

REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN HALL – 9 SOUTH MAIN STREET
FEBRUARY 14, 2012
TUESDAY – 7:00 P.M.

The Board of Aldermen of the Town of Waynesville held a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2012. Members present were Mayor Gavin Brown, Aldermen Gary Caldwell, Libba Feichter, J. Wells Greeley and LeRoy Roberson. Also present were Alderman Elect Julia Freeman, Town Manager A. Lee Galloway, Town Clerk Phyllis McClure and Town Attorney Woodrow Griffin. Prior to the meeting, a reception was held at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of January 24, 2012 and January 30, 2012

Alderman Roberson said in the minutes of January 24, 2012, page 4, the name “McDowell” should be changed to “Bradshaw”. Alderman Caldwell moved, seconded by Alderman Feichter, to approve the minutes of the January 24 and January 30, 2012 meetings as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business by the Departing Board

A public hearing was held on January 24, 2012 regarding the request by Premier Chemicals (formerly Giles Chemical) to rezone property at 12 Commerce Street and 390 Smathers Street from Central Business District (CBD) to Commercial Industrial (C-I). After the public hearing the Board voted to table the issue until further information was gathered and further discussions had been held. Premier Chemicals invited members of the community and town officials to gather for a public meeting on Thursday, February 8 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., in the conference room at the Hazelwood Office located at 280 Georgia Avenue.

Alderman Greeley moved, seconded by Alderman Caldwell, to place the item on the Board’s Agenda for the regular meeting of February 28, 2012. The motion carried unanimously.

Recognition of Outgoing Member Libba Feichter – Resolution of Appreciation and Gratitude

Mayor Brown said at the last meeting Alderman Feichter referred to the Bible Story of Solomon and his wisdom regarding the baby. He added that Libba is probably the person in the room that understands that the story was not about Solomon, but about the baby. Libba always brought to this Board the ability to look at things from more than one side and that any problem may have more than one solution. Mayor Brown thanked Alderman Feichter for her service to the town, adding that he did not think she was leaving public service and felt that she will continue to volunteer. Alderman Feichter is participating in the process to select a new Town Manager upon

the retirement of Manager Galloway. Mayor Brown told Alderman Feichter that she has left Waynesville in a much better place.

Alderman Roberson said he appreciates the wisdom and thought that Alderman Feichter has brought to the Board, adding that she is leaving some large shoes to fill and will be missed by the other Board Members.

Alderman Greeley commented on the family members of Alderman Feichter that were attending the meeting that were here to “reclaim her”. Alderman Greeley described Alderman Feichter as “unparalleled”. He said there were a great number of people that have come before the board that she has taught during her years in the school system. Alderman Greeley told Alderman Feichter it had been a privilege to serve with her.

Alderman Caldwell said it has been an honor to work with Alderman Feichter all these years. He has considered her a partner and appreciates her support during the hard times as well as the good times.

Mayor Brown announced that a \$150 donation has been made in honor of Libba Feichter to the M. D. Anderson Center in Texas. This donation is designated for use in the “Dr. Laurence Cooper’s Canine Trail” for research to speed the development of better therapies and new strategies for treating and preventing human cancers.

Mayor Brown read a resolution of appreciation and gratitude to Alderman Feichter and it was the unanimous consensus of the Board that the resolution be adopted. (Res. No. 2-12)

Manager Galloway said there is no way that he could tell Alderman Feichter how much the employees appreciate her. Through the years Alderman Feichter has brought her dogs to the Municipal Building, including Roxie, Belle and now LuLu and he feels that she has an obligation to come back and visit. In order to make this happen he presented a water bowl and bag of LuLu’s favorite treats to be kept at the Municipal Building for her future visits. Manager Galloway thanked Alderman Feichter for all she has done during the past twelve years.

Alderman Feichter said during these years she has worked with many elected officials, traveling back and forth to Raleigh and seeing how dedicated they were to their citizens and what joy they took in that service. In the twelve years that she has served on this board she has seen how dedicated this board is and knows it will continue to be so. This Board is the best to be found in the Southeast and the Town’s employees are the best in the Country. Alderman Feichter said it has been a pleasure and an honor to have served in this position.

Administration of Oaths to Board Members

Clerk of Court June Ray had been invited to administer the Oaths of Office to the new board members at the meeting of December 13, 2011. But the swearing in had to be delayed and Ms. Ray was not available for the meeting of January 10 when it was anticipated that the new board would be sworn in. Mayor Brown suggested that Judge Donna Forga be invited to administer the oaths, and she agreed to do so. Mayor Brown pointed out that all branches of government

have to work together to succeed and he expressed appreciation on behalf of the Town of Waynesville to Judge Forga for attending the meeting to administer the oaths to each board member.

Judge Forga administered the Oath of Office to each member. Family members attended to support each member. Once the board members had taken the Oaths of Office, the new Board was seated.

Organization of the New Board

Alderman Caldwell moved, seconded by Alderman Roberson, to nominate Alderman Greeley to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. Alderman Greeley accepted the nomination and the vote carried unanimously.

Appointments of Town Manager and Town Attorney

Alderman Roberson moved, seconded by Alderman Greeley to reappoint Attorney Woodrow Griffin to serve as the Town Attorney. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Caldwell moved, seconded by Alderman Roberson to reappoint Lee Galloway as Town Manager. The motion carried unanimously.

Appointment to Mountain Projects Community Action Agency's Board of Directors

Alderman Feichter has served on the Mountain Projects Community Action Agency's Board of Directors for a number of years. Executive Director Patsy Dowling has indicated that she would like to retain a member from a municipal governing body and requested that the Town of Waynesville appoint one of its members to the Board.

Mayor Brown said that he would be interested in serving on the Mountain Projects Board of Directors. Alderman Roberson moved, seconded by Alderman Caldwell to appoint Mayor Brown to serve on the Mountain Projects Board of Directors in the position formerly held by Alderman Feichter. The motion carried unanimously.

Budget Ordinance Amendment Admission Fee for Armory

During the past year, the Parks and Recreation Department has been in discussions about the development of expanded use of the Old Armory. A computer lab has been established there as well as an area with various games directed for the use of Senior Citizens. Town staff is trying to push this area toward more of a Senior Center with more activities and programs for the more mature segment of the population.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and Recreation Director Rhett Langston have suggested that a small fee of \$1.00 be charged for admission to the Old Armory. The proceeds from this fee would be used to help support the various programs and activities held at this facility and hopefully it will allow them to add new games and programs.

Alderman Roberson asked if this additional charge would apply if an individual had a membership to the Recreation Center. Manager Galloway said there would not be an additional charge at the Armory for those with memberships to the Recreation Center.

Alderman Roberson moved, seconded by Alderman Greeley to adopt an ordinance to amend the budget to add the \$1.00 Admission Fee for the Armory as recommended. The motion carried unanimously. (Ord. No. 4-12)

Signage for Route to Cherokee Position with the Department of Transportation

A few months ago, the County Commissioners of Jackson County submitted a request to the Town of Waynesville that it endorse a request to the Department of Transportation regarding signage on Route 23/74 directing motorists toward Cherokee. The request concerned the present signage at the Lake Junaluska Exit directing traffic to Cherokee through Maggie Valley on Route 19. The Jackson County Commissioners were seeking signage that would note that an alternative route to Cherokee would be to remain on Route 23-74, eventually exiting toward Cherokee on Route 441 North.

At the time the request was received, Board members discussed how the Town of Maggie Valley felt about the proposed signage. There was concern that the change in the signage might draw people away from Maggie Valley and send motorists through Sylva instead. The matter was then tabled until such time as Mayor Brown had an opportunity to communicate with the Mayor of Maggie Valley, Mr. Ron Desimone.

Mayor Brown has been in communications with Mayor Desimone, and the two mayors recently met with representatives of the Department of Transportation and the Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Brown has asked that the matter be returned to the Board's agenda for further consideration.

Alderman Roberson said he would support Maggie Valley's decision. Other Board Members agreed to support their neighboring town. Mayor Brown said the Cherokee Tribal is supportive of the new signage, on their website they give Waynesville as the direction to reach their destination. It is felt that Highway 19 is probably the least attractive way to travel to Cherokee and they are attempting to get those traveling to Cherokee to travel through Waynesville.

Alderman Freeman moved, seconded by Alderman Greeley, to support signage that includes Maggie Valley as an alternate route to Cherokee and to send a letter to the N. C. Department of Transportation to support this signage. The motion carried unanimously.

Downtown Waynesville Association Street Closing Requests for 2012

Each year, the Downtown Waynesville Association makes a formal written request for the closings of various streets and portions of streets to facilitate various events held in the Downtown area. In the past, the Town Board has expressed a desire that the Downtown Waynesville Association coordinate all of these street closing requests and submit a complete list

of the closings to the Board of Aldermen which must approve all closings. The Town has a working agreement with the Downtown Waynesville Association under which DWA agrees to oversee and coordinate these festivals, street dances and other events.

A list of the requested street closings for the various events and activities throughout the summer was presented to the Board. The list was quite similar to the events held in previous years with one change connected with Folkmoot. International Day is proposed to be moved from the 4th Saturday in July to the 3rd Saturday in July. This change will take some extra coordination with the Town's Law Enforcement and Public Works Personnel, and will necessitate a number of overtime hours compressed into one weekend. The new schedule would include the Folkmoot Parade on Friday, July 20, a street dance on the evening of that day and then the street closed on Saturday, July 21 for International Day. The new schedule is an attempt to eliminate the direct competition with the Bele Chere Festival in Asheville which is traditionally the last weekend of July.

Manager Galloway said the Haywood County Veterans Council is proposing to hold the Memorial Day Parade in Waynesville this year on Monday, May 28 at 11:00 a.m. with a ceremony held on the Courthouse lawn immediately afterwards. The parade was held in Canton last year and they would like to alternate each year between Waynesville and Canton. This would involve closing the street as the parade progresses. It was requested that this street closure be included in the list of closings.

Alderman Roberson asked about closing the street for the Main Street Mile event. Manager Galloway said he was not aware of any requests for this street closure, but he will follow up on the event.

Alderman Caldwell moved, seconded by Alderman Roberson, to authorize the street closings as requested by the Downtown Waynesville Association and to include the Memorial Day Parade on May 28. The motion carried unanimously.

Frog Level Association Street Closings

A letter was received from the Historic Frog Level Merchants' Association regarding the "Whole Bloomin' Thing Festival" for 2012. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, May 12, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. This is the tenth year of the "Whole Bloomin' Thing Festival" and it has been growing each year.

The requested street closings for 2012 are similar to those of the past few years, with Commerce Street closed between Panacea Coffee Shop and Depot Street for the hours of 5:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. In addition, the Association is requesting that Depot Street be closed during those same hours between the railroad tracks and Water Street. Throughout the time Commerce and Depot Streets are closed, traffic will be able to pass through the area by using Water Street, Charles Street and Boundary Street.

This street closing request has worked well over the past few years and town staff has worked with the Association to assure that proper signage is installed to help with the flow of traffic. Town staff endorsed the request.

Alderman Roberson moved, seconded by Alderman Caldwell to approve the street closing as requested. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Retreat

Manager Galloway said the Planning Retreat for the Board of Aldermen will be held at Laurel Ridge Country Club beginning at 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 17. Agenda books for the retreat were distributed to Board Members. No action was necessary.

Town Manager Search Process

Manager Galloway invited the Board to attend the assessor training for the Town Manager Search Process on Thursday, February 23 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Municipal Building. Lunch and dinner will be provided to the assessors on that date. On Friday lunch will be provided at 12:00 noon. Six candidates will be participating in the assessment centers. The Board of Aldermen will hold a special meeting on Friday, February 24 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

With no further business, Alderman Roberson moved, seconded by Alderman Caldwell to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Phyllis R. McClure
Town Clerk

Gavin A. Brown
Mayor