

## BOARD OF ALDERMAN

June 01, 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 Steve Smart, Alderman Ramona Duncan, Alderman Carroll Turner, and Alderman Kimberly Sigmon. Alderman Josh Phillips was absent, excused. Also, in attendance were: Attorney Redmond Dill, Town Administrator 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 offered an invocation previously in the Public Hearing. 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 Childers 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 May 04, 2020, as presented. Alderman Sigmon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE BUFFER / EXTENSION OF PROPERTY LINES:** Residents Joseph and Joyanne Downing of 1082 Tomlinson Loop, made a second request to purchase a portion of the property at 1170 Tomlinson Loop allowing them to extend their property lines and providing a buffer in the event the town decided to develop the property at a later time. They also made the same request on behalf of their neighbors Joseph Hammock, as well as Terry and Wanda Church. Mr. Downing presented a proposed drawing using the Burke County GIS mapping for review of what each property owner was requesting.

Alderman Duncan asked if there had been any interest from a developer or other interested party with regards to the property. Alderman Childers responded saying that he had briefly discussed possible development options with Alan Wood, President of Burke Development Incorporated. Alderman Smart said he felt if the town begins to sell property to owners adjacent to one side, the same offer would need to be extended to property owners surrounding the entire parcel. This could potentially reduce the remaining property to a size that would not be feasible for development by the town.

Mayor Berry asked Attorney Dill if a closed session was needed to discuss the matter further. Attorney Dill said if there was no change in the town's previous action, a closed session is not necessary.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** Administrator Brooks said due to COV-19 there was nothing on the calendar to report. She said she had been participating in bi-weekly conference calls with Burke County Emergency Management and Burke County Health Department to stay up to date on the status of COVID-19 in the county. She has also been participating in a weekly ZOOM video conference with WPCOG and other municipal leaders of the region to discuss COVID-19, possible changes in sales tax revenue and upcoming budget preparations.

Administrator Brooks asked the Board about keeping Town Hall closed for the time being with a possible future opening date. After a brief discussion, it was decided to keep Town Hall closed until the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting and make a decision at that time.

### **ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

**TOMLINSON PROPERTY:** Attorney Dill said he had spoken with Baron Kuritzski who is interesting in purchasing the Tomlinson property with the intention of cleaning it up and using the garage portion as a business. Mr. Kuritzski is preparing to make an offer that Attorney Dill feels will be favorably received by County Manager Bryan Steen.

**ATTORNEY SAUNDERS:** Attorney Dill has received the final bill from Attorney Saunders which he submitted to Administrator Brooks. He said he also received eight (8) banker's boxes containing town files from both her tenure as attorney, as well as files kept by Louis Vinay during his time as town attorney.

**ANNEXATION OF PROPERTIES – SOPHIA AVENUE:** Attorney Dill said he is still working on the applications and letters to the property owners.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Berry said had participated in several meetings via ZOOM and teleconference: the WPCOG Policy Board Meeting and VEDIC Executive Committee Meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup>, the WPCOG Policy Board on May 26<sup>th</sup> and Regular VEDIC Meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

**FINANCE:** Alderman Smart presented the financial statements for review. He said revenue received is at one hundred ten percent (110%) of the budgeted forecast.

He also asked Attorney Dill to provide an invoice for his services so that payment for this year's attorney fees could be taken from this year's fiscal budget.

**GOVERNMENT SERVICES:**

**POLICE:** Alderman Childers asked Deputy Sigmon to give his report for May.

**MARCH:**

Breaking and Entering – 1                      Vehicle Chase – 1

Warrant for Arrest – 2

**TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE: 114**

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** A request was made to have code enforcement visit the Wyatt property located at 2370 Israel Chapel Road. The property has several compliance issues that need to be addressed. Administrator Brooks said she would contact Deputy Marler and ask him to visit the property.

**WATER/SEWER:** None.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** Alderman Duncan said we would continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and change the summer concert schedule as necessary. A decision regarding the July 11<sup>th</sup> concert will be discussed at the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**PERSONNEL:** None.

**PROPERTY:**

**STAGE PROJECT:** Alderman Smart gave an update on the stage project. He said the condition of the concrete flooring is unacceptable. He reported that Ray Burris with Watts Engineering had a solution that could be used to clean the floor and hopefully resolve the issue. He said until everyone is satisfied with the finished job, the remaining contract balance due would be withheld from Moss-Marlow.

He presented a quote from Jeff McGee for steps for the pavilion in the amount of six thousand eight hundred dollars (\$6,800.00). He said another contractor had taken a look at the plans for the steps and was expected to submit a quote soon. This will be reviewed at the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Alderman Turner presented a quote from Evans Construction for paving an area at the back of the stage as well as a handicapped access from the stage to the parking lot. The cost estimate for the paving and grading is eighteen thousand three hundred sixty dollars (\$18,360.00). Alderman Smart asked if bollards should be placed around the stage to prevent vehicles from getting too close to the pavilion. Alderman Turner suggested putting bollards at the back of the building and/or along the pavement for cars turning around to prevent damage to the stage. Alderman Turner made a motion to accept the quote from Evans Construction for paving around the stage at the cost of eighteen thousand three hundred sixty dollars (\$18,360.00). Alderman Smart 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 Smart made a motion to adjourn with Alderman Childers seconding the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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Johnny E. Berry, Mayor

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Tamara Brooks, Town Administrator/Clerk