

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
September 22, 2015

THE WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN held a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at 6:30 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 6:30 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
Elizabeth Teague, Development Services Director
David Foster, Public Services Director
Preston Gregg, Town Engineer
James Rhinehart, Electric Superintendent
Josh Crawford, Electric Services
Jay Entwistle, Electric Services
David Hyatt, Electric Services
Travis Ledford, Electric Services
Wesley Warren, Electric Services

The following media representatives were present:

Mary Ann Enloe, The Mountaineer
Becky Johnson, Smoky Mountain News

1. Welcome /Calendar/Announcements

Mayor Gavin Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mayor Brown asked Manager Onieal to update regarding calendar events. Manager Onieal called attention to several upcoming events including:

- September 25 – 27 – Cycle NC Mountains to Coast ride. Manager Onieal will discuss in more detail at the end of the meeting. The kick-off/welcome from dignitaries is at 7:00 p.m. and Senator Davis, Representative Joe Sam Queen and Mayor Brown are slated to speak at the ceremony.

- September 27 – Drugs in Our Midst prayer walk – 2 p.m. downtown area
- October 10 – Greenhill Cemetery tour with participants dressed in period costumes and providing biographical information about famous individuals who are buried at Greenhill.

Manager Onieal reminded members of the Boards and Commissions appreciation luncheon on September 29. The police civilian volunteers will also be honored at this time. She added that the candidate forum is also on September 29 and that the location has been changed to the Historic Courthouse.

Mayor Brown thanked the police civilian volunteers for their daily service as well as for the fantastic job they did at the Western Regional Recovery Event at Lake Junaluska on September 19, 2015.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Alderman Caldwell made a motion, seconded by Alderman Roberson, to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2015 regular meeting, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Proclamations

a. Public Power Week – October 4 – 10, 2015

Mayor Brown read aloud and presented the Electric Services Department with the Proclamation honoring Public Power Week October 4 – 10, 2015. Mayor Brown provided a brief history of public power in Waynesville saying it started in 1905 first on Smathers Street. The current electric service division is comprised of six individuals who keep the power on for approximately 3,000 customers. Mayor Brown thanked the Electric Services Division for their dedication, expertise and service to Waynesville. James Rhinehart, Electric Superintendent, received the proclamation and introduced the members of the Electric division.

B. NEW BUSINESS

4. Budget Amendment to fund a study and application for Greenhill Cemetery to the National Register of Historic Places (request of Waynesville Historic Preservation Commission)

Elizabeth Teague, Development Services Director, and Sandra Owen, Historic Preservation Commission Chair brought forth a request from Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) regarding possibly adding Greenhill Cemetery to the National Register of Historic Places. The HPC is requesting funding to pay for the study and development of an application. Ms. Owen noted that Greenhill is a gem of a place, that is beautiful, well-kept and there are several historical figures buried there. It is as if you are walking through history and feeling the past. She added that because of the statuary art of W.O. Wolfe, there is much heritage and interest in this designation. Ms. Owen thanked the board for their interest and participation in the Greenhill Cemetery tour on October 10 from 4 – 5 p.m. This tour is open to the public and members will read scripts as several of the famous characters. The cost

estimate for this application is \$5,700 and would require an amendment to the FY 15-16 approved budget.

Mayor Brown commented that there were a couple of other cemeteries on this list in the area, including Riverside Cemetery in Asheville. Ms. Teague explained that in addition to the federal registry Riverside was also designated a local historic landmark, which restricted how it could be maintained. She added that the federal registry designation would be honorary only, and would not trigger any change in the way that public services staff care for the cemetery and nor would there be any regulation or oversight by outside agencies. Ms. Owen noted that there would be an article in the paper about the cemetery and the tour which will serve to highlight this amazing place.

Mayor Brown noted that while he was in town on the previous Saturday, a visitor was looking for Commandant Mundy's grave; this is the kind of thing that brings people here. He added that he appreciated the letter from the NC Department of Cultural Resources encouraging the Historic Preservation Commission to resubmit an application.

Alderman Greeley added that he was aware that upkeep of cemeteries can be a drain; however the upside is that there is a piece of history that cannot be replicated, duplicated or replaced. In his opinion, applying for this designation was a no brainer and he wholeheartedly supported the budget amendment and application.

Alderman Greeley made a motion, seconded by Alderman Roberson, to approve budget amendment (O-08-15) for the purpose of conducting a study and making application to the National Register of Historic Places for Greenhill Cemetery at a cost not to exceed \$5,700, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

5. NCDOT Project Agreement for Brown Avenue Realignment – Project U-5548 (Agreement ID # 5948)

David Foster, Public Services Director, reported that discussion of this project first began approximately 8 years ago, as a joint project between the school and the town. It has now been listed as a funded project as part of the Transportation Improvement Program. Authorization is required in order to proceed with the implementation, design and construction of the Brown Avenue realignment project. Mr. Foster indicated that the initial cost estimate for the project was \$550,000 with a required match of \$110,000. Mr. Foster has presented the information to the School Board and to the Building and Grounds Committee and received an initial motion and verbal agreement to partner with the town and provide half of the match funding. He explained that he will have to go back to school board after the final numbers are received. The plan is to move Brown Avenue closer to the railroad and essentially flipflop the parking lot and Brown Avenue so children do not have to cross street when getting off busses.

Mayor Brown noted that safety consideration for the children should be the priority, a project such as this may be seen as pricey, but safety is the key. Mayor Brown inquired about the intersection and any changes to it below the school. Mr. Foster noted that he has asked the NCDOT to utilize Town of Waynesville crews as a cost saving measure. Mayor Brown added that this change should not impact the citizens as the speed limits would remain the same on that street. Alderman Caldwell commented that making this change was definitely warranted and made sense.

Alderman Caldwell made a motion, seconded by Alderman Freeman, to approve the contract and matching funds for the Brown Avenue Realignment Project Agreement ID # 5948, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Appointment to Waynesville Public Art Commission

Mayor Brown noted that George Kenney had applied for the vacant position on the Waynesville Public Art Commission for a three-year term ending on June 30, 2018.

Ms. Owens indicated that all of the positions on all of the Boards and Commissions for the town had been filled except for one vacancy on the Historic Preservation Commission.

Alderman Greeley made a motion, seconded by Alderman Roberson to appoint George Kenney to the Waynesville Public Art Commission for a three-year term ending on June 30, 2018, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

C. COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

7. Town Manager – Marcy Onieal

Mountains to Coast Cycling Event – September 25 - 27

Manager Onieal distributed some additional informational items about the Cycle NC Mountains to Coast event this weekend. Multiple signs will be posted alerting drivers to delays on the roads due to cyclists. As the town has not hosted an event quite this large, there has been much preparation and effort put in to planning and implementation. Partners for this event have been the DWA, TDA, Chamber of Commerce, NC Amateur Sports, Bicycle Haywood and countless number of town staff. Manager Onieal noted that many of the participants will be camping on the grounds of the Rec Center. She included a site map for the various activity areas including registration, shower trucks, catering services, and vendors for the board members. Staff at the welcome tent will encourage participants to travel in and about in town; businesses in the downtown area have been encouraged to stay open later.

Manager Onieal added that the riders will leave town on Sunday morning between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. at their leisure. The route will be highway 276 to Hendersonville. The average distance per day is 60 to 100 miles and the trip culminates in Oak Island. Manager Onieal explained that some riders would leave their cars in the parking deck in designated areas. Manager Onieal explained the role of all departments involved with this event including: code enforcement to ensure that set up will be safe, Electric division, EMS and Fire Department first responders will be at the Rec Center; Police will be on bicycles providing security and intersection control. Recreation Staff and Haywood Public Transit will provide shuttle service for riders dropping off to hotels and to the downtown. Public services will provide continuous services, including trash pick up. Manager Onieal reported that these rides have a festival atmosphere and entertainment is being provided all day Saturday. The goal is to have the participants and families come back to Waynesville in the future. Planning for this event began in June 2015 when the town was selected as the host city.

Disc Golf Relocation

Manager Onieal explained that relocation of the disc golf course is being considered due to intensive and sometimes conflicting uses of the recreation center's main track & field area. The town is currently leasing property adjacent to the greenway in the Hazelwood (Dutch Fisher Field) park area which would allow for relocation of the course and possibly decrease vagrancy issues in that park.

Alderman Greeley asked how many individuals currently utilize the disc golf course. Manager Onieal responded that there are a tremendous number who use the course; people do come from all over WNC. Manager Onieal explained that moving the disc golf course would allow for separation of the activities at the Rec Center fields and provide a better use of the space in Hazelwood. She added that there is already an agreement to maintain the area as a natural urban park and disc golf and walking trails fit this description perfectly.

Hazelwood Parking Lot/WPAC Art Project Update

Manager Onieal noted that there have been requests for improvements to the Armory, Frog Level and Hazelwood lots. The town has been looking at ways to improve the lots and develop long term arrangements with property owners. A concept plan for the Hazelwood lot has been developed which dovetails with Chris Forga's plans and active discussion regarding a cooperative arrangement is occurring. Projected budgetary changes are from \$60,000 to \$150,000 via a capital improvement plan. Manager Onieal explained that the town would want to negotiate some cost sharing with a long term lease. Also, the Waynesville Public Art Commission would be putting in a mini-park with public art via a permanent easement as part of the lease agreement.

Manager Onieal explained that she did not want to get too far into negotiations with Ms. Forga without bringing this to the board's attention. The WPAC will present their plans to the board for this long term project and begin raising money for the public art piece which will be about the Plott Hound. Manager Onieal thanked the Public Art Commission for their efforts. She noted that the current year's budget did not have funds budgeted for parking lot improvements, but that she clearly understood the board's desire to address these business areas when the opportunities present themselves. Work in the current year would require a budget amendment if the board wishes to proceed in a partnership on the Hazelwood lot. The mayor noted that the board did support this effort and directed the manager to proceed with negotiations with Ms. Forga.

Main Street Fall Décor Proposal

Manager Onieal reported that the DWA had received a request for a change in décor for fall in downtown. This is not something that the DWA staff is planning to do, but rather the merchants have asked to decorate the light poles in a fall motif including cornhusks, ribbon, greenery, leaves. Manager Onieal clarified that the merchants are not asking the town for any funds, but seeking the blessing of the town. The merchants will do all of the work which will be a unified look and will have them down before the Christmas decorations go up. Manager Onieal explained that this will mean a bit of clean up, and that DWA and Town had received requests for this type décor before, but that it had been discouraged by DWA staff because they were not in position to manage fall decorations systematically the way they do Christmas. The actual decorating would be done as a service project by the Tuscola High School cheerleaders.

Mayor Brown added that Brandon Green does this on South Main Street as a single merchant. Manager Onieal commented that if the merchants of Frog Level or Hazelwood wished to participate, they would be encouraged to do so. Again, the request is mainly to get the blessing from the town.

8. Town Attorney – Woody Griffin

Attorney Griffin had no business to discuss.

D. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN

The Board members had no other business to discuss.

E. CALL ON THE AUDIENCE

No one addressed the board.

F. CLOSED SESSION

Alderman Caldwell made a motion, seconded by Alderman Greeley, to enter into closed session, as permitted by NCGS § 143-318.11(a)(2), for the purpose of preventing premature disclosure of an honorary recognition. The motion carried unanimously.

The board entered into closed session at 7:10 p.m.

The board returned from closed session at 7:43 p.m.

H. ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, Alderman Caldwell made a motion, seconded by Alderman Greeley, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST

Gavin A. Brown, Mayor

Marcia D. Onieal, Town Manager

Amanda W. Owens, Town Clerk

Waynesville Board of Alderman Minutes
Regular Meeting September 22, 2015