

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
FEBRUARY 12, 2002
TUESDAY - 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

The Board of Aldermen held a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 12, 2002. 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 January 16, 22 and 29, 2002

Alderman Caldwell moved, seconded by Alderman Feichter, to approve the minutes of the January 16, 22 and 29 meetings as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Request by Downtown Waynesville Association for Street Closings

A request was received from the Downtown Waynesville Association to approve the closing of Main Street from Church to Depot Streets between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on December 7 and 14, 2002. This is for the "Night Before Christmas" programs when the KARE luminaries line the streets. The request for approval of this street closing is early since the event is published in several local and state publications in their annual calendars.

Mayor Foy said having the event for two nights is very worthwhile. Alderman Caldwell pointed out that the event helps KARE. Alderman Feichter said this event is good for the Town of Waynesville and the public seems to enjoy it. Alderman Feichter asked if the Town ever received complaints regarding the street closings. Manager Galloway said he was not aware of any complaints.

Alderman Feichter moved, seconded by Alderman Moore, to approve the request to close Main Street from Church to Depot Streets between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on December 7 and 14, 2002. The motion carried unanimously.

Manager's Report on Frozen Funds in 2001-2002 Budget

Town Manager Galloway said when he was in Raleigh this past Wednesday, he learned that the Governor plans to freeze additional funds. This year, the reimbursements again will be frozen as well as the franchise tax, inventory reimbursement and the beer and wine tax. This would mean that approximately \$350,000 in reimbursements for the Town of Waynesville would be frozen for this fiscal year. Manager Galloway said the NC League of Municipalities has some serious questions about the Governor's legal ability to freeze the franchise tax and they plan to meet with the Governor on Wednesday. There is also a projection that this same thing could happen again next year. This

year, the State of North Carolina is about one billion dollars short in their budget and this is a serious problem, leaving the Governor with some tough decisions to make.

Manager Galloway said last year the Board went into the budget with \$342,000 frozen. In light of this new information he is recommending that \$212,600 be released and \$139,400 remain frozen at this time. Manager Galloway said this is the first time in 29 years that he has felt that the Board may need to adopt an interim budget until we see what the State plans to do to resolve their problems. This year there will be other considerations such as the tax revaluation and a possible 26% increase in health insurance premiums for the Town's employees. These issues will be discussed with the Town's Department Heads at their staff meeting on Wednesday. Manager Galloway said when the State announced that funds would be frozen last year the Department Heads "tightened down" on their spending and they will do the same thing this year. Manager Galloway said the Town's Department Heads are very good stewards of the Town's money and have made it possible for the Town's funds to increase over the past several years.

Finance Director Eddie Caldwell presented a cash report for the period ending January 31, 2002 which shows that the Town is in a strong cash position at this time and all the departments in the Town are running under budget.

Alderman Feichter said she liked the method used to prepare the budget by freezing funds under these circumstances.

Alderman Brown moved, seconded by Alderman Moore, to release \$212,600 and keep \$139,400 frozen as recommended. The motion carried unanimously.

Quarterly Report - Community Development Block Grant

As required by the conditions of the Community Development Block Grant, Town Staff must provide a quarterly report on the progress made with the project. This report reflects the period of the 2001 calendar year. During that time period four homes have been addressed. The four homes are owner occupied, usually single individuals, primarily elderly and in all cases either in the low or very low income brackets.

No action was necessary.

211th MP Co. Home Front Support Group

Ms. Clarissa Kuehn and Ms. Rita Phillips attended the meeting to discuss support from the Town of Waynesville for the 211th MP Company which was recently called up for active duty in the war against terrorism now underway in the United States and the World. Ms. Kuehn said her son, Sgt. David Kuehn served in Desert Storm and is currently serving in the war against terrorism. While serving in Desert Shield/Desert Storm their family lived in Hendersonville and the residents displayed yellow ribbons with the soldier's names on the utility poles. When the war was over, the soldiers took their ribbons down. Ms. Kuehn requested permission to attach yellow bows on the main street lamp posts with names of the 106 deployed soldiers of the 211th MP Company from

Clyde. When the soldiers return they can physically remove their own bow. She also requested that the Town of Waynsville print and display signs and banners of support in Waynesville.

Ms. Kuehn invited the Board Members to attend the meetings of the 211th MP Family Readiness Group on the 2nd Sunday of each month at the Armory. She thanked the Board for their consideration of her requests.

Board members felt that this would be a nice gesture. Alderman Caldwell said he would take responsibility for the banner. Mayor Foy added that it would be nice to display stickers in the store windows with United States flags to show support for the 211th Unit.

Alderman Moore moved, seconded by Alderman Feichter to grant permission to attach yellow ribbons on the main street lamp posts as requested. The motion carried unanimously.

Proposal for Consulting Services Electrical Operations

At the first meeting in January, the Board heard from Kevin O'Donnell, an electrical consultant who owns NOVA Energy Consultants, Inc. He was offering to provide a variety of services related to the electrical system, including negotiating for the power supply agreement which expires in 2004. Mr. O'Donnell has offered these services at a cost of \$2,500 per quarter for a period of about three (3) years. In 1994 the Town dealt with Andy Givens who was with Booth and Associates at that time. Mr. Givens did a good job for the Town and Public Works Director Fred Baker and Manager Galloway felt that it would be a good idea to get a proposal from Mr. Givens as well. A proposal was submitted by Mr. Givens for a fee of \$25,000 for a seven-month period. Part of NOVA Energy Consultants proposal included industrial development.

Alderman Caldwell moved, seconded by Alderman Feichter, to enter into an agreement with NOVA Energy Consultants, Inc., effective immediately. The motion carried unanimously. (Cont. No. 3-02).

Alderman Brown - Haywood County to Meet With Local Government Commission

Alderman Brown reported that Haywood County plans to meet with the Local Government Commission on Friday, February 15 regarding the Justice Center project.

Discussion Regarding County Appointments to Board of Adjustment and Planning Board

Mayor Foy said the Town Board of Aldermen has always recommended appointments to Haywood County for the Board of Adjustment and Planning Boards. Those recommendations have always been endorsed by Haywood County except this year. An article appeared in the Enterprise Mountaineer which contained a quote from one of the newly appointed members by Haywood County which made it seem that the Town was not giving proper representation in those areas in the one mile extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) of Waynesville. Alderman Feichter added that she felt that the people who serve in those areas in the ETJ have always been given the same opportunity and respect as other members and she does not feel that the quote was a fair one.

Manager Galloway said based on the requirements of State Law, the Town has more representation from the ETJ area than the law requires.

It was pointed out that the Town has always avoided making political appointments. Roscoe Wells said he attended Haywood County's meeting when these appointments were made and explained that Haywood County accepts applications for those persons interested in appointment to their various Boards. Alderman Feichter and other Board Members agreed that they did not have a problem with the procedure used by Haywood County for Board appointments, but would like for people to know that the ETJ is well represented, as well as the area inside the corporate limits.

WNC Caucus Meeting - February 28

Town Manager Galloway said the reception and dinner for the WNC Caucus will be held on Thursday, February 28.

Adjournment

With no further business, Alderman Caldwell 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