

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
MAY 9, 2000
TUESDAY - 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

The Board of Aldermen held a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 9, 2000. 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 Michael Bonfoey. Mayor Foy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of April 25, 2000

Alderman Caldwell moved, seconded by Alderman Feichter to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2000 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing - Historic Landmark Designation - "Grady Honeycutt Building" - 313 Depot Street

Ronnie and Carol James have requested that their property, the Grady Honeycutt Building located at 313 Depot Street, be added to the Local Historic Landmarks List. At one time, this property was on the Town's "top ten" list of structures to be demolished; however, during the late summer of 1999, Mr. and Mrs. James came into full ownership of the property and have made extensive improvements to the structure.

Under the Town's ordinances, in order for a structure to be placed on the Local Historic Landmarks List, the Historic Preservation Commission must review the request, conduct a public hearing and make recommendation to the Board of Aldermen on the benefit of having the property on the Local List. It is also required that the Board of Aldermen conduct a public hearing on the request, and if it sees fit to do so, adopt an ordinance adding the property to the Local Historic Landmarks List.

Town Attorney Bonfoey opened the public hearing.

Ronnie James said that he and his wife, Carol, have been working on the project of renovating the structure for the past several months and have made a lot of progress. During the renovation process, Mr. James said that they have been able to salvage and refinish original wormy chestnut used in the structure. Mr. James said that he understood that there was a visibility problem with the bannisters on the handicapped ramp located on the Depot Street side of the building. He said since learning of this safety issue, those bannisters have been removed and he also plans to remove the ramp. He stated that he was unaware that this was creating a visibility problem when exiting Chestnut Park Drive onto Depot Street, he simply was installing a handicapped ramp as required by the Building Inspector. He said that he will work with the Building Inspector to see that the ramp is relocated to a safe location and built to the existing sidewalk.

Mr. James thanked the Board of Aldermen for their indulgence while he has been working on this project.

Ruth Caldwell, 47 Chestnut Park Drive, said that she supports the building being added to the Local Landmarks Listing, adding that before it was restored the building was in such a dilapidated condition that she was always afraid it would burn down. Ms. Caldwell said that she was concerned with the bannisters on the handicapped ramp in front of the building and the visionary obstacle they created to drivers and this would also be true if shrubbery or other plantings were located at the front of the building. Mr. James said that he did not plan to place anything in front of the building which would create an obstruction and he did not realize that the bannisters created a problem until it was brought to his attention.

Mib Medford brought a drawing of the Grady Honeycutt building which was done in 1940 by John Taylor, a surveyor in Waynesville at that time. The drawing did not show any porches on the building. Ms. Medford added that Rufus Carswell's father built this building at the turn of the Century. Rufus Carswell, who was born in 1914, could tell you everything that went on in the building, since his family lived in the back of the building.

Ron Fleenor, a member of the Historical Preservation Commission, said that according to the 1916 Sanborne Map, there were porches, etc., on the building which have been replaced by Mr. and Mrs. James. Mr. Fleenor said that the Historical Preservation Commission voted unanimously to place the building on the Historic Landmarks Listing.

No one else spoke; Attorney Bonfoey closed the public hearing.

Alderman Brown moved, seconded by Alderman Feichter, to adopt an ordinance granting the Grady Honeycutt Building, located at 313 Depot Street and owned by Ronnie and Carol James, the designation of a Local Historic Landmark. The motion carried unanimously. (Ord. No. 9-00)

Appointments/Reappointments to the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment

There are a number of terms on the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment which will expire at the end of May. All members indicate that they would be interested in continuing to serve on these Boards, and all are very dedicated members. It is recommended that they be reappointed for another three (3) year term to expire May 31, 2003. Those members who live in the extraterritorial areas are appointed by the Haywood County Board of Commissioners and require a recommendation by the Board of Aldermen.

Planning Board

Lee Bouknight
Emily Mashburn (extraterritorial member)
Robert Moody (extraterritorial member)

Board of Adjustment

Mike Erwin
Ken Stahl
York Painter (extraterritorial member)
Boyd Medford (extraterritorial member)

Alderman Moore moved, seconded by Alderman Caldwell, to reappoint Lee Bouknight to the Planning Board and Mike Erwin and Ken Stahl to the Board of Adjustment and to recommend to the Haywood County Board of Commissioners the reappointment of extraterritorial Planning Board members Emily Mashburn and Robert Moody and extraterritorial Board of Adjustment members York Painter and Boyd Medford. Terms for those appointments will expire May 31, 2003. The

motion carried unanimously.

Miller Street Parking

Town Manager Galloway said that the Town has become aware of a few problems with traffic along Miller Street, which is a one-way street, between Main and Montgomery Streets. One problem concerns the present design of parking, with vehicles having to park at 90 degrees to the street. The 90 degree parking makes it much more difficult to access the parking spaces and more difficult when trying to back out to exit the area. It would be much easier for motorists and much safer too, if the parking spaces were angled. The Downtown Waynesville Association has reviewed a proposal submitted by Public Works Director Fred Baker and agree, even with the loss of five (5) parking spaces that angled parking is needed in this area. The proposal allows two (2) handicapped spaces and 34 regular parking spaces

All of the Aldermen agreed that this proposal is much better than the present parking. Alderman Brown said that Wall Street is another area in need of parking improvements. Town Manager Galloway said that funds are being proposed in next year's budget for improvements on Wall Street.

Alderman Brown moved, seconded by Alderman Caldwell, to approve the proposal submitted by Public Works Director Fred Baker to allow angled parking on Miller Street between Main and Montgomery Streets as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

2000 Community Development Block Grant Citizens Participation Committee

Governor Jim Hunt recently notified the Town that it would receive a \$350,000 Community Development Block Grant. The N.C. Division of Community Assistance placed several conditions on the grant agreement. One condition requires the Board of Aldermen to appoint a Citizens Participation Committee, which will be involved in the project design, program complaints, program amendments, budget amendments and selection of applicants. Eight people have been contacted and agree to serve on the Committee as follows:

Lola Vee Ledford-----Grant Recipient	Evelyn Russell-----Grant Recipient
Lucille Blaylock-----Non-Grant Recipient	Paul Tapp-----Mtn. Projects Rep.
Millie Vickery-----Grant Recipient	John Swift-----Town Representative
Jack E. Smith-----Non-Grant Recipient	Kenneth Moore-----Town Representative

Alderman Feichter moved, seconded by Alderman Caldwell, to approve the list of members to serve on the CDBG Citizens Participation Committee as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Request From Fire Department

Mike Warren, Captain with the Waynesville Fire Department, attended the meeting on behalf of Fire Chief Bill Fowler to request permission to purchase a Ford cab and chassis to be used as a four-wheel drive truck to access brush fires. The present brush truck is a 1979 model. The Fire Chief has requested this new truck in the 2000-2001 budget; however, the Fire Department is underspent in the current year's budget by approximately \$40,000. Chief Fowler estimates that the cost of the cab and chassis should be in the range of \$30,000 and he is also requesting the purchase of a radio for

approximately \$2,000.

Captain Warren said that the new unit will have a rust resistant aluminum bed and a polypropylene tank. The equipment is needed to help fight fires in some of the steeper terrain in Waynesville's fire district since the equipment is lightweight. It can also be used in fighting house fires.

Alderman Feichter commended the Fire Department for spending taxpayer's money carefully and managing to have money left at the end of a fiscal year.

Alderman Caldwell moved, seconded by Alderman Feichter, to approve the request by the Fire Department to purchase the cab and chassis for the new brush truck. The motion carried unanimously.

Request by Ron Fleenor for Political Sign Regulations

Ron Fleenor felt that restrictions were needed regarding political signs in Waynesville, possibly limiting the number of signs or regulating where they may be placed.

Alderman Feichter said that a constituent came to her and asked that the Town prohibit political signs. Attorney Bonfoey said that the Town does not have authority to regulate the message on signs where those signs are permitted. Manager Galloway said in the State of Georgia there were restrictions prohibiting signs within the right-of-way. Alderman Brown said the Town of Canton requires a deposit in order to post signs and that deposit is refunded once all the signs are removed. Alderman Moore said that the Town of Hazelwood also required a deposit for yard sale signs.

Alderman Feichter pointed out that some signs put up during the May Primary will probably remain up until the election in November, and by that time they will be worn and ragged. Roscoe Wells said that he understood that signs cannot be placed on utility poles or within the right-of-way. Alderman Brown said that the North Carolina Department of Transportation only has control from ditch line to ditch line. Town Manager Galloway suggested that letters be sent to those individuals running for local elections, informing them of any regulations regarding political signs.

It was the feeling of the Board that political signs are necessary, although other means of advertisements are available. Rick Lee pointed out that those ads can be quite expensive, adding that it could cost approximately \$8,500 to send mail to every Registered Democrat within the 52nd District. The Board of Aldermen agreed that political signs, costing approximately \$1 each are a much less expensive means of advertising than ads purchased in newspapers, etc.

Mib Medford asked that the Town find some way to enforce the ordinance to prohibit the placement of signs on utility poles. Ms. Medford said that this is a constant problem in Waynesville and that she and her husband are continually removing signs from utility poles.

Closed Session to Discuss Legal Matter

Alderman Moore moved, seconded by Alderman Caldwell, to adjourn to closed session at 7:45 p.m. Alderman Moore moved, seconded by Alderman Brown, to return to regular session at 8:30 p.m. Both motions carried unanimously. No action was taken.

Distribution of the 2000-2001 Annual Budget - Budget Workshop

Town Manager Lee Galloway and Finance Director Eddie Caldwell distributed copies of the proposed budget to the Board. Included in the \$19,571,788 budget proposal is a five (5) cent tax increase, 5% increase in sewer rates, an electric rate adjustment for small commercial customers using demand meters and there is a 10% proposed increase in the Health Insurance for the Town's employees, which amounts to \$60,000. Several projects are included in this budget, including \$45,000 for a land use plan, \$75,000 for a skateboard park, and \$35,000 contingency for a \$350,000 Community Development Block Grant.

Town Manager Galloway said that it has been a pleasure working with Finance Director Eddie Caldwell and his staff on the budget during the past seven years with the Town. Manager Galloway credited Mr. Caldwell for a large amount of the extensive effort and work put into the budget.

Alderman Brown moved, seconded by Alderman Feichter, to call a special meeting on Monday, May 15, at 4:00 p.m. at the Town Hall for a Budget Workshop. The motion carried unanimously.

Comments by Aldermen

Alderman Caldwell asked that the road be patched where a rock wall was recently built on Woodland Drive at the East Waynesville Baptist Church. Manager Galloway will look into the matter.

Alderman Caldwell said that he spoke with Deputy Jimmy Parton with the Haywood County Sheriff's Department, on behalf of the Lion's Club, who said that the water pressure at the Horse Ring on Vance Street was inadequate. Manager Galloway said that he had already spoken with Deputy Parton regarding the inadequate water pressure and a work order has been issued.

Mayor Foy reported that he and Canton Mayor Pat Smathers were invited to take a ride on the Great Smoky Mountain Railway. Mayor Foy said that the new owner, Mr. Slagle, would love to bring the Railway to Canton, however, this would need to be worked out with Norfolk Southern.

Adjournment

With no further business, Alderman Brown moved, seconded by Alderman Moore, to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Phyllis R. McClure
Town Clerk

Henry B. Foy
Mayor