

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
TOWN HALL
APRIL 24, 2007
TUESDAY - 7:00 P.M.

The Board of Aldermen held a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 24, 2007. 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 Woodrow Griffin. Mayor Foy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Request for Funding Haywood County Schools Foundation

Haywood County Schools Foundation Representatives Pat Owen, President Elect, and Steve Brown attended the meeting to request funding for some special events being staged during the month of May. These events are an attempt to raise money to assist with the recruitment and retention of teachers for the public school system in Haywood County. Ms. Owen said smaller counties such as Haywood and Henderson lose a number of teachers each year to larger counties such as Buncombe. In most cases these larger counties offer better pay, tuition and relocation packages. In 2000 there was a 3% turnover of teachers in Haywood County. This number has increased to 10% presently. Of the 612 teachers currently in Haywood County, 117 are eligible for retirement with 25 or more years of service. 53% of the administrators within the school system can retire within the next five (5) years.

Steve Brown said lottery money distribution for the school systems in North Carolina is determined by a formula that is unfair to the Western North Carolina Counties. Mr. Brown said a lot of teachers in Haywood County come here from Florida.

Ms. Owen said Blue Ridge Paper has contracted with Britney Christian, national spokesperson for the Milk Rocks Campaign, to perform at two concerts, May 10 and 11, 2007. This is also an effort to promote nutrition within the school system and to promote the use of milk cartons made by Blue Ridge Paper. Proceeds from this event will go to the Schools Foundation and it is hoped that \$50,000 can be raised by this concert. Tickets will be sold at \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Blue Ridge Paper has contacted vendors to sponsor this event. Mr. Brown said the Towns of Maggie Valley and Clyde have contributed \$500 each and the Town of Canton contributed \$2,500. Sponsorship from the Town of Waynesville was also requested.

Alderman Gavin Brown said one of the goals is to bring teachers to this area and get them located in the community. This is a desirable area in which to live and most teachers are happy to live here even if it means a reduction in salary. Manager Galloway pointed out that the Town of Waynesville and other employers struggle with the same issues of keeping key employees in their organizations.

Alderman Brown moved, seconded by Alderman Caldwell, to approve a contribution by the Town of Waynesville in the amount of \$2,500 for the Haywood County Schools Foundation. The motion carried unanimously.

Request by Sarge's For Annual Downtown Dog Walk - August 11, 2007

SARGE'S Animal Rescue Foundation has submitted a request to stage their 2nd Annual Downtown Dog Walk on Saturday, August 11, 2007. Representatives of the group appeared before the Town Board in 2006 to request permission for their first dog walk, and it went smoothly.

This year's walk begins at 10:00 a.m., enters Depot Street from the courthouse lawn, turns left onto Montgomery, left onto Church Street and left onto Main Street to return to the courthouse. Representatives of the organization have been in contact with the Waynesville Police Department to coordinate that department's assistance with traffic control during the dog walk. Following the dog walk, there will be contests and games on the courthouse lawn until the event concludes around 1:00 p.m.

Alderman Feichter moved, seconded by Alderman Moore, to approve the request by SARGE'S Animal Rescue Foundation for August 11, 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

Downtown Waynesville Association 2007 Street Closing Requests

A list of street closings requests was submitted by the Downtown Waynesville Association for 2007. The request submitted by Ms. Buffy Messer, the new Executive Director of DWA, is similar to what has been requested the past few years. The Town has always been able to successfully accommodate these requests and Manager Galloway said that the requests can be accommodated in 2007 as well.

An additional request was submitted concerning the Apple Harvest Festival. CeCe Hips, Executive Director of the Haywood County Chamber of Commerce, has requested that the Apple Harvest Festival be expanded to a two-day event, to include Sunday as well as Saturday. This would mean that Main Street would be closed from 9:00 p.m. on Friday, October 19, until 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 21. The Downtown Waynesville Association expressed concerns regarding a move to a two-day event. There are some additional concerns of the Town Staff beyond those of DWA, and Manager Galloway said he could not endorse the request of the Chamber to close the street for two days.

Alderman Feichter said she had spoken with Chamber representatives last year and felt that closing Main Street for two days would create problems. Manager Galloway said in other communities NCDOT is pretty rigid. Our district has not required as much of Waynesville and he did not want to hurt Waynesville's relationship with NCDOT. Alderman Brown said he was comfortable with what has been done in the past, but was hesitant about expanding this to closing one of NCDOT's streets for longer than one day. Alderman Moore suggested that it may be time to consider moving some festivals off of Main Street and onto Town maintained streets. Alderman Feichter pointed out that large festivals create parking issues. The City of Asheville limits downtown parking during festivals and shuttles the public into the downtown area from other areas. Alderman Brown moved,

seconded by Alderman Caldwell, to approve the list of streets closings as submitted by the Downtown Waynesville Association, with the exception that Main Street will only be closed for one day for the Apple Festival. The motion carried unanimously.

Purchasing Policy and Procedure Manual

A proposed Purchasing Policy and Procedure Manual was presented to the Board for their review. Manager Galloway said this policy has been under development for some time. While some of it is based upon the policies and procedures of other localities and State regulations, much of it is unique to the Town of Waynesville. A more formal policy is needed with written rules and regulations for Town personnel to follow to assure greater coordination and accountability in purchases. It is hoped that the policy will result in greater efficiency and cost savings in both dollars expended for goods and services and in terms of the time of personnel in the purchase of materials, supplies and services.

There were some changes needed in amounts in the policy. Once these are made, the policy will be presented to the Board at their next meeting. The Board commended Purchasing Supervisor Julie Grasty and Assistant to the Town Manager Alison Melnikova for their work in developing this document. No action was taken.

Approval of List of Surplus Vehicles

Four vehicles are coming off line after being replaced by newer vehicles. These vehicles have given the Town a considerable amount of service over their lifetimes, but are in need of retirement from service. Those vehicles include 1996 Ford F350 Dump Truck, 1981 Ford Street Washer (2WD), 1998 Ford F150 (4WD) and 1988 Ford Explorer XLT (4WD).

Manager Galloway said it has been learned from past experience that other companies and individuals show a keen interest in such experienced and well used vehicles, so it was recommended that they be turned over to the Purchasing Department for disposal.

Alderman Brown moved, seconded by Alderman Moore, to declare the vehicles to be surplus and authorize Purchasing Supervisor Julie Grasty to advertise them for sale on E-Gov. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution of Support Clean Water Act of 2007

A letter was received from Billy Ray Hall, President of the Rural Economic Development Center, Inc., an organization which funds a variety of needed planning and infrastructure projects in North Carolina. The Rural Center funded a major portion of the HVO Water Line and the recently completed Asset Management Plan for the Town's water and sewer systems.

Mr. Hall requested that the Town Board adopt a resolution to endorse the \$500,000,000 Bond Issue to finance needed water, sewer and storm water improvements as well as a \$50,000,000 annual, recurring appropriation by the General Assembly to address urgent needs.

In 1991, an assessment was made of the water and sewer needs in North Carolina and the total was \$11 billion. As a result, the State proposed a \$1 billion bond issue to help North Carolina's communities meet those needs. Today, according to Mr. Hall's letter, the need is almost \$17 billion, and that number will just keep growing as more years pass, more people move to North Carolina and inflation grows. In Waynesville's situation, the recent report by Martin-McGill showed the Town's needs to be more than \$31 million and growing. Manager Galloway said the Town does not have the resources to keep up with the demands.

Alderman Brown moved, seconded by Alderman Moore, to approve the resolution to endorse the Clean Water Act of 2007. The motion carried unanimously. (Res. No. 6-07)

Regular Meeting of May 8 Rescheduled Until May 10

Manager Galloway said the next regular meeting will be Thursday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m. Some Board members will travel to Raleigh on Tuesday, May 8 to attend Town Hall Day scheduled for Wednesday, May 9. A budget workshop is scheduled for Monday, May 14 at 5:00 p.m.

Watershed Appreciation Month

Manager Galloway said several people attended the past two Saturday events at the Watershed. This past Saturday everything seemed to go well, approximately twenty people attended the birdwatching event and fifty participated in the nature hike. About twenty-five people attended the presentation at Town Hall on Quinlaintown. Alison Melnikova, Assistant to the Town Manager, has done a fantastic job in coordinating these events. Appreciation was expressed to Peter Bates, Don Hendershot and the Water Treatment Plant employees for all their help.

It may be possible to have these activities annually, quarterly or during the fall and spring, since different plant life can be seen during these two times each year.

Slope Density Ordinance

Alderman Feichter said it was important and behooves the Town for the Board to do a good job of investigating the slope density ordinance to make sure it is done with an even hand and not haphazardly. Alderman Caldwell said the ordinance can't be changed every time a request is made for a change. Alderman Moore said it has to be done in a fair manner and be the same for everyone. Mayor Foy said when this ordinance was developed originally, it was carefully reviewed by Andrew Powell, Fred Baker and John Swift. The burden of proof should be by the property owner, and plans for development should be drawn by an engineer. Alderman Caldwell said he attended the last Planning Board meeting and felt that Paul Benson has done a lot of research. Manager Galloway pointed out that it would be good to have an engineer explain why the 2,900 ft. level was chosen. No action was taken.

Discussion Regarding Sidewalks

Alderman Caldwell said there is a section of sidewalk on Depot Street that is broken and asked if town staff could look at this area for repair or replacement.

Alderman Feichter said the town staff has done a good job with the new sidewalk from Grimball Drive to Hazelwood Avenue. Alderman Moore said town crews have also done an excellent job on the Brook Street sidewalk.

Manager Galloway said a concrete island has been installed on Russ Avenue in front of CVS. This was a joint project between the Town and NCDOT in an area where left turns are not allowed. It should be right turn in and right turn out only.

Ordinance Regarding Dogs

Mayor Foy felt that the Board should consider the adoption of an ordinance regarding dogs. Attorney Griffin said there is a draft document available which is the product of research done by Alison Melnikova. There was discussion about enforcement and whether an ordinance is needed to limit the number of dogs, or if it would be more of a nuisance ordinance regarding issues such as odor and fleas, or if it would be a noise issue because of barking. Attorney Griffin said some of the issues may be animal control which falls under the control of Haywood County. Alderman Feichter pointed out that there are so many gray areas, there could be two large dogs that are more obnoxious than fifteen small dogs. Manager Galloway said it has been several months since Ms. Melnikova did this research and he can ask her to revisit this issue. Mayor Foy suggested that the board consider the size of the lot that dogs are housed. Alderman Brown said if an ordinance is adopted it also becomes an enforcement issue. Manager Galloway will speak to Code Enforcement Officer Warren Putnam regarding the nuisance portion of the Town Code.

Adjournment

With no further business, Alderman Caldwell moved, seconded by Alderman Brown, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Phyllis R. McClure
Town Clerk

Henry B. Foy
Mayor