

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held today Tuesday, January 2, 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: Carroll Franklin
Alderman: Benny Orders
Alderman: Terry Yount
Alderman: Dennis Anthony

Others present:

Town Manager: Sherri Bradshaw
Town Clerk: Sherry Dula
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 December minutes by a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Anthony.

Public Hearing for CDBG Grant - The public hearing was opened by a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Orders. Sherry Long with Western Piedmont Council of Governments was present to review the process and grant opportunities for the Community Development Block Grant. She stated this public hearing is the second of two public input hearings that are required in the application process for the grant. The pre-application has been submitted and the Town can move forward in submitting the formal CDBG grant application which is for demolition of any structures left on the site and cleanup of the old Drexel Heritage site. The amount of the grant funds requested is \$500,000. She also stated that the demolition project will require a 25% match and the monies invested by the Town would be \$125,000. The public hearing was closed at 7:01 pm by a motion from Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Franklin.

WPCOG, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy - Sherry Long, Western Piedmont Council of Governments presented the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS provides a regional framework to identify economic opportunities, challenges and goals. The program will equip the region's counties and communities with strategies to improve economic conditions and the quality of life for residents. The 2017 CEDS Committee is made up of 15 members representing Alexander, Burke, Caldwell and Catawba Counties. The program was approved in 2012 and requires an update every 5 years. Ms. Long reviewed the importance of the CEDS which shows statistics for economic trends, population growth, workforce, infrastructure, housing and marketing.

Resolution of Intent to Annex the Back Portion of Drexel Properties – Mayor Ritchie explained that the back portion of the Drexel Properties owned by the Town is currently outside Town limits and needs to be annexed into the Town. A motion was made by Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Orders to adopt the resolution of intent to annex the back portion of Drexel Properties and the vote was unanimous. Mayor Ritchie called for a public hearing to be set for the February 6th meeting. A copy of the resolution is attached as part of the minutes.

Resolution to Submit Community Development Block Grant Application Drexel Heritage Building Demolition Project - The resolution is authorizing the Town of Drexel to submit a formal application to the North Carolina Department of Commerce for approval of a Community

Development Block Grant for Economic Development. A motion was made by Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Franklin to adopt the resolution to submit the CDBG Application for the Drexel Heritage Building Demolition Project and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the resolution is attached as part of the minutes.

Resolution to Adopt all the Policies and Plans for the Community Development Block Grant Program Drexel Heritage Building Demolition Project – The program requires the Town to adopt certain plans and policies before submitting a formal application for funding. The resolution outlines the plans and procedures for adoption by the Town of Drexel. A motion was made by Alderman Orders, seconded by Alderman Anthony to adopt the above-mentioned resolution and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the resolution is attached as part of the minutes.

NCSFA Firemen's Roster Certification – The annual certification of Drexel Volunteer Firemen includes 24 individuals and needs approval by the Council. A motion was made by Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Franklin to approve the annual certification of 24 firemen and the vote was unanimous. The Firemen's Relief Fund Board of Trustees needs two appointments to the board. The fire department has recommended Jerry Brown and Sherry Dula be appointed to this board. A motion was made by Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Orders to appoint Jerry Brown and Sherry Dula to the Board of Trustees and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the roster and Board of Trustees are attached as part of the minutes.

2018 Regular Board Meeting Schedule – Manager Bradshaw presented the meeting schedule for 2018. The July meeting was moved to the second Tuesday of the month due to holiday.

Proposed Zoning Text Amendments – Becca Bleich, our Planner with WPCOG reviewed the proposed zoning text amendments which includes backyard chickens, electronic gaming and solar panels. The proposed amendments would allow for backyard chicken keeping with a maximum of 5 chickens and no roosters being permitted. The amendment does not allow free range chickens, they must be penned at all times and the placement of the pens shall only be permitted in the rear yard with only a minimum one acre lot size. Other conditions must be met and are available for review in the attached text amendment. With this proposed amendment, electronic gaming will be permitted in the B-2 General Business District but with specific stipulations which are outlined in the attached zoning text amendment. Also solar energy systems will be permitted as an accessory structure provided that a building inspection is administered prior to construction. Mayor Ritchie called for a public hearing for the February 6th meeting by a motion from Alderman Orders, seconded by Alderman Anthony and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the proposed zoning text amendment is attached as part of the minutes.

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

Police Report – Chief Treadway was present to review the monthly and yearly police reports.

Fire Department Report – Chief Baker was present to review the fire reports. Chief Baker made available to the Board copies of the activity for the department for the last 6 months.

Attorney Report – Attorney Willcox has no issues to report at this time.

2018 Drexel Christmas Parade – A motion was made by Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Orders to set the 2018 Drexel Christmas Parade for December 8th, 2018 at 1 pm and a

motion was made by Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Anthony to name the parade the “Drexel Hometown Christmas Parade” and the vote was unanimous on both motions.

Miscellaneous –

- Next Meeting February 6, 2018
- D.A.R.E Graduation will be held at Drexel Elementary on January 8th, 2018 at 1 pm

Adjournment - With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. upon a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Anthony.

TOWN CLERK _____

MAYOR _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____