

BOARD OF ALDERMAN

March 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 Carroll Turner, and Alderman Walter Gragg, Jr. Also in attendance were: Attorney Peggy Saunders, Town Clerk Tamara Brooks and residents Debbie Pelick and Joe Dempsey. Alderman Ramona Duncan and Deputy Brian Sigmon were absent excused. 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 offered an invocation and 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 Turner made a motion to accept the minutes of the Board's regular meeting on February 6, 2017 as presented. Alderman Childers seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

WPCOG FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION: Mayor Berry presented a proposal from WPCOG for financial administration services that would assist the town with technical assistance in all financial matters for an annual fee of five thousand two hundred ninety-two dollars (\$5,292.00). Alderman Smart said he felt that we were adequately equipped at this time with the financial software we use, as well as Alderman Gragg being a CPA to offer assistance. Alderman Gragg agreed. Alderman Childers felt the proposal was too expensive. After a brief discussion, Alderman Smart made a motion to respectfully decline their proposal for financial administration services. Alderman Gragg seconded the offer and the vote was unanimous.

CLERK'S REPORT: Clerk Brooks presented the calendar for March.

Brooks then updated the Board on a previous request from Draughn High School for a town flag to display on their grounds. Broward Flag Company from Asheville can make custom flags. Three flags customized for one hundred nineteen dollars each (\$119.00). Alderman Smart approved the purchase of three customized flags. Alderman Sigmon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Attorney Saunders has spoken with Burke County Tax Attorney Simpson regarding the Jerry Tomlinson property. He has the file but no complaint has been filed yet. She will continue to follow up the progress of this case.

Alderman Childers asked about the condition of the Terry Wyatt property on Israel Chapel Road. He said the property has quite a bit of trash on it again. Clerk Brooks said she would have Deputy Marler with Code Enforcement look at it and note any violations.

Mayor Berry asked if Attorney Saunders had made contact with the parties responsible for damaging the pond. She said she was still waiting to receive the police report from Clerk Brooks so that she could send them a letter. Mayor Berry said he wanted that taken care of immediately.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Berry stated that he had attended the VEDIC Loan Committee Meeting on February 20th where they approved another loan for Moon Dog Pizza. They are planning to open a second location on Union Square in Hickory. He also attended the WPCOG Executive Committee Meeting on February 28th where plans to attend the upcoming NADO meeting in Anchorage, Alaska in September were discussed. He asked that Board members 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 eighteen percent (18%) ahead of projections for the year. Alderman Smart said he would have the bid packets for contractors ready for final review at the Budget Workshop on Tuesday, March 14th at 6:30 pm. 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 all bids returned and ready for review by April 10th.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

POLICE: Clerk Brooks presented Deputy Sigmon's report for the month of March:

DECEMBER:

Damage to Property – 1 Sexual Assault -- 1
Warrant for Arrest – 2 Criminal Summons – 1

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE = 91

PUBLIC SERVICES

SEWER: Alderman Smart has spoken with Bryan Duckworth from the Town of Valdese about the beavers that have built a dam just off of Old Blue Ridge Lane and Main Street Circle. The dams cross over the sewer lines and are close to topping the manholes. Clerk Brooks said she would get the licensed trapper's information to Duckworth so that arrangements could be made to remove the beavers from the sewer lines.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Clerk Brooks gave an update on plans for Town Day and the first Cruise-In scheduled for Saturday, May 27th. She also presented expenses to date report for the Board to review (see attached).

PERSONNEL: None.

PROPERTY: None.

TRANSPORTATION: None.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION: Mayor Berry presented Resolution No. 2017-01, a Resolution Opposing North Carolina House Bill No. 64 (see attached). NC House Bill No. 64 would move municipal elections to even number years; this resolution is in opposition of this bill. Alderman Smart made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-01, Resolution Opposing North Carolina House Bill No. 64, as presented. Alderman Turner seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business before the Board of Aldermen, Mayor Berry called for a motion to adjourn. Alderman Turner made a motion to adjourn with Alderman Childers seconding the motion. The vote was unanimous. The next regular Board of Aldermen meeting will be held on Monday, April 3, 2017, at 7:00 pm.

Johnny E. Berry, Mayor

Tamara Brooks, Town Clerk