

REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN HALL – 9 SOUTH MAIN STREET
MAY 10, 2011
TUESDAY – 7:00 P.M.

The Board of Aldermen of the Town of Waynesville held a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2011. Members present were Mayor Gavin Brown, Aldermen Gary Caldwell, Libba Feichter, J. Wells Greeley and LeRoy Roberson. Also present were Town Manager A. Lee Galloway, Assistant Town Manager Alison Melnikova, Finance Director Eddie Caldwell, Town Clerk Phyllis McClure and Town Attorney Woodrow Griffin. Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of April 26, 2011

Alderman Caldwell moved, seconded by Alderman Roberson, to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2011 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Chuck Dickson – Folkmoot and CIOFF

Chuck Dickson, Folkmoot Chairman and Attorney for the Towns of Maggie Valley and Clyde, presented a report to the Board on the current state of affairs of Folkmoot. Mr. Dickson said Folkmoot is North Carolina's International Festival. Performances are held throughout the State of North Carolina with Haywood County being their primary performance area. The Folkmoot parade is held in Waynesville each year and 5,000 ticketed events are held. A street dance was added last year and another is planned for this year. Mr. Dickson said he recently visited with Linda Carlisle, Secretary with The Department of Cultural Resources. Ms. Carlisle attended last year's parade and street dance, is familiar with the festival and may be of help with funding through the Arts Council. Folkmoot recently signed a lease with the Haywood County School System for another five years to house the Folkmoot Center in the former Hazelwood Elementary School building. Alderman Feichter said she taught at Hazelwood Elementary School for 23 years and it is wonderful to see this facility used for Folkmoot.

Mr. Dickson said the Town of Waynesville is the only governmental unit that provides funding for Folkmoot. Corporate sponsorships and ticket sales have increased for the past two years. A study revealed that 1/3 of those attending performances stay overnight, providing a huge economic impact to the area. The study also revealed that most of those attending performances are older and well educated with higher levels of income. Mr. Dickson asked the Board to encourage their appointees with the Tourism Development Authority to support Folkmoot.

A few weeks ago, Folkmoot had the opportunity to host the executive council of CIOFF (International Council of Organizations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Art) which meets once per year. There are ninety-one countries in CIOFF at the present time, with twenty countries represented at the recent meeting. Mayor Brown welcomed the group and made them honorary citizens. Mr. Dickson said this organization was formed about forty years ago in an effort to

break down walls that exist between peoples and nations, with a goal to preserve and promote world peace. Folkmoot is one of the 300 functions supported by CIOFF. Decorative plates were presented to the Town and Folkmoot from the CIOFF President from Thailand.

Mr. Dickson thanked the Board for everything they have done for the Folkmoot organization. He recognized that Rolf Kaufman, a member of the CIOFF organization for many years, has done an amazing job of putting Folkmoot and Waynesville on the map. Folkmoot now has approximately 8,000 alumni throughout the World, serving as Goodwill Ambassadors.

Mayor Brown said he had the opportunity to meet a representative of Bohemia, South Korea, and the first democratically elected mayor of the largest city in Slovenia. Mr. Dickson said the President of the CIOFF Organization from Thailand commented about the diversity in this area. Mayor Brown added that he asked several questions about the Cherokee Indians.

Alderman Feichter said she firmly believes that people like Rolf Kaufman, Dr. Border, Chuck Dickson and many others who continue to dream are responsible for making sure that things of such value as Folkmoot continue. Mr. Dickson said not everyone can do great things, but we can all do small things in a great way. The Board thanked Mr. Dickson for the update on Folkmoot. No action was necessary.

Request for Contributions - Disabled American Veterans

Fred Underwood, Disabled American Veterans representative, said this organization has helped many vets with telephone bills, fuel, dental work and other expenses. Their commitment is to help in any way possible. If someone calls, the Hardship Committee is assigned to work things out and make sure that the vets are taken care of. More vets are from Haywood County than other Western North Carolina counties, serving during the Korea and Vietnam Wars with some now coming in from Afghanistan and Iraq. 318 vets are currently being served by Chapter 89. Most hardships are discovered through word of mouth and the Hardship Committee acts as soon as possible when they find out that someone is in need. Mr. Underwood thanked the Board for the opportunity to come back and request an additional contribution. On August 24, 2010, a representative from the Disabled American Veterans presented a request for a donation of \$1,000. The Board approved a contribution of \$500 and voted to discuss the matter again in six months to consider an additional contribution.

Request for Contributions - Haywood County Veterans Council

On August 24, 2010, representatives of the Haywood County Veterans Council presented a request for a donation of \$2,000 from the Town to help support the construction of a marker for each of the 264 Haywood County natives who have died in action from World War I through the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. The Board approved a contribution of \$1,000 and indicated that the matter would be discussed again in six months to consider an additional contribution.

Dickie Woody and Don Wells reported that the money is used for the memorial markers that will be displayed at various locations through Haywood County and will be on display at Garrett Hillcrest Memorial Gardens from Memorial Day through July 4th. They have received donations from many people and discounts from various businesses on materials.

Alderman Feichter moved, seconded by Alderman Caldwell, to contribute \$1,000 to the Haywood County Veterans Council and \$500 to the Disabled American Veterans. The motion carried unanimously.

Appointments/Reappointments – Board of Adjustment, Planning Board and Public Art Commission

Board of Adjustment - There are three members on this Board that live within Town limits whose terms will expire on May 31, 2011. Regular Members: Mack Noland and Mike Erwin; Alternate Member: Stephanie Welch Strickland. Mack Noland has indicated an interest in reappointment as a regular member for a three year term ending on May 31, 2014. Stephanie Welch Strickland has indicated an interest in reappointment as an alternate member for a three year term ending May 31, 2014. Mike Erwin, who has served on this Board for many years, has moved to Andrews and indicates that he could not be reappointed. Applications can be solicited for this vacancy.

There is one vacant slot for an Alternate Member from outside the corporate limits. This is a seat that has been vacant for some time and was formerly held by Mr. Garnell Day. Board members were asked if they were aware of an individual living outside the corporate limits and interested in serving on this Board. After approval by the Town Board, the name would be submitted to the Haywood County Commissioners for their approval.

It was suggested that Stephanie Welch Strickland be contacted to ask if she might be interested in serving as a regular member. This item will be placed on the May 24 agenda.

Planning Board. There are two members of this Board whose terms expire on May 31, 2011. Member from Inside Town: Don Stephenson has indicated an interest in reappointment for a three year term ending on May 31, 2014.

Member from Outside Town: Patrick McDowell has indicated an interest in reappointment for a three year term ending on May 31, 2014. Mr. McDowell's name may be recommended to the Haywood County Commissioners for approval as a member from the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) for a three year term ending May 31, 2014.

Alderman Greeley moved, seconded by Alderman Roberson, to reappoint Don Stevenson to serve a three year term ending on May 31, 2014 and to recommend to the Haywood County Commissioners that Patrick McDowell be reappointed as a member from the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) for a three year term ending May 31, 2014. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Art Commission - Ms. Philann Medford has submitted her letter of resignation from the Public Art Commission effective May 15, 2011. Ms. Medford's four year term would have run through May 31, 2014.

Members of the Public Art Commission have recommended the appointment of Charles Mills to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Medford continuing until May 31, 2014.

Alderman Caldwell moved, seconded by Alderman Greeley to appoint Charles Mills to serve as a member of the Public Art Commission effective May 16, 2011 to fill the unexpired term of Philan Medford continuing until May 31, 2014. The motion carried unanimously.

Council Consideration of Matters Before the North Carolina General Assembly

Alderman J. Wells Greeley and Assistant Town Manager Alison Melnikova were in Raleigh this week to attend Town Hall Day. This is a time when elected and appointed representatives from municipalities across North Carolina visit Raleigh and meet with legislators to discuss issues of importance to local governments.

While attending Town Hall Day, Alderman Greeley and Ms. Melnikova met with Representative Ray Rapp to discuss several matters, one of which was annexation reform. Representative Rapp indicated that he would appreciate the Waynesville Town Board discussing the annexation reform measures and providing him with the outcome of the discussions so that he might represent our interests in Raleigh.

During Town Hall Day, House Speaker Tillis indicated to the elected and appointed municipal officials that he needs their support to gain approval of the use of electronic public notices. Under the proposal before the House of Representatives, local governments may use the unit's web site to publicize various matters under consideration by the local government. Up until this point, local governments were required to advertise these matters in a newspaper of general circulation in the community, and legal notices carry a hefty price for publication. This would be a substantial savings to any community that does extensive public notices.

Mayor Brown said traditionally the way business has been done is advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation and it is realized that there is some cost associated with this. However, it was felt that in addition to the printed notice electronic advertising could be added as another means of advertising. Alderman Feichter pointed out that in speaking with people she was surprised to learn how many people do not have internet. The vast majority of people do, but there are those who don't, especially older residents. Assistant Town Manager Alison Melnikova pointed out that she doesn't specifically go to web sites to obtain information and that few people do.

It was the consensus of the Board that Waynesville not participate in the conversation. It was requested that Representative Rapp be notified that Waynesville appreciates his efforts on Waynesville's behalf. Mayor Brown thanked Alderman Greeley and Assistant Town Manager Alison Melnikova for attending Town Hall Day to represent Waynesville.

Presentation of the 2011-2012 Annual Budget

Manager Galloway and Finance Director Eddie Caldwell presented the 2011-2012 Annual Budget to the Board, giving general comments about the budget, and overview of the document.

Manager Galloway said with so much economic uncertainty, the 2010-2011 budget was cautiously adopted. Since then Waynesville has begun to see some positive signs of improvement. During the year department heads have been good stewards of the public funds

and the Board was asked to release expenditures of \$170,000 to purchase items from the current year's budget. He added that unemployment rates are dropping and we are beginning to hear about redevelopment in the Town. It appears that Waynesville is beginning to grow again. The Town's current fiscal year will end in good condition. Manager Galloway listed several accomplishments and new equipment that has been added, without a decline in town services, continuing to maintain low utility rates and retaining employee benefits.

In the 2011-2012 budget, continued improvements can be seen in the economy and financial picture for the town, with more consumer optimism. However, the town is still faced with a number of unknowns. There are several upcoming projects for Waynesville. Manager Galloway spoke about the electric fund transfer, adding that without this source of revenue a twelve cent additional tax rate would be needed. The health care system has continually dealt with higher costs. Waynesville has tried increasing the deductible, making changes in the prescription card program and copayments, but the health care costs continue to rise and it is almost impossible to control these costs. Waynesville has been notified of a possible 15 – 21% increase in health care costs in 2011-2012, but a final figure is not available at this time. Money has been set aside to cover the worst case scenario. With more baby boomers retiring, there is a ½ cent increase for the retirement system contributions required in order for the system to stay solvent.

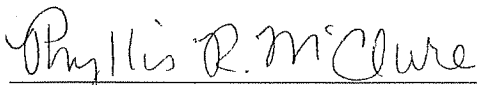
For the first time in three years, a three percent cost of living increase for the town's employees is included in the budget. Manager Galloway said there is a need to maintain the backbone of this organization – its employees. Manager Galloway asked to Board to contact him, Finance Director Eddie Caldwell or Assistant Town Manager Alison Melnikova if they had questions or needed additional information on the proposed budget. He said funds are provided in the budget for a process for the board to follow for the manager selection process, as well as an overlap of manager's salaries for a three month period so that the manager can be on board by April 1 and participate in the next budget process. Manager Galloway plans to retire in June 2012.

The public hearing on the budget is scheduled Tuesday, June 14. A Budget Retreat will be held Friday, May 13, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., at the Andon-Reid House, 92 Daisy Avenue in Waynesville.

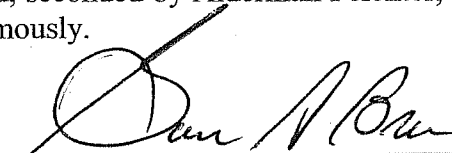
Mayor Brown said the board has always tried to make sure that employees were treated fairly and it is felt that a three percent increase is in order. Manager Galloway said eight vacant positions have been eliminated over the past couple of years. This budget proposes to eliminate one and one half additional vacant positions.

Adjournment

With no further business, Alderman Greeley moved, seconded by Alderman Feichter, to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.



Phyllis R. McClure
Town Clerk



Gavin A. Brown
Mayor