

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR SESSION MEETING
October 10, 2017

THE WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN held its regular meeting on Tuesday October 10, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. in the board room of Town Hall, 9 South Main Street, Waynesville, NC.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gavin Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Gavin Brown
Mayor Pro Tem Gary Caldwell
Alderman Julia Freeman
Alderman Jon Feichter
Alderman LeRoy Roberson

The following staff members were present:

Rob Hites, Town Manager
Bill Cannon, Town Attorney
Amie Owens, Assistant Town Manager
Eddie Ward, Town Clerk
Eddie Caldwell, Finance Director
Elizabeth Teague, Development Services Director

The following media representatives were present:

Becky Johnson – The Mountaineer
Cory Vaillancourt – Smoky Mountain News

1. Welcome /Calendar/Announcements

Mayor Gavin Brown welcomed everyone and reminded them of the following events on the calendar:

Saturday October 14 – Church Street Art and Craft Show 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Main Street and the Historic Preservation Commission Cemetery Tour – 4:00 p.m. – Greenhill Cemetery

Friday October 20 – 9th Annual Arctoberfest – 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – First United Methodist Church

Saturday October 21 – 29th Annual Apple Harvest Festival – 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Main Street

Monday October 23 – Haywood County Council of Government Meeting – Town of Waynesville hosting - 5:30p.m. – Wells Event Center

2. Adoption of Minutes

Alderman Jon Feichter made a motion, seconded by Alderman Gary Caldwell to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2017 regular meeting with one change –

the term dogs should be corrected in item F bullet point number 2. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Reading of Proclamation for National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Day - October 8, 2017

Mayor Brown read a Proclamation for National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Day for October 8, 2017. He asked everyone to remember Fallen Firefighters in the Town of Waynesville and across the nation.

Reading of Proclamation for Red Ribbon Week

Mayor Gavin Brown read a Proclamation declaring October 23rd – 31st 2017 as Red Ribbon Week. This Proclamation encourages Americans to commit to a drug free lifestyle, involvement in drug prevention and reduction efforts, and to wear a red ribbon to show their support.

B. PRESENTATION OF ELECTRIC RATE STUDY

4. Louis Davis – UTEC

Mr. Louis Davis stated that two years ago that he had been before the Board and presented numbers to show that Santee Cooper was best wholesale power supplier for the Town, and he still feels that today. He said that since that time, Duke Power had had issues with Coal Ash settlements, and had passed this on to their customers. If the Town had chosen Duke Power instead of Santee Cooper, the Town would have paid more than a million dollars over the life of the contract due to the Coal Ash settlement alone.

Jay Foster – UTEC

Mr. Jay Foster presented to the Board a power point that stated the key analysis steps for the comparison of electric power rates to assist with the Town setting its future power rates. This included historical sales and data, allocated costs between electric, water, and sewer departments, projections for wholesale power costs, and assets and budgets to rate classes.

Mr. Foster explained to the Board that the analysis proposes a 12% rate increase for all rate classes in order to remain competitive and maintain current service provision requirements such as equipment, labor and maintenance. The proposed increases would be separated into two 6% rate increases with the first increase in November 2017, and the second increase in June 2018. Mr. Foster noted that Duke Energy Progress filed for a 14.9% rate increase in June 2017. Graphs with residential rate comparisons, small commercial rate comparisons, large commercial rate comparisons and proposed industrial rates were explained to the Board. He noted that conservatism had been incorporated into the cost of the service study. He said there was also some uncertainty with the cost of the power supply agreement, and there will be some give and take with the cost of natural gas prices over the term of the agreement.

Mayor Brown told the Board that they had time to study the numbers presented, and Mr. Davis and Mr. Foster would be in contact with Manager Hites and Finance Director Eddie Caldwell, and would bring a final recommendation back to the Board.

C. NEW BUSINESS

5. Presentation of Comprehensive Plan

- Elizabeth Teague, Development Services Director

Elizabeth Teague, Development Services Director said she wanted to give the Board a status report on the approach staff would like to take to begin the Comprehensive Plan update, and she asked for feedback and any guidance the Board may have. Ms. Teague told the Board that the Town is required by State Statutes to have a plan that lays out a vision for the community and establishes where growth should occur, and under what circumstances. Ms. Teague said that Waynesville had a great comprehensive plan, but that it is time now to update that plan with a long view into the future (25 years) to determine what trends the Town needs to respond to.

At the 2014 Board Retreat, several key issues were identified that would need to be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan. They included an infrastructure update with a vision for future development, to control growth without stifling positive growth, expansion of MSD areas to Hazelwood, Frog Level, and South Main Street, and sustainable economic growth. Ms. Teague said her goal for the plan was to build from what is good and working well, identify current and future needs, meet social, environmental and economic needs, and most of all be true to Waynesville.

Ms. Teague presented the groundwork for starting the update to the Plan. She stated one of the first steps is to form an Adhoc Committee of key representatives that would be appointed by the Board. There would be public involvement with meetings, surveys, the Town website, and social media. Consultants would be used to develop content, maps and format. Transparency would be a big factor in this process by communication, minutes and record keeping, and public review of documents.

Funding for the Comprehensive Plan update will be spread out over six to eight fiscal quarters. A paid consultant/firm would be hired to develop data and maps of current and projected conditions, facilitate public involvement and input, review and recommend policies, procedures, and regulations. Develop document drafts for review and approval, and overall management of the process. Ms. Teague said she would like to possibly have an RFP issued with responses due in November 2017. She set an estimated project start date of January 2018, with a draft plan in place by May 2018 is possible. The estimated cost of the update is \$50,000.00 over two years, starting with \$25,000.00 allocated for FY 17-18.

D CONTINUING BUSINESS

6. An Ordinance to Suspend the Town of Waynesville Ordinance related to Animals at Festivals, Street Fairs, and Parades.

Mayor Brown said that the Public Hearing had been held at the September 12, 2017 Board meeting concerning an Ordinance to allow animals at Festivals, Street Fairs, and Parades in the Town. The item was tabled and the Board decided to not enforce the current Ordinance through the end of the year as a test to gain additional public input and for data collection. Town Attorney Bill Cannon felt that an Ordinance to suspend the current Ordinance for ninety (90) days and allow animals was in order.

A motion was made by Alderman Jon Feichter, seconded by Alderman Gary Caldwell to un-table the item of Animals at Festivals, Street Fairs, and Parades. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderman Julia Freeman, seconded by Alderman LeRoy Roberson to adopt the Ordinance No. 16-17 to suspend the Town of Waynesville ordinance related to animals at Festivals, Street Fairs, and Parades. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Request for donation for University Participant (Up) program and discussion of potential partnering opportunities.

- Amie Owens, Assistant Manager

Dr. Kelly Kelley PhD, co-director of the University Participant Program (UP), had presented this item at the September 26th regular meeting of the Board of Alderman meeting. This is a program providing an inclusive living and learning experience for college-aged persons with intellectual disabilities. At that meeting, Mayor Brown asked Assistant Manager Amie Owens to research potential ways for the Town to partner with the UP program in the future. Assistant Manager Owens said at this time a donation of \$500.00 is recommended to assist in tuition offset for next semester for one student. As a non-profit, the UP program is eligible to be an applicant in the special appropriations for the Town of Waynesville as part of the budget process. Dr. Kelley will be encouraged to apply in February 2018.

Alderman Gary Caldwell, seconded by Alderman Julia Freeman, to approve a donation of \$500.00 to the University Participant program at Western Carolina University as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

8. Manager's report

Manager Hites had nothing to report.

9. Attorney's Report

Town Attorney Cannon had nothing to report.

F. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND BOARD

The Mayor and Staff had nothing to report.

G CALL ON THE AUDIENCE

No one addressed the board.

H. ADJOURN

With no further business, Alderman Gary Caldwell made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jon Feichter, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST

Gavin Brown, Mayor

Eddie Ward, Town Clerk

Rob Hites, Town Manager