

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held today Tuesday, May 1, 2018 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: Benny Orders
Alderman: Terry Yount
Alderman: Dennis Anthony
Alderman: Carroll Franklin

Others present:

Town Manager: Sherri Bradshaw
Town Clerk: Sherry Dula

Others Absent:

Attorney: Rod Willcox

Mayor Ritchie opened the meeting and asked Alderman Orders to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

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

Burke History Museum – John Howard with the Burke History Museum was present to give some information on the museum and to make the Board aware that it is a county museum and each town has a part in the museum. The museum is non-profit but there are still costs involved in keeping the museum open which include utility bills which is the biggest cost. He said that he was visiting the towns to try to generate some financial assistance for the museum in order to keep it running. The museum is run 100% by volunteers. In 2017, the volunteers put in 13,000 hours.

Resolution for CDBG – A resolution to authorize signatories for the CDBG Drexel Heritage Demolition Project is needed in order to allow office staff sign any reimbursement requisitions for the funds awarded by the CDBG grant. The resolution authorizes Sherri Bradshaw, Sherry Dula and Chelsea Carswell to sign requisitions for CDBG funds. A motion was made by Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Orders to adopt the resolution authorizing signatories for the CDBG requisitions and the vote was unanimous.

Drexel Properties Update – Brian Kvam, with CARDNO was present to update the Board on the progress with the Brownfield Grant Projects. He stated that in 2017 Burke County was awarded a grant from EPA and the Drexel Heritage Project is eligible for monies from this grant. He discussed that testing has already been completed for asbestos on the site and that 31,000 cubic yards of asbestos contaminants were present on the property. Wetlands test was also completed. He stated that the property is eligible for site burial of the waste which is less costly for the town and they have locations on the property that would work for burying the waste. The Brownfield Assessment Grant requires no matching funds but the clean-up grant requires a 20% match. The application is due in the fall and it is a \$500,000 grant. The application fee is \$8,000 which will take 18 to 24 months for processing but if the town would want to expedite the grant process it would be \$30,000 which would cut that time in half. The application fees can be paid for through the BDI funds and the Rostan Foundation funds. The Rostan Foundation funds were donated specifically for the Drexel Heritage Plant 1 Project. CDBG grant funds can be used for matching funds on the Brownfield Clean-Up Grant. Allen Wood with BDI was present and he stated that he had spoken with Norfolk Southern and they stated that this site is the best rail served site between Hickory and Asheville and

that the site had potential for 2 or 3 rail spurs. Mr. Wood said that rail sites are important because it cuts down on the cost of moving freight. Plastics and metals need rail access. He also stated that after clean up, the site would be even more valuable and marketable. Carl Reece with Electricities Economic Development Team was present to discuss the smart sites program. He stated that after some investigation, the town currently serves all properties around the site with electric and the only part of the property where Duke Energy has electric rights is the actual area where the building was located. He stated that there would be no cost to the town for Electricities involvement and work on the property. They would come in and do borings on the site, do wetlands testing, endangered species tests and preliminary layout work. A copy of the Brownfield Presentation given by Brian Kvam is attached as part of the minutes.

Little Pantry – Ashley Yount with Amherst Baptist Church sent a letter requesting that a little pantry similar to the little library but with food items, be placed somewhere in the Town available to citizens. The pantry would be stocked by the youth and children’s departments of Amherst Baptist Church. Manager Bradshaw suggested that the little pantry be placed next to the little library in front of the town hall. The Board was all in agreement with the pantry being placed next to the little library by a motion from Alderman Orders, seconded by Alderman Franklin.

Departmental Reports – The Council reviewed the Financial, Police and Tax reports for the month of April, 2018. A copy of each report is attached as part of the minutes.

Recreation Department – Manager Bradshaw updated the Board on recreation activities. Softball and Baseball started May 1st and volleyball will start in 2 weeks with 40 girls playing this year.

Board Meeting Reschedule – Due to conflicting schedules with Board members, the meeting for June 5th will need to be rescheduled. A motion was made by Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Franklin and the vote was unanimous to reschedule the June meeting to June 26th at 7 pm and to cancel the July meeting and the Board will meet on an emergency basis if needed.

Miscellaneous –

- Proposed Budget Presentation will be on Monday, May 21st at 1 pm
- Drexel Spring Carnival – May 8 – 12, 2018
- NCLM Town and State Dinner on May 29th in Raleigh. A lot of legislators, representatives and the governor will be present at this dinner. If you plan to attend, I will need to know by May 11th.
- Manager Bradshaw stated that someone had called and asked if they could pick up scrap metal around the outside of the Drexel Heritage Site. The Board said no to this request due to the liabilities involved.
- Alderman Yount stated that he has received complaints about the appearance of the water tower on the Miami Thread property. The Board would like for a letter or phone call be made to the owners to make them aware of the complaints received concerning the water tower appearance.

Adjournment - With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. upon a motion from Alderman Orders, seconded by Alderman Franklin.

TOWN CLERK _____

MAYOR _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____