

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
APRIL 8, 2003
TUESDAY - 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

The Board of Aldermen held a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2003. 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, Town Attorney Michael Bonfoey and Code Enforcement Officer Jason Rogers. Mayor Foy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of March 25, 2003

Alderman Caldwell moved, seconded by Alderman Feichter, to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2003 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Regarding Ordinance Regulating the Operation and Maintenance of Automobile Graveyards, Repair Shops and Other Places

At the Board's Annual Retreat on February 28, 2003, Town Attorney Michael Bonfoey presented an extensive report on his research into issues dealing with the Board's ability and desire to assure the health, safety and/or welfare of the citizens of the community.

Attorney Bonfoey said the purpose of this ordinance is to prevent the collection and storage of junk, debris, etc., in Waynesville, which will eliminate many places where mosquitos and rodents breed. What the ordinance will do is eventually eliminate any new uses and non conforming uses will be required to be screened and fenced to protect the public. The ordinance also attempts to plug the loophole in the junked vehicle ordinance currently experienced in the Town which is based on State Law.

There was discussion regarding the ordinance and several recommended changes were made. The proposed ordinance will be discussed again at a later time. No action was taken.

Ralph Ferguson - Improvements to West Waynesville

Ralph Ferguson attended the meeting to discuss improvements which are needed in the West Waynesville area. Mr. Ferguson thanked the Board for allowing him to attend the meeting to make some complaints regarding the West Waynesville area. Mr. Ferguson said he was a member of the Haywood County Political Action Group which now consists of 175 members. This is a group of concerned citizens who would like to see some things done to better the Waynesville and Haywood County areas. Some of the group's concerns were drainage, new sidewalks, maintenance of existing

sidewalks, erection of a new “Welcome to Waynesville” sign, and trees, flowers and general beautification similar to what has been done in other parts of Town.

Mayor Foy said he appreciated the issues brought to the Board’s attention and said that the points were well taken. Mayor Foy added that plans to improve this area were drawn several years ago. Alderman Brown pointed out that South Main Street is a state road and improvements by the Town would need to be coordinated with their plans. Otherwise, if the Town spent taxpayers money before the State widened the road, all the Town’s work would have to be torn out. This is not how the Board wants to spend taxpayer’s dollars. Town Manager Galloway said this portion of South Main Street has been a #1 priority of the Board for the past several years and each year the Board makes a request to DOT that these improvements be made. Attorney Bonfoey said 4 - 5 years ago easements were prepared for the installation of sidewalks in this area. However, very few property owners were willing to sign. Alderman Brown asked if the group would be willing to approach the other property owners to have them sign easements. Mr. Ferguson said they would and that the group would also be willing to have the Town condemn those properties where easements are needed if the property owners would not sign an easement.

Mayor Foy read a letter sent to the NC Department of Transportation in November 2002 requesting that they include this project. The DOT has this project on their study list now. Next October it should be placed on their Transportation Improvement Plan Schedule. Mayor Foy added that the Board has been making this request for the past nine years. He pointed out that a portion of the drainage issue was taken care of recently and there are plans to make improvements to the Hendricks Street bridge.

Ralph Ferguson asked if the Town could have their workers remove the dirt from the sidewalk and have a general cleanup of the West Waynesville area. He also asked if the Board would consider making improvements to this area in phases.

Mr. Leatherwood asked if the Town could get the cars off the sidewalk along Country Club Drive and pick up the brush more often. Alderman Feichter said the Town’s crews have been overwhelmed with brush pickup all over Town after the recent snowstorm and the dirt on the sidewalk in the picture provided by Mr. Ferguson was caused by a gravel driveway. This dirt and gravel washes onto the sidewalk every time it rains. Inmates with the NC Department of Corrections have cleaned up these sidewalks numerous times.

Ralph Ferguson said there was a cane patch at the intersection of Balsam Drive and south Main Street which was leaning toward the road and he asked if the Town would see if there was anything they could do about it.

No action was taken.

Charles Miller - Cutting Timber on Watershed

Charles Miller attended the meeting to discuss cutting timber on the Town’s watershed property. Mr. Miller said he represented the Haywood County Political Action Group. He said numerous

concerned citizens have contacted his organization after reading an article in The Enterprise Mountaineer on March 17, 2003 about cutting timber on the watershed. Mr. Miller said he was somewhat confused by the article.

Some of the groups concerns were damage that road building and log skidders used in timbering can cause. He remembers the destruction and red clay mud four feet deep in the upper end of the lake after the timber was cut in Cherry Cove. He said the citizens realize how the flora is destroyed when you hook a log to a skidder and drag it cutting away the topsoil, leaving a ditch and after this is done it is impossible to keep silt from washing from these steep mountains into the lake. When aged or diseased trees are removed many animals and birds dens and nests are destroyed. When timber is cut the ground loses the ability to hold water and there is a reduction of oxygen. Mr. Miller said these are some of the concerns of the citizens and they do not want any timber cutting on their watershed. He asked that the Board take time to do some serious thinking before they make any decision that could affect one of the best watersheds in the nation.

Manager Galloway said it was the intent of the Town to place the entire watershed under a conservation easement. A portion of the area (690 acres) would be under a “forever wild easement” which would not allow any timber logging of any type. Mayor Foy said the Town has worked with the Forestry Department of Western Carolina University. They have completed an extensive study which includes mapping the watershed and its roads and identifying soil types in the watershed. Manager Galloway added that the watershed property has been logged over the years and is still the best watershed.

Mr. Miller had several questions and concerns regarding the watershed property. He asked if the area would be logged by regular methods or helicopter? How many acres are to be logged and where are they located? Has anyone ever seen a select cut being done? How many Board Members are familiar with the watershed? Mr. Miller said he was one of a group of volunteers who secretly went in the watershed and worked for about one week several years ago clearing a road to get to the Parkway property. One of the reasons he knows so much about the area is because he has been in the watershed area time and time again. He asked if anyone has ever seen the oil, antifreeze, etc., dripping from logging equipment, chain saws, etc. Mr. Miller felt that there is no way to monitor logging. In discussing this issue with others he has found two people who are in favor of this activity.

Alderman Brown said he understood that in Asheville they did not allow any type of logging on their watershed. By not allowing any type of logging the tree cover was so thick that it did not allow water to hit the ground and provide water for their watershed.

Mr. Miller said Canton has almost destroyed their watershed from too much cutting.

Ralph Ferguson asked if money was the reason that the Town wanted to cut the timber. Alderman Brown said the Town wanted to provide a good water system. If cutting timber on the watershed can be done without damaging the watershed and would provide income for the Town it should be done. However, money is not a driving issue. Alderman Brown added that the Board and the citizens of Waynesville all want to protect the watershed. It is one of Waynesville’s most valuable assets and has also been a controversial one. Board Members have even been voted out of office for purchasing

property for the watershed. A public hearing may be scheduled for May 13, 2003 regarding the proposed watershed conservation easement.

No action was taken.

Minor Subdivision - Country Club Real Estate of WNC, Inc.

Country Club Real Estate of WNC, Inc. is subdividing a tract of land on Hickory Drive to create a .779 acre lot. The new lot has public water and sewer available and it meets or exceeds Town standards. Town staff recommends approval of the plat with the following conditions:

1. Show overall tract boundaries;
2. Revise plat to show 3 lot subdivision;
3. Locate last manhole on sewer line;
4. Restore blowoff device to end of water line.

Alderman Brown moved, seconded by Alderman Feichter, to approve the minor subdivision as presented subject to the recommended conditions. The motion carried unanimously.

United States Fire Administration Grant Police/Fire Departments

On Tuesday, April 1, 2003, Manager Galloway said the Town learned that the United States Fire Administration has \$750,000,000 in the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program available as a result of the terrorist attacks on our country. Part of these grant funds may be used to secure communications equipment, systems and training.

In the 2002-2003 Town budget, funds were allocated for the purchase of a new radio console to be shared by the Fire and Police Departments, and the budget for each of those departments was making a contribution to the expense of this console. In addition, the Board had allocated money for the purchase of base radios so that the Police Department could be in direct contact with the Fire Department. At the present time, the two departments are on a different radio frequency.

Manager Galloway said these purchases were delayed due to the freeze on the Town's budget for much of the current fiscal year. Now that the Town has been made aware of the availability of these grant funds, town staff would like to make application to the U. S. Fire Administration for financial aid to purchase these items.

Manager Galloway said the total project cost is \$95,486. The grant being applied for is \$85,938 and the Town would pay approximately 10%. This money is included in the budget.

Alderman Moore moved, seconded by Alderman Caldwell, to approve the filing of the grant application as requested. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution First Union Depository Authorization

There is an account at First Union National Bank for which the Town is now charged a \$15 monthly fee. This came about due to the interest rate falling to its present low rate. The Finance Department has discovered a different manner of handling this by setting up a new account which has no monthly fee. In order to do this, the Bank requires authorization for the signatures of Eddie Caldwell, Finance Director and Lee Galloway, Town Manager, on the public funds savings account cards.

Alderman Moore moved, seconded by Alderman Feichter, to adopt a resolution to establish the new account at First Union and authorize the signature cards for Finance Director Eddie Caldwell and Town Manager Lee Galloway. The motion carried unanimously. (Res. No. 6-03)

Mib Medford - Compliments Regarding the Beauty of Waynesville

Mib Medford said she hoped the Board has noticed the many trees in Waynesville which have been obtained from grants, garden clubs, etc., and how many people have been involved in getting these trees planted and taking care of them. She said that Town Planner Andrew Powell has worked very hard with this project. The Town has provided water, mulch, etc., and the trees look very good. She asked everyone to drive by and take a look at the flowers in bloom at the Welcome to Waynesville sign on Walnut Street. Ms. Medford thanked the Board for all that they do. No action was necessary.

Adjournment

With no further business, Alderman Moore, moved, seconded by Alderman Brown, to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Phyllis R. McClure
Town Clerk

Henry B. Foy
Mayor