

BOARD OF ALDERMAN

December 07, 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 Auditor Ronnie Crump of Boggs, Crump and Brown, PA. 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 Duncan made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman Phillips 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 November 09, 2020, as presented. Alderman Childers seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Alderman Childers thanked Mayor Berry and the VEDIC Committee for their donation to the Shekinah Food Ministry at Oak Ridge Baptist Church.

NEW BUSINESS:

AUDITOR'S REPORT: Auditor Ronnie Crump, of Boggs, Crump and Brown, PA, presented the audit report for fiscal year ending 2019-2020. He said there was an increase in total assets but a decrease in funds due to the capital outlay project for the new pavilion. He said the town is still in good financial condition. Mayor Berry thanked Auditor Crump for his work on this year's audit. Alderman Smart made a motion to approve the audit for the fiscal year of 2019-2020 as presented. Alderman Duncan seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

ANNEXATION / WAHL & THOMAS PROPERTIES:

Attorney Dill has prepared the petition for both property owners to sign to proceed with the annexation process. Alderman Smart made a motion to present the petition to both property owners for their signature to proceed with the annexation. Alderman Sigmon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Attorney Dill said if both parties sign the petition before the January meeting, the board could then ask Administrator Brooks to investigate the properties to verify they are eligible for annexation and then set a public hearing for February or March.

ABEE'S CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH / USE OF PAVILION FOR YOUTH CONFERENCE 2021:

Alderman Turner said he had been asked by Pastor Michael Keener of Abee's Chapel Baptist Church if the town would allow them to use the pavilion again for their Youth Conference for the week of August 16th through August 20th. Alderman Smart made a motion to let Abee's Chapel Baptist Church the use of the pavilion the week of August 16th through August 20th, if COVID restrictions allow for that number to gather and they are willing to sign the liability waiver. Alderman Childers seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

CALENDAR: Administrator Brooks said she would be out of the office briefly on December 8th and 14th to assist with packing and distribution of toys for the Toys for Tots program.

CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (CRF): Administrator Brooks has completed and submitted to Burke County the necessary reports for the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) monies for reimbursement. The monies were for PPE and cleaning supplies purchased. The rest of the funds have been reverted back to the county for Deputy Sigmon's salary. The town will not be billed for his salary for the remainder of the calendar year.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

TOMLINSON PROPERTY: Attorney Dill reported that Carl Fleming had purchased the Tomlinson property and has plans to remove the double-wide trailer but is looking to perhaps salvage the main home and garage.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Berry reported that he attended a WPCOG Policy Board Meeting on November 24th and the VEDIC Meeting on December 3rd. Since the majority of VEDIC's meetings have been held virtually, their committee decided to donate the monies usually spent on meals to four (4) local food ministries, including Shady Grove United Methodist Church-Second Harvest and Oak Ridge's Shekinah Food Ministry.

FINANCE: Alderman Smart thanked Auditor Crump for his work on this year's audit. Financial reports are available for review.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

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

Larceny of Motor Vehicle – 1 Breaking and Entering – 1 Stabbing or Gunshot – 1

Order for Arrest – 1

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE: 101

Deputy Sigmon remarked that calls for service were down by 30 from last month.

WATER/SEWER: None.

REPUBLIC SERVICES: Administrator Brooks said all the extra carts have been picked up and those residents who wished to keep their additional carts have been contacted and individual accounts have been set up. The single sort and cardboard bins have also been removed. The next full billing cycle should reflect the changes that have been made.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Administrator Brooks asked if the Board wanted to make tentative plans for the festival and summer concerts. She said the bands that were scheduled for last year had agreed to hold their deposit(s) and carry them over to the next season. Alderman Smart made a motion to make tentative plans for the festival and summer concerts. Alderman Turner seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PERSONNEL: Alderman Smart said each year the deputy and administrator receive a bonus, half to be given in December and the other half to be given in June. It is a budgeted item. Alderman Duncan made a motion approving Deputy Sigmon and Administrator Brooks receives half of their annual bonus. Alderman Smart seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PROPERTY:

DUKE ENERGY / LED LIGHT PROGRAM: Administrator Brooks said the backordered items have been received and she is waiting on a phone call to schedule the installation.

COMMUNITY ROOM FLOORING: Alderman Phillips presented a quote of ten thousand two hundred fifteen dollars and fifteen cents (\$10,215.15) from Midway Carpet for installation of commercial LVT flooring for the community room. Alderman Smart said there was money in the budget due to the savings from the deputy's salary. He made a motion to approve the expenditure as presented. Alderman Duncan seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PAVILION: Alderman Phillips said LCS Construction had completed sealing the concrete at the pavilion and had done a good job. Alderman Smart said there was an electrical tower located near the pavilion that needed to be replaced. He

also said the poles at the lower picnic shelter needed to be sprayed with wood sealer to protect them from the weather. Alderman Turner said he would order the necessary sealant.

TRANSPORTATION: Alderman Turner said the repairs at Shirley Street have just been completed.

OLD BUSINESS:

WCI CLASSES: Alderman Childers said WCI appreciated the use of town hall facilities last time and would like to schedule their next round of management classes here again. Alderman Smart made a motion approving WCI scheduling management classes at Connelly Springs Town Hall. Alderman Phillips seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

IRRIGATION SYSTEM:

Alderman Smart mentioned revisiting the issue of replacing the irrigation system as an expense for this year or a new budget item for next fiscal year. He said the board should plan to discuss it at the February or March meeting.

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 Smart seconding the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Johnny E. Berry, Mayor

Tamara Brooks, Town Administrator/Clerk