

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
Special Called Meeting-Planning Retreat
February 24, 2023

THE WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN held a special called meeting on Friday, February 24, 2023 at 8:30 am. in the Waynesville Recreation Center Multi-purpose room located at 550 Vance Street Waynesville, NC.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gary Caldwell called the meeting to order at 8:43 am with the following members present:

Mayor Gary Caldwell
Alderwoman Julia Freeman
Alderman Chuck Dickson
Alderman Anthony Sutton
Alderman Jon Feichter

The following staff members were present:

Rob Hites, Town Manager
Jesse Fowler, Assistant Town Manager
Luke Kinsland, Recreation Director
David Adams, Police Chief
Brandon Gilmore, Assistant Police Chief
Misty Hagood, Finance Director
Jeff Stines, Director of Public Services
Elizabeth Teague, Planning Director
Candace Poolton, Town Clerk
Joey Webb, Fire Chief
Chris Mehaffey, Assistant Fire Chief

Members of the media:

Becky Johnson, The Mountaineer
Cory Vaillancourt, The Smoky Mountain News

1. Welcome/Introductory Comments

Mayor Gary Caldwell welcomed everyone and asked if the Board Members had any announcements.

Alderman Anthony Sutton reported that he spent the week in Raleigh. He met with NCDOT and NC Rails. Alderman Jon Feichter reported that he was recently at the UNC School of Government Advanced Leadership Corps which consisted of 24 elected leaders from the all over NC. Alderman Sutton recommended attending the North Carolina League of Municipalities annual convention on April 23rd. Alderman Chuck Dickson said a big thank you to the staff.

B. NEW BUSINESS

2. Current Budget Update

- Misty Hagood, Finance Officer

Finance Director, Misty Hagood, reported that the available Fund Balance is \$9.7million, which is 65.5% of the Town's General Fund Expenditures. She added that there are restricted and assigned amounts within that number that can only be spent on certain things. Un-restricted money totals \$7,402,472 or 50.8%. Ms. Hagood recommended that the Board focuses on keeping this number up before moving forward with thinking about financing for the Fire Station.

Town Manager Rob Hites warned that this upcoming Fiscal Year will be tight and that if the Town's fund balance gets too low, it could affect what kind of financing rate the Town would get for the Fire Station.

Alderman Jon Feichter asked about the \$800,000 prior period adjustment. Ms. Hagood said that the loan the Electric Fund made to the General Fund was not recorded properly, so it got taken out of Fund Balance after it was recorded properly. That money should've been recorded as a liability.

Ms. Hagood said that everything is running very well this Fiscal Year. Sharon, our tax collector, has done an excellent job collecting prior year taxes. Sales and Services revenue is down, mostly due to the SRO reimbursement which will come in at the end of the year. Recreation fees are coming up and in line with what the Town budgeted for this year. Sales tax revenue was down the last couple of months, so Ms. Hagood said she'll keep an eye on that.

Ms. Hagood reported that property tax collections has increased to 95.95%. She expects Fiscal Year 2023 to be over 97%. Ms. Hagood wanted to ask the Board if the Finance Department could move forward with enforced collection, such as bank attachments and wage and rent garnishments. The top three delinquent taxpayers are commercial.

Mr. Hites said the Town has the legal authority to enforce collection. Legally, the Town can collect delinquent taxes from 10 years ago.

A motion was made by Alderman Chuck Dickson, seconded by Alderman Anthony Sutton, to direct the tax collector to pursue all legal means to collect taxes. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Jon Feichter asked the Finance Department to keep the Board aware of any actions taken to collect delinquent taxes.

Ms. Hagood reported that Enterprise Funds look good overall. She said that Revenue is over Expenditures for water and sewer. She added that expenses are running higher for the Electric Fund, but a lot of that is operating transfers. She said it should work out by the end of the year. Ms. Hagood said that 300 payment plans have been signed total, only 56 are remaining since this month, and 26 should be paid off by the end of February.

American Rescue Plan Funds amount to \$525,000. Ms. Hagood reminded the Board that this money needs to be encumbered by December 2024 and spent by the end of 2026 to be used on capital.

3. Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

- Misty Hagood, Finance Director

Finance Director, Misty Hagood, reported that the projected General Fund shows \$9.7 million for Fiscal Year 2024 and \$5.5 million for Fiscal Year 2025. Ms. Hagood said that we still need a lot of money each year just to make debt service payments. One cent on the property tax rate is about \$156,000 and one cent on the fire tax rate is \$77,000. If the Town added the \$5 vehicle fee, that would be \$85,000 a year that the Town could use that toward some of the bridges that need replacing. Ms. Hagood reported that this year the Town spent, without using fund balance, \$320,000 using revenue. One loan was paid off this Fiscal Year in the amount of \$48,700. The Police Department loan will be the next one to pay off in May of 2028.

Alderman Sutton asked how much would taxes have to be raised to accommodate all the Town's needs. Town Manager Rob Hites said 7-12 cents. He added that we have a lot of deferred maintenance that needs to be done and we need to prioritize our needs. Ms. Hagood said that despite using ARP funds to catch up, the Town still has a lot to get done. Alderman Sutton said that it may require raising taxes to get the "must-haves". Mr. Hites agreed with Alderman Sutton. Last year at this time, Alderman Feichter said he asked about the Town looking into a General Obligation Bond (GO Bond). He added that the Fire Department alone has \$12 million worth of needs. Mr. Hites recommended that if the Board wanted to use a GO Bond, that they should use that for "must haves" and use the General Fund for "like to haves".

4. Recreation Masterplan Review

- Luke Kinsland, Recreation Director

Recreation Director, Luke Kinsland, reported that it was 2017 when the Recreation Master Plan was implemented, so the cost estimates shown are not going to be up to date. He added that very few items of the Master Plan have been fulfilled. There are more improvements needed before they can focus on new construction. The Recreation Master Plan reflects the most immediate needs based on safety. Mr. Kinsland presented an overview of the 10-year Recreation Master Plan:

-2023: Dog Park improvements, lighting in the Skate Park, and a new greenway at Shul and Bridge located at Vance Park. The greenway will be funded by PARTF (\$440,000).

-2024: Tennis Court reconstruction or possible relocation (\$600,000) and a bathroom at the Obama-King park (\$80,000).

-2025: Replace the existing wooden playground at Rec Park with Universal Material (\$475,000) and a pavilion shelter to serve the Dog and Skate Parks (\$85,000)

-2026: Resurface the basketball courts and install new fencing at Rec Park and East Street Park (\$135,000). Upgrade the cardio equipment (\$125,000)

-2027: Improve both the East Street and Sulphur Springs Parks (\$700,000).

-2028: Renovate restrooms at the Bi-Lo Pavilion and Vance Park (\$180,000). Replace the small playground at the Bi-Lo Pavilion with an updated universal one (\$100,000).

-2029: Resurface the asphalt track at Vance Park (\$150,000).

-2030: Make improvements to Hazelwood Park (\$300,000).

-2031: Build a 3000 square foot addition to the weight room at the Rec Center (\$900,000).

-2032: Construct a natural garden area with a pavilion or gazebo at the Rec Center, adjacent to the roundabout, and add new parking spaces along Vance Street (\$350,000).

Mr. Kinsland concluded the presentation by adding that the costs for safety-based improvements and renovations will total \$2,765,000. New design and constructions costs total \$1,415,000.

Discussion about the Master Plan involved potentially involving the Kiwanis Club in any playground construction, a dedication ceremony being held on March 30th of the greenway bridge, and using the \$40,000 worth of restricted funds to renovate the tennis courts. Mr. Kinsland also announced that the Rec Center will now be open on Sundays.

5. Amending Election Process to Staggered Terms

- Alderman Chuck Dickson

Alderman Chuck Dickson suggested introducing staggered terms at the next election because this will help with Board continuity. There is a possibility of a complete turn over in the Board in the next election which would cause an immense loss of knowledge and destabilization. He added that the Waynesville Board is the only Board in Haywood County that does not have staggered terms. With staggered terms, at least half the Board would have working knowledge through each election cycle. Alderwoman Julia Freeman said that the Board has been discussing this for 11 years and it's time to make a move. Alderman Dickson said after the election, the Board would then have to decide which members served 2 years, and who would serve 4 years. He said it could be based on which members get the highest votes, or the Board could draw straws. He said he's fine either way. Alderman Feichter said he sees all the reasons behind having staggered terms. He said if the Board is going to pursue it, that he feels there should be a unanimous vote. He said he prefers the two highest "vote getters". Alderman Sutton agreed with Alderman Feichter. Mr. Hites recommended that the Board makes this a part of their ordinance. The Board agreed with Mr. Hites. Alderman Sutton said that making this change could also allow for the Board to change the name of Board members from Aldermen to Councilmembers. Alderman Feichter said that he prefers to keep the Aldermen tradition and that connects the current Board to previous Boards. He added that while he prefers to keep the current term, if that keeps the vote from being unanimous, he will concede. Mayor Caldwell said he understands where Alderman Feichter is coming from, and that in the 28 years he'd been in government, that's the term they used. Alderman Sutton said he feels as though "Alderman" is a misogynist term and references a time when women were not allowed to serve on the Board. Alderwoman Freeman said that when she networks, most people don't recognize the term "Alderman". She went on to say that the term is antiquated and old-school.

A motion was made by Alderman Chuck Dickson, seconded by Alderman Anthony Sutton to instruct the Town Attorney to change the Town's system of government to staggered terms at the next election and to change the use of the word "Aldermen" to "Councilmembers", and instruct the Town Attorney to provide a Resolution of Intent at a future Board of Aldermen meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Increasing Fire District Taxes

- Alderman Chuck Dickson and Fire Chief Joey Webb

Alderman Chuck Dickson said that the Town Fire Department serves many other areas outside of the Town of Waynesville, so much so, that the insurance rates have been lowered for residents within and outside the Town. Alderman Dickson said he would like to increase the Fire District tax rate given the increased benefit the Town's Fire Department has been providing to people. Alderman Dickson raised the question of what is it costing the Town to serve outside areas? Alderman Dickson said the increased tax rate could help pay for the new fire engine truck that is much needed. Fire Chief Joey Webb said that last year, their truck was out of service for 92 days out of the year, which caused the Fire department to rely on older trucks or borrow trucks from neighboring towns. Fire Chief Webb said the new truck won't be delivered until April 2024. He

said if they can find a demo truck that fits the needs of the department, they may be able to get a truck sooner. Fire Chief Webb said that raising the tax rate shouldn't be a hard sell to the commissioners considering the service that the Fire Department provides to the area as well as how much citizen's insurance rates have gone down.

Town Manager Rob Hites suggested to the Board that he and Chief Webb need to first draw up a Resolution to formally present to the County Commissioners. He said that he will have it by the second meeting in March.

7. Adding Videos of Meetings to Town Website

- Alderman Chuck Dickson

Alderman Chuck Dickson said he believes that the government should be as transparent as possible. He added that there are people with disabilities who cannot physically attend our meetings and more people are now engaging digitally. Alderman Chuck Dickson said that he understands the fear of publicizing the public comment session because people could use that time to grandstand, but said that the Town has no obligation to show the public comment section online if it were to become a problem.

Assistant Town Manager Jesse Fowler said the Board Room already has the technology in place to record video and audio of Board meetings.

Alderwoman Julia Freeman said she is on the fence- that posting audio is doable but putting Board Members faces on social media could cause backlash. Mayor Caldwell said that he doesn't want to make a decision like this that could potentially affect new Board Members, since this is an election year.

Alderman Jon Feichter said he loves the idea and would like to live stream Board meetings.

Alderman Anthony Sutton agreed with Alderwoman Freeman. He recommended that the Board starts with posting audio first, but not to make it live. Mayor Caldwell agreed with Alderman Sutton. Alderman Sutton requested that the Board posts audio recordings on the website first, and then they can re-visit the topic of posting video. Alderman Feichter said his concern with just posting audio is that nuances could be missed because of disconnected voices and the general public may have difficulty recognizing whose voice is whose. Mr. Fowler said that live streaming has issues and, in his experience, there were moments when it would have been nice to have the option to disconnect the live stream. He also said that it would be difficult to manage the technology while also having to present at the Board meetings. Alderman Feichter asked if Haywood County Commissioners have had issues with live streaming. Alderwoman Freeman replied yes, people have been just awful to them on social media. Alderman Sutton said based on the comfort level of the Board, the technology we have, and wanting to wait to see what the feedback from the public would be, at this time we should start with just posting audio.

A motion was made by Alderman Anthony Sutton, seconded by Alderwoman Julia Freeman, to begin posting audio recordings of the Board of Aldermen meetings on the website. Mayor Gary Caldwell, Alderwoman Julia Freeman, Alderman Chuck Dickson, and Alderman Anthony Sutton voted yay. Alderman Jon Feichter voted nay. The motion passes four to one.

8. Increase Recreation Fees for Non-Residents

- Alderman Chuck Dickson

Alderman Chuck Dickson said the Recreation Department has charged the same fees for a long time. Alderman Dickson said he feels that increased fees will not result in decreased visitation to recreation facilities, and he would like to see the increased rates begin in the next fiscal year. Alderman Anthony Sutton suggested that

the Town looks at every fee and decide on how much to increase the rates. Town Manager Rob Hites said that previous Recreation Director said the rates are so low, that they don't even cover staff time to set up rentals or maintain athletic fields, etc. Alderman Dickson said that the Recreation Department should be charging non-residents more.

Alderman Chuck Dickson requested that the Recreation Department Staff come up with a new set of user fees by next Fiscal Year. Recreation Director Luke Kinsland agreed and said that he will work with Finance Director Misty Hagood to decide on the new fees.

9. Sweeping Downtown Sidewalks

- Mayor Gary Caldwell

Mayor Gary Caldwell reported that merchants on Main Street have been complaining that the sidewalks are dirty. He added that the Town used to have a staff member dedicated to cleaning the sidewalks. Town Manager Rob Hites said that in every town he worked for, merchants were responsible for sweeping the sidewalks in front of their own businesses. Alderman Anthony Sutton said that Hazelwood and Frog Level merchants are currently sweeping the sidewalks in front of their businesses. Mr. Hites said that the Municipal Service District fee does not cover the maintenance of sidewalks-that comes out of the General Fund. He added that staff time has been stretched due to the Town taking on parking areas in other parts of Town. Mr. Hites said that to be equitable, sidewalks would need to be swept in all three commercial districts. He said that staff do come in around 7am, two to three times a week, to sweep the sidewalks. He suggested that merchants should sweep into the street, then the street sweeper can come through early in the morning and that would be the best use of staff time and money. Assistant Town Manager Jesse Fowler reported that the Downtown Waynesville Commission (DWC) is going to ask block captains to talk to the merchants to see what their thoughts are on sweeping in front of their stores. A few are already doing it. Public Services Director Jeff Stines said his team empty all the trashcans on Main Street and clean sidewalks two to three times a week. He said the issue is that a couple of hours later they're messy again. He also said that the street sweeper has been in and out of commission. Alderman Jon Feichter suggested more trash and recycle cans on Main Street. Mr. Hites said that's a possibility and Mr. Fowler said the new bump outs that contain trash cans will be placed on Main Street using Medford grant money if the Town gets the grant. Mayor Caldwell said he feels that it is the Town's responsibility to keep the sidewalks clean. Mr. Hites said the issue is that the Streets and Sanitation Department is stretched thin as it is, so adding more tasks could negatively impact service in other areas. Mr. Stines said the Streets and Sanitations team can pick up the sidewalks three times a week, perhaps earlier in the morning. Alderman Dickson asked where does sidewalk trash pickup stop? He said he also wants sidewalks to be clean, but we don't have the staffing to do it. Mayor Caldwell disagreed and said we do have the staff. Alderman Feichter said it may be that merchants aren't aware that sweeping in front of their businesses is their responsibility, so he said let's start with asking them-DWC has initiated that process. Mayor Caldwell suggested organizing a Clean Sweep event on the first of May. Alderman Feichter said he will organize that event.

10. Paving the Old Armory Parking Lot

- Mayor Gary Caldwell

Mayor Gary Caldwell said when the Town made a contract with Drake for them to use the Old Armory parking lot, the Town offered to light, pave, and paint the lot as incentive for them to put their business there. Mayor

Caldwell would like to put it on the paving schedule. Public Services Director, Jeff Stines, reported that he had received a recent estimate. The estimate included adding gravel and stone, grading the lot (the lot is too level for proper drainage), and the removal of sidewalks in that area, for \$60,000. Lighting is not included in that estimate. Alderman Dickson said they can park to the right of the Armory if they're not interfering with Armory parking. Mayor Caldwell said when the Town signed the contract with Drake, that the Town agreed to pave the lot. Town Manager Rob Hites said that is not in the lease agreement, to which Mayor Caldwell said it should be. Alderman Sutton said he was more concerned about lighting in that area since the employees work later at night. Mr. Stines offered to get an estimate on lighting. Mr. Hites said the lease is for 20 years but is broken into five-year increments. Mr. Hites said Ms. Coffey (the leaser), may not want the lot paved. Mr. Hites offered to add paving to the lease and add it to the budget for next year after talking with the Coffeys to see if that's what they would like.

11. Finalize Landscaping Plan for Downtown

- Alderman Chuck Dickson

Assistant Town Manager Jesse Fowler said he applied for the Medford grant for bump outs. He said he has conceptual designs for two bump outs, which incorporate trash cans and planters. Mr. Fowler said he sat down with Bill Skelton, the Town's horticulturalist, about a seasonal planting plan.

12. Create Advisory Board for Sustainability

- Alderman Chuck Dickson

Alderman Chuck Dickson said he has been meeting with the Environmental Action Committee of WNC. He reminded the Board that six years ago, they voted to promote 100% clean energy by the year 2050. He added that Hendersonville has an Advisory Board for Sustainability and a lot of what they do ends up saving the Town money. Alderman Dickson said the Advisory Board could potentially bring in grant money. He asked the Board to allow him and Ms. Teague to continue meeting with the EAC of WNC to come up with a proposal for the Town. The Board was in full support of moving forward with developing an Environmental Sustainability Board. Alderman Dickson said the only issue is who would oversee administering the money the Advisory Board of Sustainability would receive. He added that the County has a grant administrator. The Board discussed potentially hiring a grant writer. Alderman Feichter said \$78,000 is the median salary for a grant administrator. He urged the Board to think how much money that person could bring in, not about how much a salary would be. Alderman Sutton said that within a year, the Board could see if the position was beneficial or not based on how much money they brought in. Alderwoman Julia Freeman said a lot of times, a grant writer could be paid a percentage out of the grant they applied for and received. Town Manager Rob Hites said he is in favor because the current staff has trouble not with applying for grants, but keeping up with the reporting after receiving the grant. Mr. Hites said we can start by posting the position and hire them at the start of the next fiscal year. He also said we need to hire a Human Resources Director. Mr. Hites will report back to the Board in March about a salary for a grant writer. The Board was in full agreement about staff beginning the hiring process for an HR Director and looking into the salary for a grant writer.

13. Joint Planning/Town Board Meeting Goals

- Alderman Chuck Dickson

Assistant Town Manager Jesse Fowler said he met with Jake from Stewart Engineering, and he suggested that it would be better to postpone the meeting until April, and to have the joint meeting during a regular

scheduled Planning Board meeting. Mr. Fowler said there will be a meeting prior to the joint meeting to discuss goal setting and a structure plan for the joint meeting. Alderman Sutton suggested that he and Alderman Feichter attend the preliminary meeting with some Planning Board members. Planning Director Elizabeth Teague said the Planning Board would like some guidance on how to implement the 2030 plan with regard to density and development. Alderman Dickson was wondering about potentially having a policy on whether the Town automatically extends Town services to the areas within the Urban Service Boundary. For example, the Town did not have to extend sewer to the Queen Farm development. The development is in the ETJ, but Alderman Dickson said the Town did not have a policy saying whether we should or shouldn't extend sewer. The Board discussed height limit policies of structures.

14. Special Appropriations/Contributions to Non-Profits

- Jesse Fowler, Assistant Town Manager

Assistant Town Manager Jesse Fowler said that historically, the Town has set aside a penny on the tax rate to go toward special appropriations. After Finance Director Misty Hagood attended a conference where they discussed special appropriations, staff wanted to review the legal procedure on how special appropriations can be awarded. Alderman Anthony Sutton and Alderman Chuck Dickson do not want to do any discretionary funds moving forward based on the restrictions the General Statutes have in place. Alderman Sutton said the money would be better spent on a grant administrator. Alderman Jon Feichter said he is upset about the state's restrictions on special appropriations, and that money spent on non-profits helps the community. Alderwoman Julia Freeman said that because the money awarded is usually such a small amount, that it's not going to make or break non-profits. The Board agreed that they will no longer offer special appropriations. Mr. Fowler said he will let applicants know of the Board's decision.

A motion was made by Alderman Chuck Dickson, seconded by Alderman Anthony Sutton, to eliminate special appropriations to private organizations. The motion passed unanimously.

15. Budget Amendment to increase Fund Balance Appropriations-Paving and the Streets and Sanitation budget by \$106,425 to mill and pave Mississippi and Virginia Avenue.

- Jeff Stines, Director of Public Services

Director of Public Services, Jeff Stines, reported that he received a quote from WNC Paving for \$106,425 to mill and repave Mississippi and Virginia Ave as requested by the Board of Aldermen at the February 14th meeting. We have \$137,562.50 remaining in the reserves from the \$5 fee that used to be on vehicle tax bills to go toward paving. He said if the Board approves the budget amendment, then they can start paving before the new fiscal year. Mr. Stines added that the quote doesn't include paving the end of Virginia Avenue. The Board asked Mr. Stines to get a quote for the cost of paving the end of Virginia Avenue. Alderman Dickson said the end of Virginia Avenue does not need paving. Town Manager Hites reminded the Board that the asphalt plant won't be open before the next meeting. Mr. Hites also reminded the Board of the tight budget and said that if they decide to pave a part of Virginia Ave that doesn't need paving, they are taking away money from something that needs to be done. Mayor Caldwell agreed with Mr. Hites.

A motion was made by Alderman Anthony Sutton, seconded by Alderman Jon Feichter, to approve the paving of Mississippi and Virginia Avenue. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderman Anthony Sutton, seconded by Alderman Chuck Dickson, to approve the budget amendment of \$106,425 for milling and paving Mississippi and Virginia Avenue. The motion passed unanimously.

16. Emergency Purchase of New Core Switches

- Jesse Fowler, Assistant Town Manager

Assistant Town Manager Jesse Fowler reported that inside the server room inside of Fire Station #1, there is an internet connection that runs through the building from a box. From that box, fiber optic cables run through a switch, split, and run to different other Town buildings. He said the Town only has one switch, and it's nearing the end of its lifespan. Mr. Fowler said if a fan or power supply dies, then no one in the Town organization has internet. The purchase of three new switches would replace that switch and buy two more- so if one switch dies, then the time without internet would be much less. Mr. Fowler said without internet, the Town cannot function.

A motion was made by Alderman Anthony Sutton, seconded by Alderwoman Julia Freeman, to approve the purchase of three new core switches. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderman Anthony Sutton, seconded by Alderman Jon Feichter, to approve the budget amendment ordinance No. O-12-23 in the amount of \$22,000 for the purpose of purchase three new core switches. The motion passed unanimously.

17. Budget Amendment to the Garage Internal Service Fund

- Jeff Stines, Director of Public Services

Director of Public Services, Jeff Stines, said the current air compressor being used at the Town's garage is about 80 years old and beyond repair.

A motion was made by Alderman Anthony Sutton, seconded by Alderwoman Julia Freeman, to approve Resolution R-02-23 for Amending the Financial Operating Plan for Garage Internal Services Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderman Anthony Sutton, seconded by Alderman Chuck Dickson to make a budget amendment to the Garage Internal Services Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

18. Fire Alarm for Town Hall

- Jesse Fowler, Assistant Town Manager

Assistant Town Manager Jesse Fowler reported that the fire alarm in the Police Department was tripping daily. He said the fire alarm system consists of two parts, the first being the fire alarm panel and the second being the fire alarm annunciator (public facing panel). Upon inspection, it was determined that the fire alarm panel is functioning correctly, but the fire alarm annunciator has begun to malfunction, causing incorrect signals to be sent to the fire alarm panel which trigger false alarms. After consulting with the technician, Mr. Fowler said it appears that the fire alarm annunciator for the Police Department's current system is no longer manufactured due to the age of the system. Because of this, Mr. Fowler said the failed component cannot be

replaced and so in order repair the system, the fire alarm panel along with the fire alarm annunciator must be replaced. The cost of this replacement is \$13,893.92.

Mr. Fowler said they had budgeted for Tsunami cameras this year in the amount of \$20,000, but it turns out those cameras are \$20,000 every year, so they decided not to move forward with that purchase. He said that money can now be used on the fire alarm system.

Police Chief David Adams said that he just found out from MB Haynes that the key card system for the whole building is obsolete. He added that they said that it would lock employees out of the building when it fails. He requested that Mr. Fowler finds out how much it will cost to replace the system.

A motion was made by Alderman Chuck Dickson, seconded by Alderman Anthony Sutton, to purchase a new fire alarm system for Town Hall in the amount of \$13,893.92. The motion passed unanimously.

C. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Gary Caldwell said that Dick Young was wondering if the Town had the power to prevent tractor trailer trucks from driving on Main Street. Alderman Sutton said that would require approval from NCDOT. Alderman Sutton said he would talk to NCDOT about moving the state road, which would also allow the Town to close Main Street for events.

D. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Alderman Anthony Sutton, seconded by Alderwoman Julia Freeman, to adjourn at 2:03 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Gary Caldwell, Mayor

Robert W. Hites, Jr. Town Manager

Candace Poolton, Town Clerk