

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held today Tuesday, March 6, 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
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 February minutes by a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Anthony.

Relay for Life - Don Deal with Fair Board and Victoria Shuffler, Co-Chair for Relay for Life was present to review the details for hosting the Relay for Life event at the Drexel Fairgrounds on June 1-2, 2018. Mr. Deal said they had several meetings with the organization to make sure the fairgrounds would cover all the needs for their event. He also stated the fairboard is behind this event 100%. Ms. Shuffler explained the Relay for Life Fundraising event and how the monies will be used against the fight for cancer. She also stated that they moved the event out of the school system and they chose the fairgrounds because it is centrally located in the county and she is hoping this new venue will bring in new people. The event will start on Friday, June 1st at 5 pm and will end after closing ceremonies at approximately 6:45 am on Saturday morning. Mr. Deal also stated that the Drexel Fire Department and Drexel First Baptist food booths at the fairgrounds will be open to serve food for the event. The Council agreed that they are all in support of the event and Mayor Ritchie told Don Deal that if the Council could help in any way, please feel free to call.

2017-2018 Budget Amendment – The amendment is needed to address several changes throughout the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The amendment includes the following items:

- ElectriCities System Betterment Grant to assist in the cost of replacing heat pump at RO Huffman Center
- Projected increase in revenue in recreation fees through the baseball/softball season
- Expense of video recording the monthly board meetings and additional photography expense for website pictures
- CAD services not implemented
- Police Department's health insurance was budgeted incorrectly
- Older Police Department vehicle experiencing transmission issues and other maintenance
- Police Department uniforms cost increased over budget figures and cost of jackets was not included
- Sanitation – Portion of old landfill on Bryant Road had encroached the adjoining property which had to be cleaned up before Crescent Land could finalize sale
- Various maintenance issues at the fairgrounds including treatment for fire ants
- Youth Recreation uniform expense
- Sales tax line items increase due to the above-mentioned items

The Council voted unanimously to adopt the budget amendment by a motion from Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Orders. The amendment is attached as part of the minutes.

Drexel Properties Update – Manager Bradshaw stated that the grant for CDBG funds will be submitted soon and monies could be awarded toward the end of June or first of July. The rubble on the property has been tested and asbestos was detected which means it will need to be removed in the proper way which could increase the cost of clean-up. Estimates for the removal of the asbestos range from \$700,000 to \$1,300,000. She states they are working toward a better, less expensive solution for this removal process. She states that the Town and Electricities are in the process of determining electrical territorial rights between Duke and The Town of Drexel.

Demolition for 111 Bryant Road – Burke County Building Services and Code Enforcement has ordered the house owned by Tim Dula located at 111 Bryant Road be demolished by April 17, 2018. Mr. Tim Dula has contracted with Vance Blackburn to demolish the house and remove the debris. Due to inclement weather Mr. Blackburn is behind schedule and has indicated that he will not be able to complete the job by the April 17th deadline therefore he will need an extension. Manager Bradshaw approved an extension through May 31, 2018 for Mr. Dula but Mr. Bradley Kirkley, Code Enforcement Officer for Burke County informed Manager Bradshaw that the extension date will need to be approved by the Board of Aldermen as well. Mayor Ritchie asked if Mr. Dula was confident that the May 31st deadline will be long enough to complete the job and Mr. Kirkley stated that upon his conversation with Mr. Dula, he felt like the date would be enough time for completion. A motion was made by Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Anthony to approve the extension date for May 31, 2018 and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the demolition order is attached as part of the minutes.

Town-Wide Clean Up - Manager Bradshaw is proposing a Town-Wide clean up effort for the week of May 20th. The clean-up effort includes a shred-truck and a dumpster for electronic devices being on site at the R.O. Huffman Center. The shred-truck will be sponsored by the LCFCU at no charge to the town. We plan to mail letters to all property owner and renters regarding the week-long event which will include the Nuisance Ordinance. Rough Trash and brush will be picked up daily during this week. The letter will also inform the citizens of the citation process for violators of the ordinance. Some items included in the clean-up will be household furniture on porches, inoperable motor vehicles and overgrown vegetation in yards among other items. Manager Bradshaw stated that she wanted to be sure that the Council supported the event and was aware that they may be contacted once citations start for violators. A motion was made by Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Yount to support the town-wide clean up and the vote was unanimous.

Unpaid Tax Advertisement – An approval is needed for Chelsea Carswell, Tax Collector to advertise any unpaid property taxes on April 1, 2018. A motion was made by Alderman Orders, seconded by Alderman Franklin to advertise unpaid property taxes on April 1, 2018 and the vote was unanimous.

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

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

Police Report – Chief Treadway was present to review the monthly police reports. He stated that out of the 12 B&E's listed on the report, 11 of them were from the car break-ins that happened in

one night at various areas in town. Alderman Anthony asked if the department gets the backup from Burke County Sheriff’s Department when its needed and Chief stated that he does. Chief Treadway explained that he had a visit from a representative with Maymead and they will be starting mid-April on the interstate off ramp projects. He states it will be a 2 year project and they are requesting for a police vehicle to be parked in the vicinity of the work zone with blue lights on from 7 pm until 6 am to help slow down traffic. Several county agencies will be sharing the responsibility. Chief Treadway would like for our department to participate and he knows that the off duty officer will need to reimburse the town for gas if Maymead does not provide this with the project. The Board would like for Chief Treadway to ask Maymead who will be responsible for fuel and for workers comp for these off duty officers. It was also mentioned whether Maymead would be interested in leasing the vehicle from the town.

Recreation Department – Tim Rhoney was present to update the Board on recreation department activities. He stated that all the normal activities are still going on and rentals are picking up right now. They just finished basketball and one of the teams was undefeated and won the county championship. Indoor soccer has started with 12 teams and 90 participants. Baseball/softball sign ups have started. He stated that the teams were so excited to get their new uniforms and he also thanked the Board for the nice trophy cases to display all the team trophies.

Miscellaneous –

- Budget Workshop will be rescheduled to Thursday, March 29th at 1 pm
- Next meeting April 3rd
- NCDOT Survey – NC Department of Transportation recently launched its 3rd annual customer survey. You may take the online survey at go.ncsu.edu/customerservice2018. Survey link is on our website and must be received by March 31st
- Ethics Training will be May 23rd from 10:00 am until 12:30 pm and the site will be announced at a later date. Training can be done on demand by appointment anytime in June
- Manager Bradshaw made the Council aware that someone is interested in purchasing the town property located on Mt. View St. The Board of Aldermen are all in agreement that the town is not interested in the sale of this property.
- WPCOG Annual Meeting will be April 26th at the Crowne Plaza in Hickory at 6:00 pm

Adjournment - With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. upon a motion from Alderman Anthony, seconded by Alderman Orders.

TOWN CLERK _____

MAYOR _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

