

BOARD OF ALDERMAN

April 3, 2017

The Board of Aldermen of the Town of Connelly Springs met at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall Board Room in Connelly Springs, North Carolina. The following board members were present: Mayor Johnny E. Berry, Alderman Terry Childers, Alderman Kimberly Sigmon, Alderman Steve Smart, Alderman Ramona Duncan, Alderman Carroll Turner, and Alderman Walter Gragg, Jr. Also in attendance were: Attorney Peggy Saunders, Town Clerk Tamara Brooks, Deputy Brian Sigmon and resident Joe Dempsey. The Board meeting was recorded in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 160A-72, 171.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME: Mayor Berry called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed all in attendance.

INVOCATION: Alderman Duncan offered an invocation and Mayor Berry asked those in attendance to rise and give the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Alderman Duncan made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman Gragg seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES: Alderman Childers made a motion to accept the minutes of the Board's regular meeting on March 6, 2017 as presented. Alderman Sigmon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Berry said he appreciated Mr. Dempsey attending the last several Board meetings.

NEW BUSINESS:

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MAY AS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH 2017: Mayor Berry presented a proclamation recognizing the work and accomplishments of those in the mental health profession (see attached). Alderman Gragg made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented. Alderman Childers seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MAY 7TH -13TH AS MUNICIPAL CLERKS' WEEK: Mayor Berry presented a proclamation recognizing May 7th – 13th as Municipal Clerks' Week and expressed appreciation for all Municipal Clerks for the work they provide for their towns, cities and communities. Alderman Duncan made a motion to adopt the proclamation as presented. Alderman Smart seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

RECEIVE GIFT OF QUILT OF VALOR: Mayor Berry asked Clerk Brooks to show the Board the Quilt of Valor that has been gifted to the Town of Connelly Springs by the Catawba Valley Quilters' Guild and members of the Sandy Ridge American Legion Post #544. The quilt is given to the Town for its work in recognizing and honoring military and veterans of the community. The Sandy Ridge American Legion Post #544 Honor Guard will be performing the presentation of the American flag at the Memorial Day Cruise-In on May 27th. In return for the quilt, it was asked that the Town honor a local fallen soldier by hanging his picture with the quilt on display. Alderman Gragg made a motion to accept the gift of the quilt and place the picture of the fallen soldier. Alderman Smart seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CLERK'S REPORT: Clerk Brooks presented the calendar for April. The Burke County Health Department will be holding a Health Fair on Saturday, April 8th. NC Wildlife Resources will be holding a 2-day Boaters' Safety Course on Monday, April 10th and Tuesday, April 11th from 6 pm – 9 pm. Also, Town Hall will be closed Monday, April 17th for Easter.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Attorney Saunders said she had sent a certified letter to the person responsible for the damage to the pond on March 29th. There has been no response to the letter yet.

Alderman Smart asked about the status of tax foreclosure for the Tomlinson property and whose responsibility it is to pursue the continuation of the foreclosure process. Attorney Saunders said the responsibility lies with Burke County's Tax Attorney JR Simpson. Tax foreclosures are filed and pursued at his discretion.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Berry stated that he had attended the VEDIC Committee Meeting on March 23rd and the WPCOG Policy Board Meeting on March 28th in Gamewell. He reminded Board members to mark their calendars for Thursday, April 27th to attend the WPCOG Annual Meeting to be held at Crowne Plaza in Hickory.

FINANCE: Alderman Smart presented the financial statements to the Board and said the town is sixty-nine thousand dollars (\$69,000) ahead of projections for the year and expenses are at approximately eighty percent (80%). Alderman Smart said the bid packets for contractors were to be turned in and ready to open for final review at the Budget Workshop on Tuesday, April 11th at 6:00 pm.

Since there has been no interest in the 2006 Dodge Charger from its listing on govdeals.com, Alderman Smart made a motion to take out an ad in the local newspaper listing it for sale. Alderman Turner seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

POLICE: Deputy Sigmon presented his report for the month of April:

APRIL:

Larceny – 3 Larceny of Motor Vehicle -- 1 Breaking and Entering -- 1
Warrant for Arrest – 1 Order for Arrest – 2

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE = 98

PUBLIC SERVICES

SANITATION: Alderman Gragg presented a proposed increase in services from Republic Services of 2.1% from last year. This will result in an approximate increase of one hundred nineteen dollars (\$119.00) per month for garbage pickup.

SEWER: Alderman Gragg has reviewed the NC Water Infrastructure Master Plan for 2017. There are monies available for local governments to extend and/or repair current water and sewer lines. Mayor Berry said the Town needs to look at taking advantage of those grant monies while they are available because those programs may soon be drastically reduced or cut. Clerk Brooks said she would contact David Poore and ask him to evaluate new projects for the Town.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Clerk Brooks gave an update on plans for Town Day and the first Cruise-In scheduled for Saturday, May 27th.

PERSONNEL: None.

PROPERTY: Alderman Smart presented a quote from Bob's Irrigation for one thousand one hundred five dollars and fifty-two cents (\$1,105.52) to replace the damaged irrigation board. Alderman Sigmon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

TRANSPORTATION: Alderman Turner reported that he had completed the required documentation for NCDOT/MPO concerning any conflicts of interest.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

BEAVER DAMS: Mayor Berry asked about the status of the beaver dams on the sewer lines. Mr. Dempsey said the Town of Valdese was working on removing the beavers and cleaning up the right of ways for the sewer lines.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business before the Board of Aldermen, Mayor Berry called for a motion to adjourn. Alderman Gragg made a motion to adjourn with Alderman Turner seconding the motion. The vote was unanimous. The next regular Board of Aldermen meeting will be held on Monday, May 1, 2017, at 7:00 pm.

Johnny E. Berry, Mayor

Tamara Brooks, Town Clerk