

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was Tuesday February 7, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Municipal Building.

The following members of the Governing Body were present:

Mayor: Richard Propst
Alderman: Benny Orders
Alderman: Terry Yount
Alderman: Carroll Franklin
Alderman: Danny Ritchie

Others present:

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

Alderman Ritchie opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes - The Council approved the previous minutes for the month of December by a motion from Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Franklin and the vote was unanimous. The January meeting was cancelled.

Proposal to Participate in Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan - Manager Settlemyer reviewed the proposal for the Town to participate in the Regional hazard mitigation plan which would include Alexander, Burke, Caldwell & Catawba Counties. Emergency Management local coordinators for each county will jointly hire a consultant to combine each of their mitigation plans into a regional plan. Manager Settlemyer explained that this regional plan could aid in applying for future grants and other resources. A motion was made by Alderman Franklin, seconded by Alderman Orders to approve the agreement to participate in the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the proposal is attached as part of the minutes.

Authorization to Apply for the NCSTEP Program - Manager Settlemyer explained to the Board that he would like to apply for the North Carolina Small Towns Economic Prosperity Program(NCSTEP). This program supports economically distressed small towns, especially those who have experienced economic hardships due to manufacturing losses, natural disasters etc. He stated that this program is designed to stimulate economic recovery and could provide the town with grant monies to aid with implementing and planning of economic development projects. A motion was made by Alderman Ritchie, seconded by Alderman Franklin to authorize the manager to apply for the NC STEP Program and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the program is attached as part of the minutes.

Advertise Tax Liens - A motion was made by Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Orders to advertise delinquent tax liens on April 1st, 2012 and the vote was unanimous.

Annual Certification of Firemen - A motion was made by Alderman Ritchie, seconded by Alderman Franklin to approve the certification of firemen and the vote was unanimous.

Water/Sewer Rate Increase - Manager Settlemyer stated that the Council needed to consider a water/sewer rate increase in the near future. He reviewed the handout which shows the proposed water/sewer rate increase needed to cover operations. After some discussion, Alderman Ritchie suggested that we just increase the minimum charge to \$15.00 with no increase to rates above 3,000 gallons of usage. The Board requested that the Manager factor the new figures into the rate increase and bring those findings back to the Board for the March meeting.

Drexel Booster Club - A motion was made by Alderman Ritchie, seconded by Alderman Franklin to have Manager Settlemyer move forward with organizing Drexel parents to hire attorney and file a lawsuit against the Drexel Booster Club.

Miscellaneous –

- Alderman Ritchie suggested that the Town put school zone signs up at the Drexel Primary School for safety purposes.
- Update on Sewer Pump Station Contract with Valdese. Contract has been sent to attorney for review and to add language concerning depreciation of pump station.
- The projected opening of Family Dollar is June 1st, 2012
- The leaf machine was repaired for this year so therefore monies budgeted for purchasing a new one was used to replace townhall roof. The Leaf Machine will be budgeted in the next fiscal year.
- The digital sign for the front of the townhall has been ordered. The sign will display time, temperature and events in town.
- NCDOT stated they couldn't justify placing a light at the intersection of Mimosa and S. Main St. The Board discussed some other alternatives to make the intersection safer. Manager will look into those alternatives and bring them back to the board at the next meeting.

Departmental Reports – The Council reviewed the Financial, Fire and Police reports for the month of December, 2011 & January, 2012. A copy of each report is attached as part of the minutes.

Executive Session - The Council went into Closed Session as permitted by GS 143-318.11.(6) at 7:58 p.m. by a motion from Alderman Orders, seconded by Alderman Yount and the vote was unanimous. The Council adjourned back to the regular meeting at 8:43 p.m.

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Adjournment - With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. upon a motion from Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Franklin.

TOWN CLERK _____

MAYOR _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____