

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
April 9, 2019

THE WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN held its regular meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. in the board room of Town Hall, 9 South Main Street, Waynesville, NC.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gavin Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Gavin Brown
Mayor Pro Tem Gary Caldwell
Alderman Jon Feichter
Alderman LeRoy Roberson

Absent:

Alderman Julia Freeman – out of town

The following staff members were present:

Rob Hites, Town Manager
Amie Owens, Assistant Town Manager
Eddie Ward, Town Clerk
Bill Cannon, Town Attorney
Lieutenant Tyler Trantham
David Foster, Director of Public Services
Julie Grasty, Asset Services Manager
Fire Chief Joey Webb

The following media representatives were present:

Becky Johnson, Mountaineer

1. Welcome /Calendar/Announcements

Mayor Brown reminded the Board of the following calendar events:

Wednesday April 10th – Life Share Organ Donation Registration – Town Hall Lobby
Thursday, April 11th – 5:30 pm – Comprehensive Land Use Plan Meeting - Recreation Center
Tuesday, April 16th - 5:30 pm – Comprehensive Land Use Plan Meeting – Fire Station 1
Friday April 19th - - Cross Walk – Main Street

Mayor Brown told the Board the he would like to remove item 6 – Board Appointments to the Cemetery Committee – until the April 23, 2019 regular meeting due to the absence of Alderman Freeman. The Board agreed. Mayor Brown also removed the presentation of Certificates of Commendations due to Chief Bill Hollingsed being out of Town.

2. Adoption of Minutes

A motion was made by Alderman Gary Caldwell, seconded by Alderman Jon Feichter to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2019 regular meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

B. PRESENTATION

3. Resolution Supporting the More Powerful NC Campaign
 - Lieutenant Tyler Trantham

Lieutenant Trantham gave a brief summary the More Powerful NC Campaign that was organized from the North Carolina Attorney General to respond as a community to the Opioid crisis in the state and in our County and Town. He said this crisis is very real here in the Town of Waynesville. He recapped the last 10 years of fighting this crisis, and gave examples of two incidences that alarmed the Police Department and affected them in a very emotional way. He described how drug dealers have become “mobile pharmacies” with prescription drugs along with illegal drugs. He said the social by products of these drugs have increased instances of breaking and entering, home invasions, and arsons.

Lieutenant Trantham said that the Police Department has not only arrested many of the drug dealers, but they have been very proactive in the fight against these drugs. The Department had conducted presentations to teachers, students, doctors, churches, civic groups, mental health providers, community leaders, and anyone who would listen to help combat this growing problem. Another tool that has been used is the pill take back program. This has usually been conducted twice a year, and has been phenomenal with people dropping approximately 600 pounds of pills in the box behind the Police Department each time. He said that because of these programs, Waynesville has had an impact on the drug crisis. He explained to the Board about new legislation that has been implemented since 2017 concerning fraudulent prescriptions, and money that has been allocated for substance abuse treatment programs in the State.

Lieutenant Trantham said that the Departments goal was to be “victim first” Policemen. This identifies that the addicted are also victims. He said that in 2018 the department responded to 34 non-fatal overdoses in the Town of Waynesville. Out of those overdoses, there were 17 times that the policeman used Narcan to reverse the overdose. Because the Narcan was with the officers, Lieutenant Trantham feels that those 17 lives were saved. Another program of the department is the LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) program. This identifies those individuals in the community who need a second chance and hope. They need assistance with possibly a place to live, a job, and a support system so they can have a future.

Mayor Brown thanked Lieutenant Trantham and read Resolution R-09-19 supporting the More Powerful NC Campaign.

A motion was made by Alderman Gary Caldwell, seconded by Alderman Jon Feichter, to adopt Resolution R-09-19 supporting the More Powerful NC Campaign. The motion passed unanimously.

B. NEW BUSINESS

4. Request approval for purchase of circulation fan
 - Chief Joey Webb

Fire Chief Joey Webb explained to the Board that heating the fire bays at Station 1 has been an issue since the building was built in 2008. He said there are four electric wall mounted heaters that are running constantly during the winter months, and the bulk of the heat is going into the ceiling area. The electric bills for Fire Station 1 double during the winter months. He brought the Board's attention to the comparison of electric usage for the Fire Department for 2017 and 2018.

Chief Webb said he has researched and spoken with other departments that use fans to circulate the air. This will provide better heating and cooling of the bay area. A quote for the fan and installation has been received; total cost is \$9,152.79.

Due to the retirement of Assistant Chief Morgan and the pending replacement, Chief Webb said the department would have additional funds in the wages budget that would allow the fire department to purchase the fan utilizing lapse salary dollars. The cost savings from the electric usage would provide a quick return on the investment.

A motion to approve the purchase of a new circulation fan for the bay area in Fire Station 1 in the amount of \$9,152.79 was made by Alderman LeRoy Roberson, seconded by Alderman Jon Feichter. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Award of Contract for Walnut Trail Bridge Reconditioning Project

- David Foster, Public Services Director

David Foster, Public Services Director, stated that NCDOT engineering representatives perform bridge inspections on each bridge across the state once every other year. These inspections also overlap to include Town bridges such as Walnut Trail Rd. leading into the wastewater treatment plant. He said that over the last several years, the Public Services Department has reviewed these engineering inspection reports and attempted to put together projects to address repair needs or any items of great concern.

During a recent inspection, the bridge on Walnut Trail was identified as needing attention. This bridge consists of four spans of large steel I-beams in need of coating and repair of areas that have "pitting" or "section-loss" (meaning rust). The intent and objective for the project is to preserve the life of the beams and overall structural integrity of the bridge leading into an important asset of the Town, the wastewater treatment plant.

Mr. Foster told the Board that six different contractors were notified of the project. The project was advertised online and in the local newspaper. ACMI was the sole contractor who responded to the mandatory onsite pre-bid meeting to discuss project specifications and plans. The project bidding deadline was extended an additional two weeks to allow time for additional bids to be submitted. There were no more bids received. Therefore he recommends to award the contract to ACMI.

Mr. Foster said that the bridge will remain open and unimpeded throughout the course of reconditioning.

A motion was made by Alderman LeRoy Roberson, seconded by Alderman Gary Caldwell, to award of contract to ACMI, Inc. for Walnut Trail Bridge Reconditioning Project at a cost of \$40,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

Manager's Report

- Town Manager Rob Hites

5. Resolution opposing Senate Bill 790 which will permit a South Carolina Indian Tribe to build and operate a casino in Cleveland County North Carolina

Manager Hites said that at last week's meeting of the Southwestern Council of Governments, Chief Sneed reported that Senator Lindsey Graham, with the Co-Sponsorship of NC Senators Tillis and Burr, has introduced a bill (SB 790) to permit an unrecognized NC tribe from South Carolina to construct and operate a casino in Cleveland County (Charlotte Region). He said that if this casino is allowed to be constructed and in operation, it will be in direct competition to Western NC casino. Chief Sneed speculates that our region could lose over a third of its casino business. This bill was introduced despite being rejected by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Manager Hites told the Board that the Casino is one of Waynesville's major employers and many of our year round visitors are shopping in Waynesville during a trip to the Casino. It was the views of the participants at the Southwest meeting that every local government in the Western region of the State should vigorously oppose this potential damage to its economy.

A motion was made by Alderman LeRoy Roberson, seconded by Alderman Jon Feichter, to approve Resolution R-08-19 – Opposition to Catawba Indian Nation Casino in North Carolina. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Last Shot of the Civil War Reenactment

Mayor Brown brought to the Board's attention that the reenactment of the last shot of the Civil War has been held at the Greenhill Cemetery for many years, and once again they are requesting permission to hold the event. The event will be held on May 4, and the actual reenactment will be held at the Sulphur Spring Park, and then they will march to the Cemetery and do a 21 gun salute. Mayor Brown stated that if there was a funeral burial being held in the Cemetery, the 21 gun salute would not take place.

It was the consensus of the Board to allow the reenactment to take place.

7. Encroachment of Fire Escape on Town property

Attorney Woodrow Griffin explained to the Board that he is representing the buyer of the building adjacent to the Municipal Building parking lot. At some point a fire escape has been constructed on the side of the old Gateway Building, and it leads down onto the parking lot. He said that area is an encroachment onto town property. The potential buyer will need to be able to use the stairway for emergency purposes, and would like for the Town to grant an easement for the encroachment, including wording to the effect that in case of an emergency there might be some interference in the use of the Town parking lot.

A motion was made by Alderman Gary Caldwell, seconded by Alderman Jon Feichter, to authorize Town Attorney Bill Cannon to prepare an easement for the encroachment of the fire escape that is in existence now. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Attorney's Report
- Town Attorney Bill Cannon

Attorney Cannon had nothing to report.

F. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND BOARD

There were no comments.

G. CALL ON THE AUDIENCE

There were no comments.

H. ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, Alderman LeRoy Roberson made a motion, seconded by Alderman Gary Caldwell, to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Gavin A. Brown, Mayor

Robert W. Hites, Jr., Town Manager

Eddie Ward, Town Clerk