

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
Regular Meeting
February 9, 2021

THE WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN held a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom in the Municipal Building located at 16 South Main Street Waynesville, NC.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gary Caldwell called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm with the following members present:

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

The following staff members were present:

Rob Hites, Town Manager
Jesse Fowler, Assistant Town Manager
Town Attorney William E Cannon, Jr.
Eddie Ward, Town Clerk
Jeff Stines, Public Services Director
Autumn Lyvers, Finance Director

The following media representatives were present:

No media were present

1. Welcome/Calendar/Announcements

Mayor Gary Caldwell welcomed everyone and reminded the board about the upcoming Board Retreat which will be held on Thursday February 25th in the training room of Public Services.

2. Adoption of Minutes

A motion was made by Alderman Julia Freeman, seconded by Alderman Anthony Sutton, to approve the minutes from the January 26, 2021 regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

<i>Mayor Gary Caldwell</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mayor Pro Tem Julia Freeman</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Alderman Jon Feichter</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Alderman Chuck Dickson</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Alderman Anthony Sutton</i>	<i>Aye</i>

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. Mayor Gary Caldwell asked Town Clerk Eddie Ward if there were any comments to be read into the minutes. She stated there were no public comments.

C. NEW BUSINESS

4. Tree Trimming for Electric Department

- Jeff Stines, Public Services Director

Public Service Director Jeff Stines stated that this capital item was approved in this year’s fiscal budget. He explained that there were three separate times the bids were sent out for this project, and there were no responses until the project was divided into two phases. Then a bid was placed by Wolf Tree, which is a spin-off of Davey Tree Company. The first phase totaling \$25,849.89 and the second phase totaling \$42,554.99 with the total for the project being \$68,404.88. Mr. Stines explained that \$100,000.00 had been approved for the project and asked to award this bid to Wolf Tree for these services.

Aldermen Jon Feichter asked Mr. Stines what the process has been to notify the property owners of the tree removal. Mr. Stines stated that Willie Smith, Electrical Superintendent, had contacted the property owners, and in situations where it was rental property, the owner of the property was notified. Aldermen Feichter expressed his concerns about a previous bush trimming project where the property owner’s approval had not been granted. Mr. Stines then explained that with this project, signed documents were received from the property owners granting their permission.

Major Gary Caldwell stated that he had looked over the project details and said he appreciated the extra effort being made to get the documents signed by the property owners.

A motion was made by Aldermen Anthony Sutton , and seconded by Aldermen Julia Freeman , to award the Tree Trimming Contract to Wolf Tree, a division of the Davey Tree Expert Company. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gary Caldwell	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Julia Freeman	Aye
Alderman Jon Feichter	Aye
Alderman Chuck Dickson	Aye
Alderman Anthony Sutton	Aye

5. Report on Unpaid Property Taxes/Yearly Tax Advertisement in Local Newspaper

- Autumn Lyvers, Finance Director

As of January 31st, \$5.2 Million dollars of the \$5.7 Million have been collected, which is 91.3%. That percentage is in line with prior years and slightly higher than last year. Ms. Lyvers stated that she expects additional tax revenue to continue to come in for the next few months. Ms. Lyvers said she was preparing the delinquent tax notices ready

to be sent out to property owners, and they would have 30 days for the taxes to be paid before the delinquent tax list would be placed in the Enterprise Mountaineer. Ms. Lyvers stated she was asking the board to approve the yearly tax advertisement in the Enterprise Mountaineer.

A motion was made by Aldermen Julia Freeman , and seconded by Aldermen Chuck Dickson , to approve the yearly tax advertisements in the Enterprise Mountaineer in accordance with N. C. G. S.105-369. The motion carried unanimously.

<i>Mayor Gary Caldwell</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mayor Pro Tem Julia Freeman</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Alderman Jon Feichter</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Alderman Chuck Dickson</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Alderman Anthony Sutton</i>	<i>Aye</i>

D. COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

Manager's Report

- Town Manager Rob Hites

Town Manager, Rob Hites, told the Board that the Local Government Commission met last week, and they amended their loan offer from 20 years to 26 years, which was in line with North Carolina DENR recommendation. He also stated that North Carolina DENR contacted him on a separate issue, and that they will be sending an offer letter of discretionary money which is outside of the loan by the LGC approved by the LGC. Mr. Hites expressed that he hopes that will be the money necessary to grant a zero percent interest rate and a \$500,000.00 forgiveness of the \$19,500,000.00.

Manager Hites explained that he, along with Public works Director Jeff Stines, and his staff are working with the engineers to make sure that there is complete understanding as to how the project is going to be completed.

Manager Hites stated that Town Attorney William Cannon and the attorneys for Sanford Holshouser are working on a final draft of the contract with Tribridge LLC to build the BI-LO apartments.

The entire staff is working on researching the agenda items that the Board Members has given them for the Winter Board Retreat. Manager Hites has asked every department to send a written report with the highlights of each department's needs so that the Board can review them ahead of time.

6. Town Attorney Report

- Town Attorney William Cannon

Mayor Caldwell asked Town Attorney Cannon about the property on Hazel Street. Attorney Cannon told the board that he is waiting on the county to have the hearing. He has called several times and cannot get an answer.

E. CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Aldermen Julia Freeman , and seconded by Aldermen Jon Feichter , to enter into closed session at 6:33 pm to consult with Attorney to preserve Attorney client privilege, and to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses G. S. §143-318.11(a)(3)(4). The motion carried unanimously.

<i>Mayor Gary Caldwell</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mayor Pro Tem Julia Freeman</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Alderman Jon Feichter</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Alderman Chuck Dickson</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Alderman Anthony Sutton</i>	<i>Aye</i>

A motion was made by Alderman Jon Feichter , seconded by Alderman Chuck Dickson , to return to open session at 6:56 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

<i>Mayor Gary Caldwell</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mayor Pro Tem Julia Freeman</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Alderman Jon Feichter</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Alderman Chuck Dickson</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Alderman Anthony Sutton</i>	<i>Aye</i>

A motion was made by Aldermen Julia Freeman, and seconded by Aldermen Anthony Sutton, to amend the former motion of acquisition of real property G. S. §143-318.11(a)(3)(4) to G. S. §143-318.11(a)(5). The motion carried unanimously.

<i>Mayor Gary Caldwell</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mayor Pro Tem Julia Freeman</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Alderman Jon Feichter</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Alderman Chuck Dickson</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Alderman Anthony Sutton</i>	<i>Aye</i>

F. COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR AND BOARD

Aldermen Chuck Dickson told the Board that there was an opportunity to apply for a grant from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, in conjunction with Haywood County, for the 2021 Waste Reduction and Recycling Program. The grant is in the amount of \$30,000 and will be matched with \$25,000

by Haywood County. The County will apply for the grant from the state and no action is required by the Town. The deadline for the application submission is February 18th. The consensus of the Board was for Aldermen Dickson contact David Francis from the County and proceed with the application process.

G. ADJOURN

With no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Jon Feichter, seconded by Alderman Chuck Dickson , to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

<i>Mayor Gary Caldwell</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mayor Pro Tem Julia Freeman</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Alderman Jon Feichter</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Alderman Chuck Dickson</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Alderman Anthony Sutton</i>	<i>Aye</i>

ATTEST:

Gary Caldwell, Mayor

Robert W. Hites, Town Manager

Eddie Ward, Town Clerk

Kathy Johnson, Deputy Clerk