

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
November 11, 2014

THE WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN held its regular meeting on Tuesday, November 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the board room of Town Hall, 9 South Main Street, Waynesville, NC.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Gavin Brown
Alderman Gary Caldwell
Alderman Julia Freeman
Alderman J. Wells Greeley
Alderman LeRoy Roberson

The following staff members were present:

Marcy Onieal, Town Manager
Woodrow Griffin, Town Attorney
Amie Owens, Town Clerk
Joey Webb, Fire Chief

The following media representatives were present:

Kevin Fuller – The Mountaineer

1. Welcome /Calendar/Announcements

Mayor Gavin Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that it was Veterans Day and thanked Alderman Roberson for his service to his country in the Navy. The mayor also noted that he attended and spoke at an event for Veterans hosted by the Tuscola High School Air Force Jr. ROTC which was well attended.

Manager Onieal explained that there had been some calendar updates based on invitations for holiday gatherings. She noted the following calendar events:

- November 13 – Circles of Hope Business Forum
- November 20 – KARE Festival of Trees
- November 25 – Regular Board Meeting – discussion topic of Wholesale Power rates with Kevin O'Donnell

2. Adoption of Minutes

Alderman Caldwell made a motion, seconded by Alderman Freeman to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2014 (regular meeting) as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

B. REPORT TO THE BOARD

3. Haywood Waterways Association

Eric Romaniszyn, Executive Director of Haywood Waterways Association, provided an update as to the activities of the organization. He shared information about the impact that water has on agriculture and the market value of agricultural goods produced in Haywood County of \$15.5 million. He provided statistics related to tourism dollars attributed to fishing and water activities. The main issue/concern for HWA is non-point source pollution or runoff as it is difficult to regulate. Mr. Romaniszyn explained that erosion sediment is the number one water quality problem in the US and primary pollutant of streams in the region.

Haywood Waterways has been working diligently to protect creeks and streams from various pollutants and offers solutions to mitigate stormwater and high levels of pollutants such as use of streamside vegetation, constructed wetlands, and bio-retention and bio-swale areas to capture materials before they enter the waterways. Mr. Romaniszyn explained that thermal stress was another concern. Thermal stress is when the temperature of the water is not conducive to fish reproduction – for example, trout like cold water around 70 degrees. The stormwater gets heated as it comes from parking lots and other runoff and the temperature of Richland Creek when monitored this summer was 80 degrees.

Mr. Romaniszyn explained the Richland Creek Watershed Restoration Project and noted that HWA received a grant for \$200,000 from the State for phase III of the project to begin in January 2015. Another area where HWA has been impactful is the repairs to 81 septic systems which keep harmful bacteria out of the waters.

The educational component of HWA is paramount and the Kids in the Creek Program is in its 17th year, with over 11,000 students having participated. One of the best performance measures is the improvement on End of Grade test scores for those who are part of the program. Other programs including Adopt-a-Stream and Storm Drain Stenciling have also been successful. The monitoring that is done helps to justify grant funding and allows HWA to continue its work to keep the waterways in Haywood County as clean as possible.

Mr. Romaniszyn closed his presentation by noting the impact that HWA has had includes the delisting of Hyatt Creek from the impaired waterways list and have done the same with 0.7 miles of Richland Creek. He added that the annual Polar Plunge has been scheduled for January 31, 2015 with a fundraising goal of \$20,000.

Mayor Brown noted that Mr. Romaniszyn may wish to contact the THS AFJROTC cadets to see if they could assist with any of the ongoing projects with HWA.

Alderman Freeman asked if the creek banks where homeless individuals have been staying will be cleaned up once the homeless shelter opens. Mr. Romaniszyn noted that regular clean ups of the creek banks does occur and will continue to occur.

Alderman Roberson asked if there were any types of construction methods to make parking lots more permeable and decrease the temperature of stormwater. Mr. Romaniszyn responded that research being done by NC State but that he was not sure of any recent updates. He added that these

permeable surfaces do have additional costs involved; however, options such as re-routing water to a swale or storage tank (stormwater detention area), can have significantly successful results.

Mayor Brown thanked Mr. Romaniszyn for his presentation and the work of Haywood Waterways Association.

C. NEW BUSINESS

4. Public Hearing – Alley Closure

Manager Onieal explained that the issue had been discussed at a previous meeting and the call for public hearing completed. All additional public notice was done in accordance with NCGS 160A-299 and that grading had already begun on the site. The request for closure was made by Greg Edney with New Mountain, LLC.

At 7:26 p.m. Town Attorney Griffin called the public hearing to order and asked if anyone wished to address the board regarding this issue. No one addressed the board.

At 7:27 p.m. Town Attorney Griffin closed the public hearing.

Alderman Roberson made a motion, seconded by Alderman Greeley to approve the closing of the un-named right-of-way (alley) extending approximately 130 feet between George Drive and Brown Avenue having met the requirements of NCGS 160A-299 including posting of notice and public hearing.

5. Approval of Sale of Town-owned property in accordance with NCGS 160A-269 (PIN# 8604-87-1966) (winning bid provided by Dale Burris, adjacent property owner)

Manager Onieal explained that the proper posting of the offer to purchase the town-owned property off of Hendrix Street was completed and no upset bid received. Manager Onieal reminded members that the parcel was not buildable and that the bidder was the adjacent property owner. Manager Onieal indicated that there was no further use of this property to the Town. She added that the parcel would also maintain a 50-foot greenway easement as a condition of sale.

Alderman Freeman made a motion, seconded by Alderman Caldwell to approve the sale of Town-owned property as outlined in NCGS § 160A-269, for the submitted \$500.00 bid and with the condition of sale, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

D. COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

6. Town Attorney – Woody Griffin

Attorney Griffin had no business to discuss.

7. Town Manager – Marcy Onieal

Update regarding Fire at Wildcat Mountain Road. Fire Chief Joey Webb gave a report on this fire and noted that the investigations were complete by the fire department and insurance company; the fire was ruled as accidental and the source undetermined. Chief Webb described the scene and noted the difficulties faced including windy conditions, steep terrain and narrow streets.

Chief Webb noted that several additional fire departments responded and he thanked them for their assistance. He noted that there have been eighteen (18) structure fires this year so far as compared to 17 in total for last year. Related specifically to the location of the most recent fire, Chief Webb has had discussion with the Public Services Department in an effort to ascertain what, if anything, could be done to provide additional water resources to this area.

Manager Onieal noted that steep terrain, narrow streets and limited water resources are issues throughout WNC. While the Fire Department serves these areas, they are not part of the central core district with some just outside of ETJ. She explained that the remote sites at high elevations make it difficult to provide the level of infrastructure support of in-town areas. Manager Onieal and Chief Webb both noted that developers must consider infrastructure in these areas and possibly require residential sprinkler systems for high dollar homes that may be in the remote areas.

Mayor Brown added that the solution is not easy. Chief Webb commented that in an effort to find solutions, he has called the Office of the State Fire Marshal to get advice and noted that grants are not readily available for fire prevention. Mayor Brown thanked Chief Webb and all of the firefighters for their assistance and service.

New Generations Initiatives Grant. Manager Onieal provided information on the New Generations Incentives Grant which is an opportunity for the Town and the Chamber of Commerce to collaborate. The grant is designed to develop youth leaders in the community and better their skills; the Chamber was awarded the grant and has suggested that the Leadership Haywood and Young Professionals work on a project for developing greenways throughout the town. The grant is for \$20,000 and there may be the possibility of leveraging that with additional \$20,000 grant from the Arbor Day Foundation. Manager Onieal noted that other groups such as Haywood Waterways and Bicycle Haywood could also be participants. She explained that the focus is about developing leadership. The grant has to be spent in one year and the Town's commitment would be match via in-kind labor and materials.

Brownfields Assessment Grant. Manager Onieal reminded members that they had already given their approval on this grant and participation by the Town. The project is moving forward with the consultant onsite next week for a property inventory and to help each of the participating entities complete the paperwork.

Cell Tower Site Location Requests. Manager Onieal noted that there have been two serious location requests – US Cellular Tower on Reservoir Drive and another by Verizon. Verizon had been in negotiation with the County and that fell through; Verizon is now working with the Town to look at the cell tower ordinance and request some adjustments. Manager

Onieal noted that Haywood County is running out of tower space quickly and a slight revision to the ordinance may be made in the future.

Mayor Brown noted that he agreed that based on the limitations of the current ordinance, limited to town or county property and one acre seemed a bit too restrictive. Manager Onieal explained that most of the towers are monopoles not requiring guide wires and should only require the same amount of space as their height. This issue will be presented to the Planning Board.

Haywood Pathways Center Update. Manager Onieal explained that the first dormitory should be open by November 15th; however the kitchen and laundry will not be ready at that time. Alderman Freeman noted that she is excited to see the facility progressing toward opening and wished them the best.

TDA Appointment. At the October 28, 2014 regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen, Lynn Collins, Executive Director, Haywood County TDA informed members that it was necessary for the Town to appoint a representative to the TDA Board. This vacancy has been advertised on the Town website as well as in the newspaper.

Mayor Gavin Brown noted that Sally Eason had expressed interest in serving and the board was asked if there were any additional candidates of note or if there were any concerns with Ms. Eason being the nominee. There was no objection and no further discussion.

Alderman Caldwell made a motion, seconded by Alderman Greeley to approve Ms. Eason as the Town of Waynesville representative to the Tourism Development Authority pending final confirmation by the Haywood County Board of Commissioners. The motion carried unanimously.

IT project. Manager Onieal explained that the IT transition is coming to an end with all computers to be installed at the Police Department by early December. The police department has been testing their specialized applications in the new system. Manager Onieal noted that a computer training room has been set up at the Municipal Building utilizing 20 computers that were saved during the transition. She added that the new wireless connections have been set up with guest access available. The focus for the future is on training and improving the use of the tools available.

Tobacco Use Ordinance. Manager Onieal explained that a draft is being prepared for a Tobacco Use Ordinance for not only town property and parks, but certain public areas. This is not just a smoking ordinance. Research is being done to look at signage, enforcement, and impact on employees, citizens and visitors. Manager Onieal added that from a health stand point, insurance renewals for smokers and tobacco users are associated with higher costs. The town is offering employees who have town insurance via BCBS a no cost tobacco cessation program between now and renewal July 1, 2015. For those who continue to use tobacco, a premium charge will apply.

Schedule a Retreat for January/February. Manager Onieal explained that in order to properly prepare for budget planning, a board retreat was necessary. Members agreed that a Friday retreat at the end of January would work for all. Manager Onieal asked members to check their calendars and let her know if there were dates that needed to be excluded. She will have the tentative schedule and an agenda in December.

Manager Onieal called attention to the fact that the upcoming November 25th meeting would be primarily dedicated to committee reports and the wholesale power agreement.

E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

F. CALL ON THE AUDIENCE

No one addressed the board.

G. ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, Alderman Greeley made a motion, seconded by Alderman Roberson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST

Gavin A. Brown, Mayor

Marcia D. Onieal, Town Manager

Amanda W. Owens, Town Clerk