

BOARD OF ALDERMAN

October 05, 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 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 Duncan 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 September 14, 2020, as presented. Alderman Duncan seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (CRF): Administrator Brooks reported that the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) monies could be used for salary costs of emergency personnel, which includes Deputy Sigmon. However, there is a metric that must be met for the total number of calls and minutes/hours spent on COVID calls by Deputy Sigmon. After reviewing the metric requirements, Administrator Brooks said she didn't think the number of COVID calls Deputy Sigmon has answered would meet the reporting requirements. She advised the board that if the town chooses not to use the funds they will be reverted back to the county.

Administrator Brooks asked if the board would consider purchasing laptops for each alderman for the purpose of virtual meetings. Alderman Smart said he did not think the laptops were a practical use of the funds. Administrator Brooks then suggested adding audio/video equipment to the new pavilion for the purpose of monitoring its use. She said another neighboring municipality had installed cameras at their parks that would allow them to monitor the number of people per site and ensure their use complies with CDC recommendations and governor's orders. Alderman Phillips made a motion to inquire if the purchase of cameras and/or audio equipment for the pavilion would qualify for CRF funding. Alderman Smart seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

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

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

TOMLINSON PROPERTY: Attorney Dill said Burke County has received bids from John Thompkins and Patricia Deal to purchase the Tomlinson Property located at 2295 Tomlinson Loop. To his knowledge, Baron Kuritski had not placed a bid for purchase. At the time of the meeting, the last bid placed will be accepted on October 9th, unless another upset bid is placed.

ANNEXATION OF PROPERTIES – SOPHIA AVENUE: Attorney Dill reported that Powell Bill guidelines no longer require five (5) homes per street before a street can be dedicated and brought into the town's street system. He asked if the

town still wanted to proceed with the annexation. He said the cost of the annexation will never be fully recovered by property taxes from the two (2) properties.

Mayor Berry said if the town chooses to, the road can be paved without annexing the outstanding properties. Alderman Smart said since the outstanding property owners had expressed interest in voluntarily annexing into town limits, he felt the town should proceed with the annexation.

Alderman Childers asked what expenses Powell Bill would cover. Administrator Brooks said Powell Bill would only cover expenses related to the street itself. It will not cover the costs of surveying or legal fees in the annexation process.

Alderman Duncan asked if the town planned to accept annexation requests from anyone who asked. She said she felt this was setting precedence. Alderman Smart said if the town has the funds to annex the outstanding properties and there is a request from the property owners to come into the town, the town should honor that request. Attorney Dill said he would continue the process and contact the property owners to sign their petitions for annexation.

Alderman Turner said David Poore, of West Consultants, would need to complete a survey to establish the boundaries of the town limits and the outstanding properties. He asked if the water lines would follow the right-of-way. Alderman Smart responded by saying the water lines would need to be installed prior to paving if the town chooses to pave the road. He said if the two proposed properties want to tap onto the town's water lines, Icard Water Corporation would need to determine accessibility.

ATTORNEY'S BILL FOR LEGAL SERVICES: Alderman Smart asked Attorney Dill to provide a bill for services rendered to date. Attorney Dill responded that he would prepare a bill and that he normally bills on a quarterly basis.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Berry reported that he attended both the WPCOG Executive Meeting on September 22nd and a VEDIC Committee Meeting on September 24th via ZOOM.

FINANCE: Alderman Smart presented the financial statements for review. He said the town's financial status is good and there are no issues at present.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

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

Larceny – 1 Breaking and Entering – 1 Recovery of Stolen Property -- 1

Stolen Vehicle – 1 Warrant for Arrest – 3

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE: 124

WATER/SEWER: None.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Alderman Duncan asked if the town wanted to have the Christmas dinner this year with COVID restrictions. Alderman Smart suggested planning for the Christmas dinner and if necessary changes could be made at a later date.

PERSONNEL: Alderman Sigmon wished Mayor Berry a happy birthday.

PROPERTY:

DUKE ENERGY / LED LIGHT PROGRAM: Alderman Phillips presented a proposal from Duke Energy to replace all of the current lights in town hall and on the grounds with LED lights. This will reduce the energy used and overall cost of power used by the town. The total cost for this project is seven thousand three hundred sixty-four dollars and seventy-five cents (\$7,364.75). Duke Energy is offering a participation incentive of three thousand four hundred fifty-three dollars and fifty cents or forty-four percent (44%) of the total cost. This would leave a balance of three thousand nine hundred

eleven dollars and twenty-five cents (\$3,911.25) to be paid by the town. Alderman Phillips made a motion to replace the town's current lights with LEDs as proposed. Alderman Smart seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

1170 TOMLINSON LOOP: Alderman Phillips said Tyler Watts with 1st Choice Grading has installed the culvert and completed the road entrance at 1170 Tomlinson Loop at a cost of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00).

BEAD BLASTING: Alderman Phillips reported that the front sidewalks and pavilion have been bead blasted and can now be sealed.

TRANSPORTATION: Alderman Turner said the first allocation of seventeen thousand two hundred forty-three dollars and ninety-three cents (\$17,243.93) for Powell Bill has been received. The second and final allocation is scheduled for December 2020.

OLD BUSINESS:

TOWN WEBSITE: Alderman Smart said Ronnie Harmon, with Burke Onsite, has replaced the town hall picture to the main page of the website.

Since the passing of Ronnie's mother, she has not had opportunity to meet with him to discuss the website any further. Alderman Smart made a motion to send flowers or a donation of up to seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) in memorial of his mother. Alderman Sigmon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. She will get the necessary information to Administrator Brooks for the memorial to be made.

AUDIT F/Y 2019-2020:

Administrator Brooks said Ronnie Crump, of Boggs, Crump and Brown, would begin the audit for the fiscal year end this week.

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