

## BOARD OF ALDERMAN

August 10, 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 Ramona Duncan, Alderman Carroll Turner, and Alderman Kimberly Sigmon. Also, in attendance were: Attorney Redmond Dill, Town Administrator Tamara Brooks, Deputy Brian Sigmon, and Planning Board member Debbie Pelick. 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 Childers offered an invocation and Mayor Berry asked those in attendance to rise and give the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES:** Alderman Childers made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Aldermen's regular meeting and public hearing for the proposed budget on June 15, 2020, as presented. Alderman Smart seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mayor Berry said he appreciated everyone on the Board continuing on with the business for the town while he had been sick.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND:** Administrator Brooks presented for consideration an agreement with Burke County for Coronavirus Relief Funds under State Law 2020-4, also known as the CARES Act, for funds provided by the State Office of Budget and Management to be used by the Town of Connelly Springs for COVID-19 related expenses. The Town of Connelly Springs has been allocated forty-six thousand three hundred seventy-five dollars (\$46,375.00). Alderman Smart made a motion to approve the proposal, accept the funding and enter into the agreement with Burke County for Coronavirus Relief Funds. Alderman Phillips seconded the motion. Those voting in favor were Aldermen Phillips, Smart, Duncan, Turner and Sigmon. Voting against, Alderman Childers. The motion passed.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** Administrator Brooks said due to COV-19 there was nothing on the calendar to report.

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

**TOMLINSON PROPERTY:** Attorney Dill said he was continuing to follow the progress of the Tomlinson property purchase by Baron Kuritski.

**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 he had the petitions drawn up but wanted to make certain the roadway qualified for annexation into the town's roadway system. He has the title searches ready but he felt that the public hearings needed to be postponed until after the COVID-19 crisis. Until that time, he would continue to work on the applications and letters to the property owners.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Berry reported that he attended meetings via ZOOM and teleconference: the VEDIC Committee Meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup> and WPCOG Policy Board Committee Meeting on July 28<sup>th</sup>.

**FINANCE:** Alderman Smart presented the financial statements for review. He reported that the final construction cost of the pavilion from Moss-Marlow was two hundred forty-three thousand dollars (\$243,000.00). There was one change order for stone on an outfall and extra downspouts that had been approved but not paid, in the amount of one thousand, five hundred forty-eight dollars (\$1,548.00), for which payment was issued today.

**GOVERNMENT SERVICES:**

**POLICE:** Alderman Childers asked Deputy Sigmon to give his report for June and July.

**JUNE:**

Larceny – 2	Motor Vehicle Theft – 1	Damage to Property -- 1
Warrant for Arrest – 3	Order for Arrest – 1	

**TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE: 129**

**JULY**

Larceny – 1	Domestic Disturbance – 2	Unauthorized Use of Vehicle – 1
Fraud – 1	Gun Shot or Stabbing – 1	
Order for Arrest – 2	Warrant for Arrest -- 2	

**TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE: 142**

Deputy Sigmon said there continues to be an uptick in criminal activity within the last few months.

**REPUBLIC SERVICES:** Administrator Brooks stated the newest bill for this fiscal year from Republic Services had increased by one thousand, one hundred twenty-one dollars and fifty-four cents (\$1,121.54). This will result in an annual increase of thirteen thousand, four hundred fifty-eight dollars and forty-eight cents (13,458.48). The increase is due partly to an annual increase in services but the majority of the cost increase comes from a significant jump in the cart count for the town. Brooks said she has asked for a detailed cart count to compare to the recent list she requested from the county’s GIS department and look for any discrepancies.

She also asked the Board to consider cancelling the current recycling services which include cardboard and the single sort bin behind town hall. Last fiscal year, the town spent nearly four thousand dollars in recycling costs with little compensation in return for what was salvaged. The cost of recycled cardboard has fallen dramatically over that last few years so there is very little pay back however the cost of picking it up remains the same. The items placed in the single sort bin are also of very little value because so much of it cannot be used and goes directly into the trash from the sorting center. At this point, the recycling simply is not cost efficient.

Alderman Smart made a motion to discontinue recycling services with Republic Services. Alderman Childers seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**WATER/SEWER:**

**UTILITY SERVICES:** Alderman Smart remarked on the annual inspection report received from Utility Services on the water tank. There were no remarkable findings and all seemed to be working properly.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** Alderman Duncan said we would continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and the use of the pavilion by the church for their upcoming youth conference.

**PERSONNEL:** None.

**PROPERTY:**

**IRRIGATION:** Alderman Phillips presented a letter from Foothills Outdoor Solutions recommending the replacement and redesign of the irrigation and landscaping of the town hall grounds. Alderman Phillips made a motion to ask for a quote to be reviewed at a later time. Alderman Smart seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**OLD PICNIC TABLES:** Alderman Phillips made a motion to give the old picnic tables to Oak Ridge Baptist Church. Alderman Sigmon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Alderman Turner reported the repaving of Oak Laurel had been completed.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Alderman Childers stated that he would be using the town hall facilities on Tuesdays for the next six (6) weeks to teach a leadership class.

**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.

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Johnny E. Berry, Mayor

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Tamara Brooks, Town Administrator/Clerk