

REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE  
JANUARY 25, 2005  
TUESDAY - 7:00 P.M.  
TOWN HALL

The Board of Aldermen held its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 25, 2005. Members present were Mayor Henry Foy, Aldermen Gavin Brown, Gary Caldwell, Libba Feichter and Kenneth Moore. Also present were Town Manager A. Lee Galloway, Town Clerk Phyllis McClure and Town Attorney Woodrow Griffin. Mayor Foy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2005

Alderman Caldwell moved, seconded by Alderman Feichter, to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2005 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Ed Moore - Concerns Regarding Pigeon Community Center

Mr. Ed Moore, President of the Pigeon Community Development Club, contacted the Town to express dissatisfaction with the work that was done around the center.

A few years ago, the Department of Transportation was planning to do storm drainage work along this section of U. S. Route 276 or Pigeon Street. While the State's work was underway, the Town saw an opportunity to improve the appearance of this area, add sidewalks around the Pigeon Community Development Center and address a safety problem where vehicles parked at the building were backing out into Pigeon Street.

The Town was also trying to mold this area into the scheme that was envisioned for its neighborhood centers under the new Land Development Standards. The project ended up pretty much as it was presented to representatives of the Club and the Haywood County Commissioners. The intention of the project was to eliminate open access to a major thoroughfare, install parallel parking, construct sidewalks and add trees in a planting strip. In addition, it was the Town's intention to build a better driveway to the rear of the building and provide a gravel parking area there. Inclement weather and the holidays made this project drag on longer than anticipated, and there are some things that remain to be done. Town Staff feels that the Center is much more attractive today as a result of the work and that as the trees grow, it will be even more attractive.

Mr. Moore said he wanted to bring to the attention of the Board the "atrocities" they have endured recently regarding the Center. A number of parking spaces have been lost, and the newly installed parking spaces are not safer, especially in the summer when parents are dropping their children off for the Center's enrichment program. He said trees are obstructing their view, the parking spaces on the Oakdale Road side have not been paved and there is not enough

parking when they have a meeting or fundraiser. The situation may not have been the best before but it was adequate. The overflow parking proposed is at the playground and Mr. Moore said he did not think this would be a good place to park with children playing. The telephone line to the Center was cut while this work was being done two to three months ago. BellSouth has not reconnected the line and continues to send them a bill each month. Mr. Moore said when he called to request placement on tonight's agenda the Town expedited their work so that BellSouth could reconnect the line. Mr. Moore said he felt that they were set up to fail and would like for the Town to amend this situation.

Alderman Brown asked how many parking spaces were there originally. Mr. Moore said about 18 - 20 total with approximately 12 in the front and 8 on the Oakdale Road side. Mr. Moore added that at the present time they cannot drive around to the kitchen side. Mr. Moore said a proposed sketch of the work was given to Mary Wilson before the work began. He added that this would probably have been the best time to contact Mr. Baker, but there were other things on the burner at that time and Mr. Baker was not contacted.

Alderman Feichter said she has parked in the front portion many times and backing onto Pigeon Street was not a good situation. She said when the building was used as the Material Center the back portion was used for parking. Ed Moore said a basketball court and playground is located there now and he did not feel that the cars and children playing would be a good combination.

Alderman Brown asked Mr. Moore if he had facts and figures that the work that was done would not work. Alderman Brown pointed out that parking, curb cuts and roads being opened are not something that people are automatically entitled to.

Lynn Forney, Director of the Center's Summer Program said the best location for handicapped access would be from the kitchen entrance side of the building where the ramp is already located. This area would include 4 - 5 parking spaces.

Manager Galloway said it was the Town's intention to provide gravel for the parking lot proposed behind the building, and they could add posts and cable to separate the parking area from the playground area. He added that the parking area located at the west side of the building (kitchen entrance) would not be a major project for the Town to do. He felt that the work that has been done came pretty close to meeting what was there before while improving aesthetics. Many compliments have been received by the Town about how much better it looks. It was never the Town's intention to harm the center. DOT no longer allows backing into the Street from parking spaces.

Ed Moore said this would be a good start, but he asked what the Town planned to do about their telephone bill.

Alderman Brown said the Town contributed \$26,000 when the Center began. At the meeting Alderman Brown also made a personal contribution of \$100 to the Center.

It was the consensus of the Board that the Town provide gravel for the parking lot on the Oakdale side of the building, including the addition of posts and cable as recommended by

Manager Galloway and to complete the gravel parking area on the west side of the building at the kitchen entrance. The parking spaces along Oakdale Road and driveway entrance will be paved when possible since the asphalt plant is closed during the winter months. Manager Galloway said the work would probably take about two months to complete, depending on the weather.

#### Ed Moore - Request to Close Oakdale Road for Street Festival

Mr. Moore requested that the Town Board approve the closing of Oakdale Road during the weekend of September 16, 17 and 18, 2005, but the dates have not been finalized. This street closing is in order to have an African-American type festival, similar to the festivals held on Main Street during Folkmoot and the Apple Festival.

Evelyn Roberts is in charge of the event and attended the meeting with Mr. Moore. Ms. Roberts said the festival will include vendors, music and cultural food. Board Members suggested that they contact Ron Huelster with the Downtown Waynesville Association for assistance.

It was the consensus of the Board to approve the closing of the portion of Oakdale Road adjacent to the Pigeon Community Center. This closure could not extend beyond the first house or driveway. Detour signs could be placed at Shelton Street and would need to be coordinated with the Waynesville Police and Fire Departments. Once the dates are finalized, the Board should be notified so that formal action regarding the closing can be taken.

#### Forestry Management Plan

At the Board meeting of January 11, 2005, Manager Galloway asked that the Board grant approval to ask that Dr. Peter Bates of the Department of Geosciences and Natural Resources Management of Western Carolina University develop a proposal for the Town for the development of a Forestry Management Plan. This is an item which is required in the Conservation Easement that the Board approved in October of 2004. Board members raised questions about the Umstead Act and whether it might apply to an agreement between the Town and Western Carolina University. In addition, there were questions about developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) from others who do this type work.

Attorney Griffin said as long as it could be shown that the University is doing this work as part of their educational program it does not prohibit State Agencies from being in competition with private agencies and therefore it would not be in violation of the Umstead Act. It was Attorney Griffin's opinion that Western Carolina University can be asked to develop a proposal for the Town for a development of a Forestry Management Plan.

#### Memorandum of Understanding - Haywood Advancement Foundation

Mr. Mark Clasby, Executive Director of the Haywood Advancement Foundation submitted a Memorandum of Understanding between the Foundation and the Town of Waynesville. This document addresses the funds put up by the Town of Waynesville to assist the Foundation with the purchase of the Dayco Property out of bankruptcy. Specifically, it addresses the amount of

money and the manner in which those funds would be returned to the Town once the Dayco property is sold. Essentially, one-half of the proceeds of the sale would be returned to the Town after deducting the expenses the Foundation has incurred in property taxes or expenses related to the sale of this property.

Manager Galloway said he has been in contact with Mr. Clasby and there is a good chance that the former Dayco property will be sold and the money will be returned to the Town and County. Haywood County is also considering the memorandum of understanding.

Alderman Brown serves on the Haywood Advancement Foundation Board. He said he has spoken with the developer and she is happy with what she is doing and feels that it will work.

Alderman Feichter said it is important to be willing to contribute funds when there will be an impact on the development of Haywood County.

Alderman Brown moved, seconded by Alderman Feichter, to authorize Mayor Foy to execute the memorandum of understanding as presented. The motion carried unanimously. (Cont. No. 3-05)

#### Report by Manager Galloway - Fire Line for Haywood Vocational Opportunities

Manager Galloway said he has been in discussions with Haywood Vocational Opportunities, the NC Department of Commerce and Southwestern Commission Region A regarding HVO's new 55,000 square foot building. This new construction will add 70 new jobs over the next four years. A fire supply line is needed and the cost for this line is estimated at \$200,000. Grants may be available for about half of the money needed for this project. It may also be possible for Haywood County, HVO and the Town to contribute some of the money. Work is continuing to solicit private contributions.

Manager Galloway said he has already submitted a pre grant application and received a favorable response. He hopes to come back to the Board with a solid proposal in the near future.

It was the consensus of the Board that Manager Galloway should proceed with the Grant Application and the Town should contribute a portion of these funds since it does have an economic impact on Waynesville.

#### Alderman Caldwell - Additional Pedestrian Crossing on Hazelwood Avenue

Alderman Gary Caldwell said he received a request that the Town install an additional pedestrian crossing on Hazelwood Avenue. He said traffic travels faster than the speed limit and it is difficult to cross the street from the parking lot. Manager Galloway said the Town has received this request before. Generally the Town does not put crosswalks in the middle of the block for safety reasons. Mib Medford suggested installing a hump in the street to slow traffic down. Alderman Brown agreed that crossing Hazelwood Avenue is a problem. Mayor Foy said when Andrew Powell worked for the Town he was working on better solutions for this intersection. There was discussion at that time about the construction of a new planter island. At the present

time the Town is trying to get a grant for some pre work on Russ Avenue and this may be a good time to include improvements to Hazelwood Avenue.

#### Report by Mayor Foy Regarding Business 23 - Roundabout, Nature Strip and Sidewalks

Mayor Foy said on Business 23, from East Street to the roundabout, the Town requested a nature strip and 6' sidewalk with an increase in the sidewalk width to eight feet and widening of the nature strip beginning at Massie's. Public Works Director Fred Baker visited the site and NCDOT was laying out a 4' sidewalk. Mayor Foy, Fred Baker and Planning Director Paul Benson met with NCDOT Representative Conrad Burrell. NCDOT has now agreed to the Town's request for wider nature strips and sidewalks. Mayor Foy added that Conrad Burrell commented on what an attractive town Waynesville is.

#### Adjournment

With no further business, Alderman Brown moved, seconded by Alderman Moore, to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Phyllis R. McClure  
Town Clerk

Henry B. Foy  
Mayor