

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held today Tuesday, October 4, 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: Benny Orders
Alderman: Terry Yount
Alderman: Richard Propst

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 September minutes by a motion from Alderman Propst, seconded by Alderman Franklin.

Resolutions for Street Name Changes - There are several streets in Drexel with the same name as some Morganton streets. Since the physical addresses in Drexel are served by the Morganton post office, the addresses on these are identical to Morganton addresses. This has caused confusion for the postal service, package delivery, and 911 services. The streets in question include Abee Street, Mimosa Street, Center Street, Valdese Avenue and Williams Road. A memo was mailed to each property owner on the above-mentioned streets to explain the options to resolve these conflicts. The memo suggested potential new names for these streets and the citizens were given the opportunity to express their thoughts and choose a name. At the time of the memo, Abee Street was listed as a potential name change but since then, the Burke County GIS was contacted and the Abee Street numbers are in the 200 range in Drexel and the 100 range in Morganton which means there would be no conflict at this time with leaving Abee Street the same. After reviewing citizen input, the following changes are recommended:

Abee Street - No changes
Center Street - Center Lane
Mimosa Street - Mimosa Avenue
Valdese Avenue - Valdese Drive
Williams Road - Williams Way

A resolution was presented to the Council for each street name change. The Council voted unanimously by a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Yount to approve the street name changes as follows: Center Street to Center Lane, Mimosa Street to Mimosa Avenue, Valdese Avenue to Valdese Drive and Williams Road to Williams Way. A copy of each street name resolution is attached as part of the minutes.

R.O. Huffman Center Discussion – Tim Rhoney, Recreation Director was present to discuss his ideas and goals for the recreation program. Mr. Rhoney started with reminding the Council that the monies for operation of the center are only projected through June, 2018. He provided the Board with a list of short term and long term goals for the center. The grants which are available are for new recreation facilities and programs but not for maintenance or upgrade of an existing building. According to how the grant application is written, it's possible monies could be available through

grants for ADA compliance of the building. Mr. Rhoney did contact some of the colleges about having classes but because the building does not have WIFI the colleges would not be able to use the facility. Mr. Rhoney also spoke with the Booster Club to see if they would be willing to turn their athletic programs over to the Town of Drexel Parks and Recreation Department and they said this is something they would consider as long as the register and gate monies are still used for the program and the kids. Mr. Rhoney stated that none of the area recreation programs for surrounding towns and cities are self-sufficient. The biggest revenue sources for recreation departments are usually year-round pools and fitness centers. Mr. Rhoney recommends that the Council make a decision on what to do with the center within the next 6 months or at least by the time the next budget process has started. Alderman Propst suggested that the Town get the word out to the public that all recreation monies received were spent on the recreation building and recreation activities and Manager Bradshaw stated that we are not sitting on any monies for the recreation department from the settlement with Burke County. Alderman Yount suggested again that we just take the last two settlement checks and redo the field house to accommodate all the outdoor recreation activities. Alderman Orders asked how many Drexel citizens use the center and Mr. Rhoney stated probably 20 or less. Mr. Rhoney suggested that we send out a mailer asking citizens for suggestions for the center. Dick McCall asked about the number of kids that would participate in any new programs. Lowell Summey made everyone aware that when we talk about the kids involved in recreation activities, it not only includes Drexel town limits but all the children that attend the Drexel school system. Mayor Ritchie redirected the Council back to ask Alderman Propst if he wanted a mailer sent out and he stated yes. Manager Bradshaw stated that she didn't think it would be feasible to send out a mailer. It was then suggested that we just do a write up in the newspaper. Alderman Propst made a motion to have an article put in the newspaper concerning R.O. Huffman Center information and it was seconded by Alderman Franklin and the vote was unanimous.

Departmental Reports – The Council reviewed the Financial, Tax and Police reports for the month of September, 2016 and also the Quarterly report for the Fire and First Responders. A copy of each report is attached as part of the minutes.

Chargers Update – Lowell Summey updated the Council on the Chargers. Football games are underway. The Chargers have 26 cheerleaders. Basketball sign-ups will be through October 27th. Basketball games start November 1st. The Booster Club has agreed to pay half on a new scoreboard for the center.

Recreation Department – Tim Rhoney was present to update Council on ROH Center activities. Recreation revenues for the month were \$1,200.00. Volleyball started October 1st. Mr. Rhoney mentioned having Bingo at the center on Friday nights. No authorization was given for Bingo at this time. Some research will need to be done on that matter.

Attorney Report – No issues to report at this time.

Miscellaneous

- NCLM Conference will be October 22-25, 2016 in Raleigh.
- Next meeting November 1, 2016.
- Public Power Week Oct. 2-8.

Discussion of Letter in the Newspaper – Alderman Propst stated he would like to discuss the letter written by Dennis Anthony in the newspaper to clarify and correct statements made within that letter. Mayor Ritchie stated that this may not be the format or platform for this discussion. Mayor Ritchie stated if you want to make a motion we will continue. A motion was made by

Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Orders to continue with the discussion. Alderman Propst explained that statements made in this letter were not true. First of all, he mentioned his placement on the Board. This was not planned or discussed, no one knew who would win the election. Alderman Propst stated that Alderman Franklin did not vote for or against placing Richard Propst in Danny Ritchies position as Alderman. At the December meeting, a nomination was made by Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Orders with no vote from Alderman Franklin which Alderman Propst stated not voting at all means a yes vote, making it a unanimous vote, to place him in this position. Alderman Propst advised the Council that he had gone to Raleigh and spoke with a judge and an attorney concerning his residency in the Town and in Moorehead City. The officials told him that he was in compliance with being on the Board according to the General Statutes. He stated his wife owns the house in Moorehead City with his name being on the title. He also stated he does still live here part time and he still works out of this house and his computer is in this house. Also as far as the R.O. Huffman Center information, he doesn't know where Mr. Anthony received his information but it was incorrect. The Board had several options for the center but none of these were ever voted on in a board meeting. He stated that he has put out figures in the paper that were incorrect. Mayor Ritchie stated that this may not be the time nor place to discuss this matter but Alderman Yount stated that this was just a concerned citizen addressing this matter. Alderman Propst stated that all he was trying to do was correct Mr. Anthony. Alderman Yount advised that if Mr. Anthony has any questions and would like to have any facts clarified then he is welcome to come into the office and the tapes of the meeting will be made available to him before he writes any articles. Mayor Ritchie stated those tapes were available to any citizen.

Closed Session - The Council entered into closed session at 7:55 p.m. for the purpose of discussing legal matters per G.S.143-318.11(a)(1) by a motion from Alderman Propst, seconded by Alderman Franklin. The Council returned to regular meeting at 8:00 p.m. by a motion from Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Franklin.

Adjournment - With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m. upon a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Orders.

TOWN CLERK _____

MAYOR _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

