

BOARD OF ALDERMAN

January 06, 2020

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 Josh Phillips, Alderman Steve Smart, and Alderman Carroll Turner. Alderman Ramona Duncan was absent excused. Also, in attendance were: Attorney Peggy Saunders, Town Administrator Tamara Brooks, Deputy Brian Sigmon, and Planning Board members Joe Dempsey, Debbie Pelick and Bobby Tomlinson. 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 Phillips offered an invocation and Mayor Berry asked those in attendance to rise and give the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES: Alderman Smart made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Aldermen's regular meeting on December 2, 2019, with one correction – the spelling of Chloe Wray to Chloe Ray. Alderman Childers seconded the motion to approve the minutes with the correction and the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Joe Dempsey remarked that the Planning Board had a good meeting and he felt confident about the group working together for the town.

NEW BUSINESS:

LGC-203 REPORTS:

Administrator Brooks presented a letter to the Board in response to a request from the Local Government Commission (LGC) with regards to the LGC-203 reports. The LGC requested signatures from each of the board members acknowledging that the LGC-203 Cash and Investments Report would be submitted in a timely manner on a bi-annual basis. Each board member present signed as acknowledgement and Administrator Brooks will submit the response letter to the LGC as requested.

REPUBLIC SERVICES: Administrator Brooks said that she had been in touch with representatives from Republic Services and hopes to schedule a meeting soon to discuss ongoing issues that have yet to be resolved. She has also spoken with Logan Shook, Town Manager for the Town of Hildebran, who has asked to be included in the meeting.

Mayor Berry suggested contacting Sani-Can for possible recycling services. Alderman Childers said Sani-Can provides recycling services for Oak Ridge Baptist Church and they have been well pleased with the services provided.

CLERK'S REPORT: Clerk Brooks reviewed the calendar for January. She said she would be out of the office on Tuesday, January 21st for training on the recently changed and added statutes for zoning.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Attorney Saunders gave an update on the Tomlinson foreclosure. She presented the Motion to Confirm, Affidavit of Expenses and Judgment which were filed earlier today (1/6) by Attorney JR Simpson. Alderman Smart asked about the Commissioner fees of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) and Plaintiff's Attorney fees of two thousand two hundred dollars (\$2,200.00) for a total of three thousand two hundred dollars (\$3,200.00). Attorney Saunders said that both of those were payable to Attorney Simpson as legal fees on behalf of the county.

Attorney Saunders then tendered her resignation, effective immediately.

ANNEXATION OF PROPERTIES – SOPHIA AVENUE: Mayor Berry asked if Attorney Saunders had an update on the annexation of the two properties on Sophia Avenue. She said she had drafted the necessary documents for the oncoming legal counsel to review and move forward with the process.

Mayor Berry said he appreciated her efforts in both the Tomlinson foreclosure and annexation project.

Alderman Smart asked that she submit a complete and final bill as soon as possible. Attorney Saunders said that she would work on that and get it to Administrator Brooks in a timely manner.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Berry said since the recent election he had considered committee placements for the Board as follows:

TOWN COMMITTEES		
COMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSON	MEMBER
FINANCE	STEVE SMART	JOSH PHILLIPS
WATER & SEWER	TERRY CHILDERS	STEVE SMART
GOVERNMENT SERVICES	TERRY CHILDERS	RAMONA DUNCAN
PROPERTY	JOSH PHILLIPS	TERRY CHILDERS
PERSONNEL	KIM SIGMON	CARROLL TURNER
TRANSPORTATION	CARROLL TURNER	JOSH PHILLIPS
PARKS & RECREATION	RAMONA DUNCAN	KIM SIGMON
LIASION FOR PLANNING BOARD	KIM SIGMON	

He said if anyone wanted to request a change to the committees to speak with him directly.

Mayor Berry reported that he attended the WPCOG Executive Committee Meeting on December 20th and the VEDIC Committee Meeting on December 23rd. He asked that everyone mark their calendars for Thursday, April 23rd for the WPCOG Annual Meeting where there are plans to have the same speaker from their NADO Conference on "Thirteen Ways to Kill Your Community."

FINANCE: Alderman Smart presented the financial statements for review and said the revenue income is at an increase of approximately eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000.00) for the year. He said there is enough money in the General Fund now to cover the cost of the stage project.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

POLICE: Alderman Childers asked Deputy Sigmon to give his report for December:

Larceny – 2 Lost/Stolen – 1 Carjacking – 1
 Warrant for Arrest – 3 Order for Arrest – 2

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE: 96

WATER/SEWER: Administrator Brooks remarked that the Annual Water Meeting with Icard Water Corporation would be scheduled for next month prior to the Regular Board Meeting at 6:30 pm.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Administrator Brooks asked the Board about changing the dates of the festival and concerts for this year's events to avoid conflict with other local events. After a brief discussion, Alderman Smart made a motion to move the Annual Town Day Festival and first concert, to the second Saturday in May, May 9th and all other concerts to the second Saturdays of the month from June to September. Alderman Sigmon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PERSONNEL: None.

PROPERTY:

STAGE PROJECT: Alderman Smart said that Moss-Marlow had started the footings for the stage. He asked Administrator Brooks to contact Watts Engineering and request copies of the submittals to share. He said the large fans had been delivered and he would submit a bill for payment on those. He said they may change the lighting since the planned ceiling color is white which will reflect the lighting back down to the floor and possible cause a strobe effect. Alderman Turner asked about the pitch of the ceiling and said it might cause an issue with sound.

1170 TOMLINSON LOOP: Alderman Childers presented a quote from Evans Construction for clearing, hauling off debris and seeding the acreage on the vacant lot at 1170 Tomlinson Loop. To clear, burn and haul off the debris is a cost of five thousand three hundred twenty dollars (\$5,320.00) per acre. The alternative would be to clear, pile the debris and leave debris on site for a cost of four thousand two hundred dollars (\$4,200.00) per acre. To seed each acre is a cost of two thousand two hundred ten dollars (\$2,210.00) per acre. Each price is based on a five (5) acre minimum.

Alderman Smart asked if this also included an erosion control plan. Alderman Childers said yes. With no further discussion and no action taken, this item has been tabled until next month.

TRANSPORTATION: Alderman Turner reported that the final allocation from Powell Bill funds had been received. He said these monies will be used to pay for the storm water repairs being made to Berea Avenue and Berea Avenue Extension.

He also said that Matt Jensen was working on replacing missing and damaged signs within town limits and should have that work down within the week.

Alderman Smart asked for a closed session to discuss personnel matter. Mayor Berry asked for a motion to go into closed session.

CLOSED SESSION: Alderman Phillips made a motion to go in to closed session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter. Alderman Smart seconded the motion.

OPEN SESSION: Alderman Turner made a motion to return to open session. Alderman Phillips seconded the motion.

As a result of the closed session, Alderman Childers made a motion to pay Deputy Brian Sigmon a bonus on a bi-annual basis in the amount of five hundred dollars each, with the first bonus being paid at next month's meeting. Alderman Smart seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Alderman Smart made a motion to hire Attorney Redmond Dill as the town attorney. Alderman Turner seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Administrator Brooks was asked to contact Attorney Dill about requesting the town's files or copies of the town's files from Attorney Saunders.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business before the Board of Aldermen, Mayor Berry called for a motion to adjourn. Alderman Childers made a motion to adjourn with Alderman Turner seconding the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Johnny E. Berry, Mayor

Tamara Brooks, Town Administrator/Clerk