

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
TOWN HALL – 9 SOUTH MAIN STREET
JUNE 22, 2010
TUESDAY – 7:00 P.M.

The Board of Aldermen of the Town of Waynesville held a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 22, 2010. Members present were Mayor Gavin Brown, Aldermen Gary Caldwell, J. Wells Greeley, Libba Feichter and LeRoy Roberson. Also present were Town Manager A. Lee Galloway, Town Clerk Phyllis McClure, Finance Director Eddie Caldwell, Assistant Town Manager Alison Melnikova, Planning Director Paul Benson and Town Attorney Woodrow Griffin. Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of May 25 and June 8, 2010

Alderman Caldwell moved, seconded by Alderman Greeley to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2010 meeting as presented.

Alderman Feichter moved, seconded by Alderman Greeley to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2010 meeting as presented. Both motions carried unanimously.

Public Hearing Local Landmark Designation Windover Inn - 117 Old Hickory Street

The owners of Windover, also known as the Howell House, have applied for Landmark Designation. The home, which is located at 117 Old Hickory Street, is found to have significant historical importance for the Town. It was built in 1910 and served as the home of former mayor James Harden Howell who served in the Town's top elected post during the 1920s. According to the application information, from the time of its construction, the home served as a tourist home, and that was the earliest industry of the town and surrounding area.

Ms. Nikki Haynes Owens, Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission, sent a letter to the State office of Archives and History located in Asheville, in support of the Landmark Designation based upon several factors set out in the letter. The Commission voted to recommend this property for the Board's consideration.

Paul Benson, Planning Director for the Town of Waynesville, said the Historic Preservation Commission is excited about this property. The Commission has been working hard for the past two years to reach out to the community, especially owners of the nicer older homes, to get them into the Landmark Designation program. Mr. Benson said that Glenn and Jennifer Duerr own the beautiful home at 117 Old Hickory Street historically known as Windover, a tourist home dating back to around 1910. The home is associated with James Harden Howell and his wife, Pearl. Mr. Howell served in the State Legislature and was Captain during the war. Mr. Benson said this is a neat property in a great state of repair and the owners take a great deal of pride in the property. Mr. Benson complimented the Mr. and Mrs. Duerr for completing the report themselves.

Attorney Griffin opened the public hearing. Jennifer Duerr said she and her husband love the house, take good care of it and feel that they are good stewards of the house. They will have the pleasure of James Harden Howell, Jr., staying with them at the house in October.

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

Alderman Greeley moved, seconded by Alderman Feichter, to designate the house as a local landmark. The motion carried unanimously. (Ord. No. 8-10)

Folkmoot Update by Folkmoot President Chuck Dickson

Chuck Dickson, Folkmoot President, thanked the Board for their support of the Folkmoot Festival each year, adding the recognition of its importance and that Waynesville is the hometown for the festival. He said four million dollars is pumped into the local economy each year by the festival and provides many people in the community a cultural experience like no other. It touches everyone in different ways, with close to 8,000 good will ambassadors sent out to many areas of the World, making Waynesville and the World a better place to live. Three hundred plus dancers and musicians perform in shows all over Western North Carolina.

Folkmoot consists of a 40 member board of directors, seven are past presidents. Mr. Dickson said Executive Director Karen Babcock is doing a great job. This year more dancers will be on the street and the Russian dancers will make a special appearance at the street dance on opening day, July 23. Hazelwood Elementary School and the Pigeon Community Center will host free performances. Each Waynesville Board of Aldermen member will receive an invitation to attend the Gala Performance at the Eagle Nest Performing Center in Maggie Valley. This year's parade will be in reverse, beginning at 12:30 p.m. at the Courthouse, with Mayor Brown welcoming the dancers and group directors and Senator Joe Sam Queen introducing the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. After Secretary Carlyle speaks the parade will begin on Main Street. Folkmoot is seeking individual contributions in hopes that more individuals will become members of their organization. Mr. Dickson expressed appreciation to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen and said that Folkmoot looks forward to seeing each of them during the festival.

Alderman Feichter asked if Folkmoot has ever received funding from the State of North Carolina. Mr. Dickson said large amounts have been received in the past and smaller amounts have been received during recent years. Folkmoot's goal is to become a permanent line item in the State budget each year. Alderman Feichter pointed out the difficulty in getting the same support or increasing support each year. No action was needed.

Main Street Mile Run – Eric Yarrington

Eric Yarrington thanked the Board for allowing him to speak. Mr. Yarrington said he represented local runners and business owners and requested permission for a fund raising race on August 13 along Main Street, beginning one mile south of Main Street with the finish line in front of the Historic Courthouse. The Main Street Mile race is to raise money for the Shriner's Hospital in Greenville. Some of those involved in the race include Michelle Smith, Jason Bodner, Scott Worley and Scott Muse. Mr. Muse and Mr. Yarrington both have children that are patients at the Shriner's Hospital. The Shriner's Hospital provides pediatric specialty care, with no financial obligation for the parents. Verbal support for the race has been received from the Waynesville

Police Department and from the Downtown Waynesville Association for that evening. Mr. Yarrington said he would like for this to become an annual event and feels that it would be a great way to promote the downtown area. The race is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. on August 13 and will not require street closure. Alderman Greeley said he felt that this would be a great idea and would bring people into downtown Waynesville on a Friday night. It was the consensus of the Board to support the Main Street Mile Run event as proposed.

Adoption of Fiscal Year 2010 - 2011 Fiscal Year Budget

Manager Galloway said over the past three months, the Board has had several meetings to discuss the proposed spending plan for the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year Budget. He said the process dates back to early January when department heads and supervisors began working on their requests for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Meetings are held with the Finance Director when the department heads must defend their budget requests and explain the priorities they have established for their departments. The Finance Director then prepares a document for presentation to the Town Manager. During late March and early April, the Finance Director, Manager and Assistant Manager review the budget requests on a line by line basis and compare those requests to the revenues available from all sources. Eventually they arrive at a document they feel worthy of presentation to the Board. The Town Manager then writes the document and the Finance Director gathers statistical data to include in the document.

This year, the budget was presented to the Board on April 27, and in addition to the review held on that evening, the Board has conducted three other work sessions on the budget. At the Board meeting of June 8, there was a public hearing at which time citizens were invited to make comment about the proposed document. No one appeared at that meeting to comment.

The Board and Management worked with Wells Fargo Insurance Division to adjust the health care program for town personnel and their dependents, going with a new program that will avoid the proposed 17.4% increase in premiums. But the employees will see no change to the amount they must pay or to the benefits offered under the program. The new program called "High Dollar Deductibles" has the potential to save the Town significant dollars if a large number of employees do not exceed their deductibles.

After the budget was presented to the Board, the County Commissioners made public their plans to make major revisions to the solid waste program in the county. Under the initial proposal, the County expressed a desire to close the Materials Recovery Center and require all haulers, including municipalities, to transport their wastes to the White Oak Landfill. Later, the County Manager advised that it would be impossible to implement this change before July 1, 2011. There would be considerable additional costs to the Town if wastes had to be transported to White Oak, but those changes and expenses are not reflected in the budget document being presented.

In the proposed budget document, only a few rates and fees are scheduled to be changed. The garbage fee for residential customers is recommended to rise by \$1.00 per month, going from \$5.50 per month to \$6.50 per month. The only other increase in the General Fund would be a rise in building permits and fees, placing them more in line with other governmental units in the region.

In the Water Fund, it is recommended that rates for water service and pump fees be increased by 5%. There is also an increased charge proposed for meters which are used for watering purposes and not with the intent to discharge to the wastewater collection system. There are no increases proposed in the Sewer Fund.

In the Electric Fund, some adjustment is proposed to the rate structure. Over the past year, the fuel adjustment portion of the bill has dropped quite a bit as the price of natural gas and coal declined. But for Waynesville, a new contract was entered with Progress Energy on January 1, 2010, and that contract requires the Town to pay approximately 5.5% more for electricity. Fortunately the drop in fuel costs helped the Town avoid a rate increase for its customers. The rate will need to be reconfigured, reducing the portion for fuel and increasing the portion for electricity. Customers should not detect a change in their bill, however, as the total revenues will remain the same.

Over the years, the Town has been able to accumulate a healthy fund balance, and larger portions of those fund balances will be used to finance the proposed 2010-2011 budget. The fund balance is viewed as a "rainy day fund", and as the economic situation continues to be weak, it is felt to be an excellent time to tap into this rainy day fund.

Mayor Brown said the process is always different, items are the same but issues within the items are different such as health insurance. He said the Board cares and knows what the budget is and where the funds are coming from. Alderman Feichter said Manager Galloway sometimes asks tremendous sacrifices from the department heads and employees and they always do a tremendous job despite these sacrifices. Mayor Brown said for the past two years employees have not received a raise. Alderman Greeley said during his involvement with the past two budgets, employees have done a tremendous job. Alderman Caldwell said he is always impressed with the work that Eddie Caldwell, Lee Galloway and Alison Melnikova have done with the budget. He said despite the fact that employees did not get a raise, the Board still tries to provide the best benefits possible for the employees. Alderman Feichter said it is not said often enough that Lee, Eddie, Alison and the Board take a very proactive approach, not waiting until things happen to take action, but being in front of the problems that occur. It is always easier to deal with problems if you are prepared. Mayor Brown said there is no tax increase in this budget; the last tax increase was in 2006 for construction of the Police and Fire Department buildings. Waynesville is trying to work with less money than in the past and many things have been accomplished during the past few years. Appreciation was expressed to Mary Ann Enloe, a reporter with The Mountaineer, the local newspaper, for her recent articles to help inform the public of Waynesville issues.

Alderman Roberson moved, seconded by Alderman Caldwell, to adopt the Fiscal Year 2010 – 2011 Fiscal Year Budget. The motion carried unanimously. (Ord. No. 9-10)

Resolution on Financial Operating Plan Internal Service Funds

Manager Galloway explained that the Town operates two Service Funds which support the various Town departments by providing warehousing/storage space or by providing vehicle related services. The Public Works Fund and the Garage Fund receive operating funds from appropriations made by the General, Water, Sewer and Electric Funds, with each being charged what is estimated to be their fair share of the use of the public works facilities or of the vehicular

services. The Resolution on Financial Operating Plan for the Garage Operations is in the amount of \$596,250 and the Public Works Building Operations is in the amount of \$289,690. It is recommended that the Board adopt the Resolution on the Financial Operating Plan for the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year for the Public Works and Garage.

Alderman Feichter moved, seconded by Alderman Greeley, to adopt the Resolution on Financial Operation Plan Internal Service Funds as presented. The motion carried unanimously. (Res. No. 5-10)

Proclamation of Recommitment to Full Implementation of the Americans With Disability Act (ADA) in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the ADA

Manager Galloway said the Town has been involved with implementation of the Americans With Disability Act for many years. Several years ago, a gentleman from the Bethel area approached Waynesville to help identify areas that needed sidewalk cuts to make sure that these areas were not a deterrent for people in Waynesville. Pathways for the Future, Inc., a local and regional organization, has been instrumental in promoting awareness of the challenges facing those with disabilities. Their mission is to increase independence, change attitudes, promote equal access and build a peer support network in Western North Carolina. Pathways works through the use of community education, independent living services and advocacy.

In 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and 2010 marks the 20th Anniversary of this important legislation. Local organizations such as Pathways for the Future, are urging local governments to adopt Proclamations of recommitment regarding ADA. Because of the importance of this issue, Mayor Brown asked that it be placed on the agenda for the Board to consider. Mayor Brown said one hundred years from now it won't be this building that is important; it will be what is done for others that is important.

Alderman Greeley moved, seconded by Alderman Caldwell, to authorize Mayor Brown to sign the proclamation of Recommitment to Full Implementation of the Americans With Disability Act in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the ADA. The motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation for Appointment to the Tourism Development Authority Subcommittee

Ms. Dorothy (Dorie) Pope has announced her decision to resign from the Tourism Development Authority Subcommittee where she has served as an appointee of the Town of Waynesville. Ms. Pope and her husband, David, are moving from this area to be closer to family at the coast of the state.

Mr. Roy Gass, an employee of Mast General Stores, Inc., has expressed an interest and willingness to serve on the Tourism Development Authority Subcommittee, filling out the unexpired term of Ms. Pope. Mr. Gass has been with Mast Stores for more than 15 years and formerly served as the General Manager of the Waynesville store prior to accepting a promotion to serve as a District Manager working with several stores in the growing chain.

Alderman Caldwell moved, seconded by Alderman Greeley, to recommend to the Haywood County Commissioners that Mr. Roy Gass be appointed to the Tourism Development Authority Subcommittee representing the 28786 zip code to complete Ms. Pope's two year term which runs through December 2011. The motion carried unanimously.

Appointments to the Historic Preservation Commission

Several vacancies have occurred on the Town's Historic Preservation Commission. These openings have been advertised in the local newspapers and a few applicants have come forth to express an interest in serving on this Commission. One of these terms expires January 31, 2012 and the other term expires January 31, 2013.

The first of these is Mr. Henry Foy, 88 Welch Street, a former Mayor and Board member of the Town. Mr. Foy served on the Town Board during the 1970s and as Mayor from 1991 until 2007. He attended Mars Hill College, Stanford University and received an architectural degree from Clemson University. He has been involved in the Historic Society for a number of years and brings his extensive knowledge of local history to the Commission.

Another interested citizen is Ms. Ann Melton, 203 Love Lane, who has a degree in art from Western Carolina University and a doctorate from the University of South Carolina. In addition, she has extensive experience in grant writing. She has been involved in education for much of her adult life, and served as the Superintendent of the Madison County Schools.

Mr. Peter Sterling had previously indicated his desire to resign from the Historic Preservation Commission; however, he has expressed a willingness and interest to continue serving on this group.

It was the consensus of the Board to reject the verbal resignation of Mr. Peter Sterling and that he continue to serve on the Historic Preservation Commission.

Alderman Greeley moved, seconded by Alderman Roberson, to appoint Henry Foy to fill the unexpired term until January 31, 2012 and to appoint Ann Melton to fill the unexpired term until January 31, 2013 on the Historic Preservation Commission. At the expiration of each term Mr. Foy and Ms. Melton will be eligible for reappointment to a full four year term. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution of Support for Adoption of the North Carolina Mobility Fund

The Governor's Office is seeking support from local governments for the North Carolina Mobility Fund. This fund would be made available to the Governor to help finance projects that are needed when there is regional, statewide or national significance but the project may not fit in the "Equity Formula" for funding. Information from the N. C. League of Municipalities stated "The Mobility Fund was not included in the proposed Senate budget, but was included in the House budget. As drafted, the fund is created and partially funded (enough to replace the Yadkin River Bridge) by redirecting money normally transferred to the General Fund, and absorbing unspent money from the N. C. Turnpike Authority. However, the additional Powell Bill Funds were not included in

the House version of the budget. We have been working to get a structure into the law for Powell Bill money, even if it becomes effective in future years when funding may be available. The greatest likelihood for the N. C. Mobility Fund to be created and funded is if it appears in the final version of the state budget.”

Alderman Roberson moved, seconded by Alderman Feichter to approve the resolution of support for adoption of the North Carolina Mobility Fund. The motion carried unanimously. (Res. No. 6-10)

Report on Hazelwood Building Renovations

Manager Galloway said work continues on the renovations being made to the Hazelwood building. When removing the temporary wall some of the tile was removed and it was discovered that the glue that had been used to install the tile contained asbestos. Asbestos was still being used during the 1980s for tile and shingles. The decision was made to remove all the asbestos now rather than deal with it at a later time, at an additional cost of around \$25,000.

Town Hall Day

Manager Galloway said he and Alderman Feichter attended Town Hall Day last week in Raleigh. Several sessions were attended, including finance, broadband, Alcoholic Beverage Control issues and the mobility fund.

Main Street Parking Limitations Being Enforced

Manager Galloway said the Police Department now has a part time employee responsible for marking tires in the Downtown District and issuing citations for those not in compliance with the time limits and other parking issues.

Attorney Griffin Reports on Rotary Programs Involving Waynesville Issues

Attorney Griffin said recent Rotary programs included discussion of Waynesville Watershed Issues, including speakers Rusty Painter and Peter Bates. A large group attends the Rotary meetings and the information was very informative. The public is interested in Watershed issues and as the Town decides what to do in the future this is a good way to keep them informed.

Adjournment

With no further business, Alderman Greeley moved, seconded by Alderman Roberson to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Phyllis R. McClure
Town Clerk

Gavin A. Brown
Mayor