

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held on Monday, May 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Municipal Building.

The following members of the Governing Body were present:

Alderman: Allen Reed
Alderman: Danny Ritchie
Alderman: Benny Orders

The following members of the Governing Body were absent:

Mayor: Richard Propst
Alderman: Terry Yount

Others present:

Manager: Matt Settlemyer
Attorney: Redmond Dill
Town Clerk: Sherry Dula

In the absence of Mayor Richard Propst and Mayor Pro Tem Terry Yount, Alderman Danny Ritchie presided over the meeting.

Alderman Reed opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of minutes - The Council approved the previous minutes for the month of April by a motion from Alderman Orders, seconded by Alderman Reed and the vote was unanimous.

Miscellaneous - Crystal Gibson was present to address the Council concerning a problem with the addressing in Drexel. She states that when ordering from the internet, Drexel addresses do not register as valid addresses shipping or other purposes. Alderman Ritchie also verifies this concern. He stated that in applying for his passport, he incurred the same problem with verifying his physical address as valid. Ms. Gibson stated that she had spoke with the Postal Service and they suggested she check with the County Planning Dept. Manager Settlemyer agreed that this could possibly be a GIS or Mapping problem. He stated that he will contact Scott Black with the Burke County Mapping Department and discuss this issue with Mr. Black. Manager Settlemyer will report back to Alderman Ritchie the results concerning this matter.

Letter of Appreciation - Mayor Propst asked the Council to approve a letter of appreciation for Walter Church, Sr. to offer our sincere appreciation for his efforts on the

Town's behalf during his tenure as our elected Representative in the North Carolina State Legislature. A copy of the Letter is enclosed as part of the minutes.

2009-2010 Budget Presentation - Manager Settlemyer presented the proposed 2009-2010 Budget. He stated that the upcoming budget is conservative and has a 4% increase over last year's budget.

The following are some highlights from the budget presentation:

- Tax Rate remains @ \$.32 per 100
- Electric Rates will reflect a 5% increase
- Water Rates will reflect a 5% increase
- Sewer Rates will reflect a 5% increase
- Health Insurance Rates are up by 10%

Upcoming projects affecting the proposed budget include:

- Replacement of 1980 Ford Pumper Truck for Fire Department
- PARTF Grant Downtown Park – Matching Funds are budgeted for this project
- \$10,000 for improvements to playground @ R.O. Huffman Center
- \$40,000 for maintenance contract on Water Tanks
- Local Government Service Corp. Grant assigning an intern to provide economic development services to Drexel for the next two years on a part-time basis
- ITRE Pavement Condition Survey – to prioritize future street paving projects - \$7,500 – Powell Bill Money
- Federal Stimulus Grant for Sewer Pump Station Application to replace our wastewater lift station – Announcement of awards in July

Alderman Ritchie commended Manager Settlemyer for an excellent job on the proposed budget and for his continuous efforts to seek alternative funding for the Town of Drexel.

Public Hearing on 2009-2010 Budget – A motion was made by Alderman Orders, seconded by Alderman Reed to set the public hearing date for the proposed budget for June 1, 2009 and the vote was unanimous.

Departmental Reports - The Council reviewed the Financial & Police reports for the month of April, 2009. A copy of each report is attached as part of the minutes.

Miscellaneous - Manager Settlemyer was informed that the property owned by Ronnie Lafevers on North Main Street has halted development and the residents of that area are not pleased with the appearance of the property. Manager Settlemyer agreed to contact Mr. Lafevers and find out the status of his development project.

Adjournment - With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m. upon a motion from Alderman Reed, seconded by Alderman Orders.

TOWN CLERK _____

MAYOR _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____