

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held today Tuesday, September 5, 2017 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

Others absent: 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 August minutes by a motion from Alderman Propst, seconded by Alderman Franklin.

Public Hearing for Zoning Text Amendment – A public hearing was called by a motion from Alderman Propst, seconded by Alderman Franklin at 7:02 pm for discussion on the recommended text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance dealing with property maintenance. The new text provides more stringent upkeep requirements for housing and commercial property which will give the staff more tools for enforcement. With no further questions or discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Propst, seconded by Alderman Franklin to close the public hearing at 7:04.

Ordinance to Amend the Drexel Zoning Ordinance – A motion was made by Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Orders to adopt the Zoning Text Amendment Ordinance and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the ordinance is attached as part of the minutes.

Public Hearing for Rezoning at 2774 US 70 East – A public hearing was called by a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Yount at 7:05 pm to discuss recommendation by Planning and Zoning Board to rezone property located at 2774 US 70 East from M-1 Manufacturing to B-2 General Business. The rezoning would reduce the intensity of use permitted on the property. With no further discussion, the public hearing was closed by a motion from Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Orders at 7:06 pm.

Ordinance to Amend Drexel Zoning Map – A motion was made by Alderman Propst, seconded by Alderman Franklin to adopt the ordinance to rezone property at 2774 US 70 East from M-1 Manufacturing to B-2 General Business and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the ordinance is attached as part of the minutes.

Public Power Week – Manager Bradshaw presented a resolution proclaiming October 1st through October 7th, 2017 as Public Power Week in an effort to promote Drexel as a Public Power Community and those who work to provide the best possible electric service for our citizens. A motion was made to adopt the resolution for Public Power Week by Alderman Propst, seconded by Alderman Franklin and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the resolution is attached as part of the minutes.

National Recovery Month - The health department has requested the adoption of a proclamation in support of National Recovery Month for September, 2017. National Recovery Month is a national observance that promotes the societal benefits of prevention, treatment, and recovery for mental and substance use disorders; celebrates those in recovery; applauds the contributions of treatment and service providers; and, promotes the message that recovery is possible. A motion was made by Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Yount to adopt the proclamation for National Recovery Month and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the proclamation is attached as part of the minutes.

2015-2016 Annual Audit Report – Ronnie Crump with Boggs, Crump & Brown was present to review the annual audit report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. Mr. Crump stated that the Town had a good year but some areas still need to be closely monitored going forward. Items of interest listed below:

- Current ratio was 18.3 to 1 (\$5,129,013/\$279,630)
- Electric fund had a net income decrease of (\$48,624)
- Water/Sewer Fund net income increase of \$ 9,964
- Investment earnings for all funds was \$4,474 which is a decrease over last year.
- General Fund revenues are up by \$616,573 compared to last year and expenditures are up by \$651,171
- Public Safety expenditures increased by \$70,796
- General Government increased by \$483,162, Capital Outlay increased by \$687,546
- 98.67% Collection Rate on Property Taxes which is above the state average
- Fund Balance increased by \$168,027
- Unrestricted Funds available \$1,139,969
- Assets >Liabilities \$6,735,781 increase from last year of \$631,688
- Factors effecting budget: Lawsuit, Drexel Property Donation, Police Vehicle Purchase, property tax decrease of \$24,036, Sales Tax, Franchise Tax and Sales Tax Refund increase of 34,280

Annual Tax Settlement - Chelsea Carswell, Tax Collector was present to review the tax settlement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. The tax collection rate for the year ending June, 2016 was 98.67%. A copy of the tax settlement is attached as part of the minutes.

Departmental Reports – The Council reviewed the Financial, Tax and Police reports for the month of August, 2017. A copy of each report is attached as part of the minutes.

Miscellaneous –

- Manager Bradshaw updated the Council that we were in the process of applying for the grant funds for Drexel Properties.
- Next Meeting October 3rd, 2017

Closed Session - The Council entered into closed session at 7:39 p.m. for the purpose of discussing legal matters per G.S. 143.318.11(a)(1) by a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Propst. The Council returned to the regular meeting at 8:10 p.m. by a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Orders.

Adjournment - With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m. upon a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Propst.

TOWN CLERK _____

MAYOR _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____