

BOARD OF ALDERMAN

March 03, 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, Alderman Carroll Turner, and Alderman Kimberly Sigmon. Alderman Ramona Duncan was absent excused. Also, in attendance were: Attorney Redmond Dill, Town Administrator Tamara Brooks, Deputy Brian Sigmon, and Planning Board members Joe Dempsey, Debbie Pelick, Bobby Tomlinson and residents Joseph and Joyanne Downing. 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 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 Turner made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Aldermen's regular meeting on February 3, 2020, as presented. Alderman Sigmon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

COMPASSIONATE HEARTS CLINIC: Joyanne Downing from Compassionate Hearts Clinic, previously Good Samaritan Clinic-East, gave an update on the status of the clinic. She said the Good Samaritan Clinic East lost funding in June of 2019 and had to close. Then they received funding from Burke Health Network and were able to re-open in November of 2019. At this time they have twenty-one (21) patients that they treat on a regular basis. The clinic is staffed by two physicians and other volunteers. She said they are currently seeking additional physicians who are willing to volunteer their services to the clinic and additional financial support from the community. Alderman Smart thanked her for the update and said a written request for funding would need to be submitted for consideration.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Administrator Brooks reviewed the calendar for March. She then presented information from MetroNet Fiber Optics from Indiana about the possibility of installing broadband in our area. She has requested more information from the provider and will provide it as it becomes available.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

TOMLINSON PROPERTY : Attorney Dill said he had spoken with Attorney Simpson to start the process of acquiring the Tomlinson property for the town. The county has authorized the sale of the property for the same price they paid. There are several steps that must be taken by the county before the town can proceed with purchase the property; however, he said he will continue to work with Attorney Simpson through the course of action necessary to complete the purchase.

ATTORNEY SAUNDERS: Mayor Berry asked if Attorney Saunders had turned over any of the town's files. Attorney Dill said he had not received anything from Attorney Saunders. Alderman Smart asked Attorney Dill to send a formal letter to Attorney Saunders requesting that all of the town's files be turned over to us immediately and that she submit a final bill for her legal services.

ANNEXATION OF PROPERTIES – SOPHIA AVENUE: Mayor Berry asked if Attorney Dill had an update on the annexation of the two properties on Sophia Avenue. Attorney Dill said the title searches were ready and that applications requesting to be annexed into the town limits would need to be signed by each property owner. He said an administrative letter would need to be sent to the Town of Rutherford College regarding the annexation, as well as advertising and public hearings prior to the annexation being completed. He will continue to work on this project as well.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Berry reported that he attended the WPCOG Executive Committee Meeting and the VEDIC Committee Meeting on February 25th. He reminded everyone mark their calendars for Thursday, April 23rd for the WPCOG Annual Meeting.

FINANCE: Alderman Smart presented the financial statements for review and said the revenue income is at an increase of approximately five percent (5%) for projected budget this year. He asked each chairperson to be thinking about their budget for next fiscal year. He scheduled the first budget workshop for March 17th at 6:30 pm.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

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

Breaking and Entering – 2

Larceny – 2

Warrant for Arrest – 2

Order for Arrest – 2

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE: 123

Deputy Sigmon said that there had been a slight uptick in criminal activity within the last month.

WATER/SEWER: None.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Alderman Duncan reported that the festival and band schedule had been posted to Facebook today as well as being sent to several other outlets for advertising throughout the summer season.

PERSONNEL: Alderman Sigmon asked Administrator Brooks to send an email to everyone anytime she was out of the office.

PROPERTY:

STAGE PROJECT: Alderman Smart and Alderman Phillips gave an update on the stage project.

1170 TOMLINSON LOOP: Alderman Phillips said he had received pricing from Tyler Watts for forestry mulching of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) per day. Alderman Smart made a motion to hire him for clearing work for three (3) days and then evaluate if more mulching and clearing needs to be done. Alderman Childers seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

TRANSPORTATION: Alderman Turner reported that the repairs to Berea Avenue and Berea Avenue Extension have been completed and seemed to have resolved the run-off issues.

He said Rocky Knob, Oak Laurel and McDuffy Road have been inspected and it is not feasible to resurface them, they need to be repaved. Evans Construction has quoted repaving Oak Laurel for twenty five thousand two hundred dollars (\$25,200.00). Alderman Turner made a motion to repave Oak Laurel for the price as quoted. Alderman Smart seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS:

PARKS & REC: Alderman Childers asked for clarification about having a beer/wine garden at this year's festival. Administrator Brooks said it had been discussed but nothing had been formally pursued. After a brief discussion, Alderman Smart asked to table the item until a later date.

STAGE PROJECT: Alderman Smart made a motion to approve a change order adding a brick faced to the front of the stage at the cost of three thousand two hundred eighty dollars (\$3,280.00). 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 Phillips seconding the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Johnny E. Berry, Mayor

Tamara Brooks, Town Administrator/Clerk