

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
TOWN HALL - 9 SOUTH MAIN STREET
SEPTEMBER 8, 2009
TUESDAY - 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

ITEM 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 25, 2009

ITEM 2. PUBLIC HEARING - AMENDMENT TO SECTION 154.131(B)(8)(d)1
WALNUT STREET NEIGHBORHOOD DISTRICT (WS-ND)

A request was received for an amendment to the Walnut Street Neighborhood District which would allow the use of drive up windows for certain commercial uses. In the first review of this request, the Planning Department was opposed to the request, as it could have permitted a variety of uses including financial institutions, dry cleaners and photo processing businesses, just to name a few of the potential businesses that might benefit from this amendment.

In discussing this request, the Planning Board learned that the request was being made so that Champion Credit Union could add a drive up window for banking services at the building formerly occupied by Verizon. This is located in the Walnut Street Shopping Center. But if there were a change to the Walnut Street Neighborhood District, it could apply throughout the district, and not simply for one particular lot within the district.

The Planning Board discussed the request and expressed concern about the possibility of adding a number of drive-in window businesses in that district. In the end, the Board suggested that the drive-in window use be limited only to financial institutions and not to any other type of business. The applicant was content with this proposed change, and the Planning Board voted to recommend the revised amendment to the Town Board for its approval.

ITEM 3. PETER BATES - UPDATE ON WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP PLAN

In 2005, the Town Board approved two different conservation easements on two separate sections of the Allens Creek Watershed. One was a “forever wild” easement on 690 acres secured between 1997 and 2004. The other easement was on a 7,340 acre tract which the Town secured almost 100 years ago, and it was referred to as a “working forest” easement.

As a part of the “working forest” conservation easement, the Town was required to develop a watershed management plan on how to properly manage the property. The Town entered a contract with Western Carolina University to partner on the development of this plan which was dubbed the Watershed Stewardship Plan. This Plan was presented to the Town Board in the spring of 2008 and, after some public forums during the summer, it was approved by the Town Board in the fall.

Beginning July 1, 2008, the Town entered a contract with Forest Stewards to implement the recommendations of the Plan. Forest Stewards is a non-profit, Associated Entity of Western Carolina University that was created solely to support the mission of the University. On July 1, 2009, the Town entered a contract with Forest Stewards for a second year of implementing the Forestry Stewardship Plan.

Previously, the Town Board created a Watershed Advisory Committee to work with Dr. Bates and Rob Lamb of Forestry Stewards in the development and the implementation of the Plan. The Committee met in late June and received a report on what had been accomplished in the 2008-2009 fiscal year. In addition, Dr. Bates and Mr. Lamb reported on what they had proposed to the Town for the work in the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

It was suggested that Dr. Bates and Mr. Lamb might want to appear before the Town Board and present a similar report, detailing the work of the past year and what they hope to accomplish in 2009-2010. They will be attending the meeting Tuesday evening to present this information and answer questions of the Board.

ITEM 4. OVERVIEW OF THE ELDER ABUSE PROGRAM

Ms. Julia Freeman of REACH and Mr. Jeff Haynes have requested time on the Board's agenda to discuss the Elder Abuse Program in Haywood County.

ITEM 5. MS. SANDRA McINTOSH - HAYWOOD COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Ms. Sandra McIntosh has been involved in the Haywood Community Connections. She has asked for time on the Board's agenda to discuss the program and relay some new information and introduce some of Waynesville's team members.

ITEM 6. APPOINTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEMBERS

The terms of Don Frady, Rhonda Schandavel and Sarah Massie on the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee will be expiring on September 30, 2009. These individuals have been good and faithful members on the Committee and have indicated an interest in continuing to serve if the Town Board sees fit to reappoint them to the Commission.

The terms for the three individuals under consideration would be for a three year period, meaning they will expire on September 30, 2012.

ITEM 7. DISCUSSION OF THE SIGN ORDINANCE

Earlier this summer, a business owner appeared before the Town Board to speak on the Town's sign ordinance and the manner in which the ordinance was being enforced. Following that meeting, I spoke with Planning Director Paul Benson about the enforcement of the ordinance. We discussed the need to collect all signs which were found to be in violation of the ordinance. In addition to my discussion with Mr. Benson, Public Works Director Fred Baker spoke with

members of the Sanitation Department, seeking their assistance in collecting signs found to be in violation of the ordinance.

At the first meeting in August, Alderman Greeley asked that the matter of the sign ordinance pertaining to these temporary signs be brought back to the Board's agenda for additional discussion. I have invited Land Use Manager Byron Hickox to attend the meeting on Tuesday evening to discuss his work on enforcement of the ordinance and for the Board to hear his suggestions on addressing the problem.