

REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN HALL – 9 SOUTH MAIN STREET
AUGUST 23, 2011
TUESDAY – 7:00 P.M.

The Board of Aldermen of the Town of Waynesville held a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 23, 2011. Members present were Mayor Gavin Brown, Aldermen Libba Feichter, J. Wells Greeley and LeRoy Roberson. Absent was Alderman Gary Caldwell. Also present were Town Manager A. Lee Galloway, Assistant Town Manager Alison Melnikova, 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 July 26, 2011

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

North Carolina Department of Transportation Request for Water and Sewer Extension to Rest Areas on U.S. 23-74 West

Manager Galloway said a meeting with North Carolina Department of Transportation presented a request for an exception to the Town's policy that limits water and sewer service extensions outside of the Urban Growth Boundary established by the Town. In recent years, the NCDOT has dealt with various problems in dealing with wastewater at their rest area on U. S. 23-74 West approaching the Balsam Gap. They have tried several different processes and made a number of changes to try and contend with the problem, but none have worked the way they hoped. They realize that the best option for the rest area is connection to a public sewer system. The State would like to construct a second rest area on U. S. 23-74 West, for the westbound traffic, and they plan to remodel the existing rest area for the eastbound traffic.

Over the past decade, the Department has approached Haywood County and the Town about an extension of the public sewer to the rest area, and at one time, the State had \$500,000 or \$600,000 reserved to pay a share of the cost. A quick estimate indicated that the cost of a gravity flow, trunk sewer line to serve the rest area and the Saunook area would be close to \$3,000,000. The Town did not have that kind of money to invest in a sewer line outside the corporate limits and under the Land Use Plan adopted ten years ago, there was a policy against extending water and sewer outside of the Urban Growth Boundary established by the Town.

The Town Board serving in the early part of the past decade offered an option to Haywood County. If the County would join with the Town to seek passage of a local bill in the General Assembly giving the Town zoning authority along the U. S. 23-74 corridor, the Town might be willing to allow connection of the sewer lines in that area to the Town's system. The Town did

not want to see uncontrolled and ugly growth taking place at one of the main entrances into Haywood County. There was little further discussion, for the County had no interest in granting zoning authority; consequently, how to pay for the improvements was never addressed.

The State has purchased a tract of approximately 7 acres on the north side of U. S. 23-74 to construct a rest area for westbound travelers. Representatives of the Department of Transportation met with town staff recently to discuss their plans and renew their request for connection to the public sewer system. They understand and appreciate the Town's concerns and position regarding the Urban Growth Boundary. While they feel that connection to the Waynesville sewer system is the best alternative for the rest areas, they also realize that the connection does not have to be through the installation of a gravity flow line. A forced main, pumping wastewater through a pressure line, could be installed and discharge the wastewater into the Town's system near Vantage Pointe or Autumn Care. Another alternative might be a combination septic system and gray water line, with the liquid leaving the septic system flowing by gravity from the rest areas to the Waynesville collection system.

The Department is willing to fund an engineering study to assess the best alternatives and arrive at some cost estimates for all options available. The Department is willing to pay the costs of the connection, and they do not want to ask the Town to violate the principals of its Urban Growth Boundary. They would ask the Town to consider allowing the rest areas to be connected to public sewer without violating those principals.

A letter was received from Mr. Reuben Moore, Division Operations Engineer, making the request that the Town Board agree to allow the rest areas to be connected to public sewer under the Town's terms. The actual construction of the rest areas would not take place until 2013, but they need to know now what their alternatives for sewer might be.

Manager Galloway suggested that if the Board approved the request, that it be made subject to approval by Public Works Director Fred Baker, including a recommendation that the North Carolina Department of Transportation maintain the pump station and line.

Mayor Brown said this would be beneficial to help the North Carolina Department of Transportation, adding that this is a public entity.

Alderman Feichter felt that it would be good for the Town to help the motoring public. The Board noted that this area is dangerous for motorists to cross over to reach the other side where currently one rest area is located and it will be beneficial to have the new rest area added on the other side of the road. Alderman Greeley added that he likes the idea that Waynesville is being a good neighbor.

Alderman Greeley moved, seconded by Alderman Feichter to authorize Manager Galloway and Public Works Director Fred Baker to continue with the study to determine which manner is best for a sewer connection and to acknowledge that the Town of Waynesville will accept sewer from the North Carolina Department of Transportation for the locations proposed and to authorize the extension of water. The motion carried unanimously.

Appointment/Reappointment Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

The three year term of Mr. Jack Swanger, 21 Lodge Lane, on the Waynesville ABC Board expired on August 15, 2011. Mr. Swanger has indicated that he would like to continue to serve on the Board, and it is understood that he has been a good, dedicated member of this Board. This three year term would expire on August 15, 2014.

Alderman Roberson moved, seconded by Alderman Greeley, to reappoint Mr. Jack Swanger to serve another three year term on the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. This term would expire on August 15, 2014. The motion carried unanimously.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant

Assistant Town Manager Alison Melnikova presented information on electric vehicle charging stations. Last fall the Town was notified of a grant opportunity that provides a 50% match, of up to \$6,000 per station, for the installation of public electric vehicle charging stations. The grant is administered through Advanced Energy, who identified four planning regions in the state to target with charging stations, and the Asheville area was one of these targeted, with a goal of installing 25 charging stations in this area.

In searching for an appropriate location for the Level 2 Charging Stations, the Town and Haywood County agreed to share in the project, including the cost of the match, with each government contributing 50% of the match. They will be protected from the elements, have video surveillance, and would be easily accessible for residents and visitors to downtown, as well as any future fleet vehicles. If the application is funded, the units will be installed and ready to use by December 2011.

Assistant Town Manager Alison Melnikova said at the present time there will be no charge to use the stations and they will be metered separately. If it is found that they are costing more to operate than expected, another system can be added that accepts a credit card.

Due to an unforeseen delay in opening the application process, the deadline for installation of the charging stations is now rather compressed. The grant applications were distributed via email on August 11th, Advanced Energy wants complete applications on August 31st, and anticipates making awards on September 9th. Fortunately the installation of the charging stations is rather straightforward, as is the grant application.

Because the County Manager requires County Commissioner approval for the grant application and installation in the parking deck, town staff felt that the Board of Aldermen should be informed before submitting the application. The County may request a written agreement for the placement of the charging units, and if so town staff will work with the Town Attorney and County personnel to prepare an agreement.

Alderman Greeley said he likes the idea that the Town will be partnering with Haywood County on this project.

Alderman Greeley moved, seconded by Alderman Feichter, to authorize Assistant Town Manager Alison Melnikova to proceed with the grant application and to continue working with Haywood County on this project. The motion carried unanimously.

New Sign Regulations to be Effective October 1

Manager Galloway said there has been some confusion with new sign regulations. Some rules apply until October 1. Waynesville has an ordinance that controls signs on its streets and the Town's rules will continue to apply on the Town's streets. However, a new set of rules will apply to signs within the right-of-way of North Carolina Department of Transportation streets. Some streets inside Waynesville's corporate limits are maintained by Waynesville and others are maintained by the NCDOT. The new sign regulations will be somewhat confusing since they are effective October 1 during election time. It would have been simpler to have the rules effective January 1. A set of rules with the changes effective October 1 will be provided to the candidates. Manager Galloway said he has also asked Land Development Administrator Byron Hickox to provide a map indicating which streets belong to the NCDOT and which streets belong to the Town of Waynesville. No action was needed.

Property Located Beside the Armory

Alderman Greeley said there have been recent discussions about the Town pursuing the possibility of purchasing or leasing the lot beside the Armory on Boundary Street. Alderman Greeley said he recently had the opportunity to have discussion with Mr. Lyle Coffey and Mr. Coffey is receptive to having further discussion regarding this matter. It was felt that additional parking in this area would be a good way to connect the Main Street and Frog Level areas. Public Works Director Fred Baker prepared some schematic drawings of parking possibilities in this area. It was the consensus of the Board to request that Town Manager Galloway pursue the purchase or lease of the property adjoining the Armory.

Comments by Alderman Greeley

Alderman Greeley said the property formerly occupied by the Angel Monument Company at the intersection of Leatherwood Street and North Main Street has been cleared of debris and he would like to thank the folks responsible for the cleanup of this property. It was noted that Code Enforcement Officer Warren Putnam has done a wonderful job in dealing with people in getting areas in Waynesville cleaned up. On this particular property, the Angel family took the initiative. Alderman Feichter added that Mr. Putnam does a wonderful job in his persistence and in dealing with people and she admires the way he does his job.

Alderman Greeley said he had an opportunity to spend time with a couple of friends that he grew up with and they were very complimentary about Waynesville, adding that it is such a great place and doing well. Alderman Greeley said he is proud of Waynesville, its Town Manager and so many others that make Waynesville such a wonderful place. No action was necessary.

Town Manager Search Process

Mayor Brown said with the planned retirement of Manager Galloway in June 2011, there have been discussions to begin a process to find a replacement by April 2011. Steve Strauss with Developmental Associates has been invited to attend the Board Meeting on September 13 to discuss this process with the Board. Alderman Feichter said this is one of the most important jobs this board will do and it was important to gather as much wisdom as possible. Mayor Brown suggested that Mr. Strauss be invited to attend a special meeting on Tuesday, September 13 to present information to the Board. The special meeting is proposed to begin at 5:30 p.m. since Mr. Strauss is scheduled to be in Raleigh for a meeting the following morning. It was the consensus of the Board to schedule the special meeting for September 13 at 5:30 p.m. as proposed.

Adjournment

With no further business, it was the consensus of the Board to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Phyllis R. McClure
Town Clerk

Gavin A. Brown
Mayor