

BOARD OF ALDERMAN

February 6, 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 and Deputy Brian Sigmon. 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 Turner previously offered an invocation in the Annual Water Meeting with Icard Township Water Corporation. Mayor Berry asked those in attendance to rise and give the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES: Alderman Duncan made a motion to accept the minutes of the Board’s regular meeting on January 2, 2017 as presented. Alderman Turner seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

BURKE COUNTY HEALTH FAIR: Alderman Sigmon presented a request from Burke County Health Department, in conjunction with Blue Ridge Healthcare, to hold a Health Fair on April 8th from 7:30 am – 11:00 am on the grounds at Connelly Springs Town Hall. Alderman Smart made a motion to allow Burke County Health Department the use of the grounds for the purpose of holding a Health Fair. Alderman Turner seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CLERK’S REPORT: Clerk Brooks gave an update since attending both the NCAMC Conference in Durham and the Subdivisions Practice Course at the UNC School of Government. She stated that she would still like to pursue becoming a certified zoning officer, but the process and classes are more involved than initially anticipated. The next class in the course is scheduled for the fall of 2017.

Clerk Brooks presented a request from Draughn High School. They are reaching out to local municipalities to ask if they would donate a town flag to fly on their campus. Alderman Smart made a motion to get quotes for custom flag pricing. Alderman Turner seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT: None.

MAYOR’S REPORT: Mayor Berry gave a report on the total number of jobs created by VEDIC:

	<u>Full-Time</u>	<u>Part-Time</u>
VEDIC IRP Loans:	216	53
VEDIC RMAP Loans:	21	10
BBLP/VRLP Loans:	125	59
Total:	341	122

The VEDIC Committee has been working with business owners to loan more than two million dollars to encourage and increase economic development. Recently VEDIC has worked with local business owners in Burke County to bring a new bakery and Mexican restaurant to the area. Alderman Gragg asked what the average payback and turnaround is for their loans. Mayor Berry responded that loans are typically for fifteen (15) years and bring in a monthly payback of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) each month.

Mayor Berry stated that he had attended the WPCOG Policy Board Meeting on January 24th, the regular VEDIC Committee Meeting on January 26th and plans to attend the WPCOG Executive Committee Meeting on February 26th.

FINANCE: Alderman Smart presented the financial statements to the Board and said the town is fifteen percent (15%) ahead of projections for the year. He noted that irrigation is over budget but said that could be contributed to leaks in the system that have since then been repaired.

Alderman Smart said he was in the process of modifying the bid packets for contractors. The modifications are so each page of the packet would be initialed by the bidder stating they had read the page in its entirety and agreed to those terms. He would like to have those packets returned and ready for review by March 10th. The first budget meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14th at 6:30 pm. He asked that each committee chairperson be prepared to review their budget(s) for next year.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

POLICE: Deputy Sigmon gave his reports for the months of December and January:

DECEMBER:

Damage to Property – 1	Larceny of Motor Vehicle – 1	Larceny – 1	Unauthorized Use of MV – 1
Fraud – 1	Breaking and Entering – 2	Investigation – 1	Warrant for Arrest – 1
On View Arrest – 1	TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE = 116		

JANUARY:

Assault – 1	Domestic Disturbance – 1	Larceny – 1	Warrant for Arrest – 2
On View Arrest – 1	TOTAL CALLS OR SERVICE = 97		

Deputy Sigmon also gave a report on the yearly totals for 2016 for the town limits:

Total reports taken:	90
Total calls taken:	1,306
Total # of arrests:	96
# of arrest by Sigmon:	60

PUBLIC SERVICES

SEWER: Alderman Smart asked about the repairs to the crossing at Carson Avenue. He said there should be money in the budget for these repairs, but if necessary contingency funds could be used.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Alderman Duncan asked if the Board would like to have both a festival and cruise-ins this year or just cruise-ins. She said she feels like the cruise-ins are more successful and less costly than the festival. After a brief discussion, Alderman Smart made a motion to combine the Town Day and the Memorial Day cruise-in into a one day event and continuing with the cruise-in schedule on the fourth Saturday of each month from May through September. Alderman Childers seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PERSONNEL: None.

PROPERTY: None.

TRANSPORTATION: Alderman Turner reported that the recent inclement weather required the roads in the town to be scrapped one time. The total cost for this was six hundred thirty-seven dollars and fifty cents (\$637.50).

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS: Alderman Smart asked Clerk Brooks if she had received a response to her email regarding the Tomlinson property being in tax foreclosure. She said she had not received a response and had tried to call earlier today to find out the status of the property, but was unable to speak to anyone in the Burke County Tax Office. Mayor Berry asked Attorney Saunders to follow up on this.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business before the Board of Aldermen, Mayor Berry called for a motion to adjourn. Alderman Duncan made a motion to adjourn with Alderman Sigmon seconding the motion. The vote was unanimous. The next regular Board of Aldermen meeting will be held on Monday, March 6, 2017, at 7:00 pm.

Johnny E. Berry, Mayor

Tamara Brooks, Town Clerk