounts taken in each month in her office but receipts are kept at R.O. Huffman Center. Payroll does include all staff.

With no further comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:07 by a motion from Alderman Propst, seconded by Alderman Franklin and the vote was unanimous.

**2016 – 2017 Budget Adoption** – A motion was made by Alderman Propst, seconded by Alderman Orders to adopt the 2016-2017 Budget as written and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the budget ordinance is attached as part of the minutes.

**Petitions and Communications** – Stacy Opp was present requesting permission to have a home daycare in a property located at 3197 US Hwy 70 that she plans to rent to own. Currently the property is in B-2 General Business which does not list a daycare as a permitted use in this zone. Ms. Opp is starting the process of licensing the property with the state as a home daycare but wants

to make sure the Town will allow this before she has the state come out for inspection. The Council stated that the first step for her in this process would be to take this before the Planning and Zoning Board for approval. Once it has been approved by them then it can be presented to the Council.

**Water/Sewer Rate Increase** – The proposed water/sewer rate increase will be effective with the July 1, 2016 billing and will need approval by the Board. A motion was made by Alderman Orders, seconded by Alderman Yount to adopt the water/sewer rate increase and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the new rate schedule is attached as part of the minutes.

**Renewable Energy (REPS) Rider** – A slight increase in the renewable energy charge was included with the proposed budget. This a state mandated charge. The increase will go from 0.56 to 0.61 for residential bills and from 2.69 to 2.95 for commercial bills. A motion was made by Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Orders and the vote was unanimous.

**WPCOG Agreement for Technical Planning Assistance** – The agreement between Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) and the Town of Drexel needs to be formally approved. The personnel provided by WPCOG will provide technical assistance with Code Enforcement and Minimum Housing along with administration of the Town's Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations. A motion was made by Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Propst and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the agreement is attached as part of the minutes.

**ARC Pre-Application** – Manager Bradshaw reported to the Council that Drexel met the initial eligibility requirements and has received notification of approval in the pre-application process for Appalachian Regional Commission funding of \$300,000 in ARC funds for the Drexel Heritage Site Redevelopment Project. The approval of the pre-application is not a guarantee for receiving funds but it is the first step in the process with the full application being due on July 29, 2016. As part of the application process, as ARC Grants Workshop will be held on Friday, June 24, 2016 in Asheville and each applicant is required to send two individuals to this workshop.

**Electric Department Truck Purchase** – Manager Bradshaw budgeted an electric department truck and Roger Burleson has received the quotes for the truck. Manager Bradshaw suggests that the Board go ahead with approval of the purchase of the truck. A motion was made by Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Orders to proceed with purchasing the electrical department truck and the vote was unanimous.

**Departmental Reports** – The Council reviewed the Financial, Tax and Police reports for the month of May, 2016 and the 2015 Annual report for the Fire Department. A copy of each report is attached as part of the minutes.

**Chargers Update** – Lowell Summey updated the Council on the Chargers. Baseball still going on and football signups will start soon.

**Recreation Department** – Lisa Butler was present to update Council on ROH Center activities. Recreation revenues for the month were \$1,281.00. Volleyball signups will start soon. The center will start June 13<sup>th</sup> opening at 1:00 p.m. everyday. Activities will be planned through the summer for daycares which are scheduled to come on Tuesdays and Fridays.

**Police Report** – Chief Treadway updated the Council on the dog issue on Westwood Drive. He stated the dogs had been put down and the residents had been criminally charged.

**Garden Club Request** – Diane Turner with the Drexel Garden Club is interested in two projects for the downtown park. The first project is to plant two shade trees in the park. She is also interested in participating in the Butterfly Highway which consists of the garden club planting specific plants that attract butterflies throughout the park. There will be no cost to the town just maintenance of the trees and plants. Mayor Ritchie only asked that they consider the acoustics of the park when they are planting the trees. A motion was made by Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Yount and the vote was unanimous.

**Miscellaneous**

- Manager Bradshaw asked if they would be in agreement to put all the past mayor photos on a wall in the assembly room and the Council had no problem with this request.
- The Council voted unanimously to reschedule the next meeting from July 5<sup>th</sup> until July 12<sup>th</sup> by a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Orders.

**Closed Session** – The Council entered into closed session at 7:34 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters per G.S.143-318.11(a)(1) by a motion from Alderman Propst, seconded by Alderman Yount. The Council returned to regular meeting at 7:57 p.m. by a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Yount.

**Burke County Narcotics Task Force** – A motion was made by Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Propst to continue as a member of the narcotics task force at this time and the vote was unanimous.

**Adjournment** - With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m. upon a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Orders.

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

MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_

ALDERMAN \_\_\_\_\_

ALDERMAN \_\_\_\_\_

ALDERMAN \_\_\_\_\_

ALDERMAN \_\_\_\_\_

