

BOARD OF ALDERMAN

February 01, 2021

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 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. Alderman Steve Smart was absent, excused. 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 Childers made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman Sigmon 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 December 07, 2020, and the Annual Water Meeting with Icard Township Water Corporation on February 03, 2020 (see attached), as presented. Alderman Phillips seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

ANNEXATION / WAHL & THOMAS PROPERTIES:

Attorney Dill said now that both parties have signed the petition for the annexation the Board can now charge the Town Administrator with the task of certifying the sufficiency of the petition for the annexation. The next step would then be the Board setting a date for the public hearing and taking formal action to approve or deny the annexation request. Alderman Phillips made a motion to charge Town Administrator Brooks with the task of certifying the sufficiency of the annexation petition for the Wahl and Thomas properties. Alderman Sigmon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

ICARD WATER TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING:

Due to COVID restrictions, the Annual Meeting with Icard Township Water Corporation was canceled. The regular items of business were presented to the Board by Administrator Brooks as follows:

Water Report

Calendar Year 1/1/2020 – 12/31/2020

Active Customers Count 2018	Year	Month	Prior Year	(+/-)
570 @ \$5 (+21)	\$ 34,200.00	\$2,850.00	\$33,120.00	(549) +\$1,080.00
10 @ \$15 (+)	1,800.00	150.00	1,800.00	(0) 0.00
580	\$ 36,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$34,920.00	

Increased by 21 residential customers

Total count increased by 21

Utilities

			<u>Prior Year</u>	<u>(+ / -)</u>
Power	\$5,864.88	(\$11,729.75 annual cost)	\$4,971.75	\$ 893.13
		\$ 5,864.88		\$ 488.74
Yearly Expense		\$41,864.88		
Monthly Expense		\$ 3,488.74		
Utilities Services – Retainer		6,464.79		

Alderman Turner made a motion to approve the new budget and expenditures for fiscal year 2021/2022 for water services as presented. Alderman Duncan seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

REQUEST FOR WATER LINE EXTENSION AT SHADE TREE APARTMENTS AND CANNON LANE:

Administrator Brooks presented requests from Bob Walker (Shade Tree Apartments) and RL Icard (Cannon Lane) to extend water lines to service to properties they own. The extension to Shade Tree Apartments would potentially provide service to nine (9) other customers – one (1) residential home and eight (8) apartment units. The extension to the Icard property would provide service to one (1) residential rental property. After a brief discussion, Administrator Brooks was asked to obtain cost estimates from both Icard Water Corporation and West Consultants for the Board to review at next month’s meeting.

PARADISE HARBOR – LAKE FRONT CLEARING:

Debbie Pelick, Planning Board member and resident of Paradise Harbor, said there were several properties with waterfront clearing issues. In the past, Duke Energy monitored the shoreline and enforced any violations that were noted. Now it is up to the state to enforce the main shoreline. Any waterfront tributaries that are not on the main channels are under the town’s jurisdiction and ordinances and would be enforced by the county’s code officers. She asked that the town consider changed its watershed setback ordinance of thirty feet (30’) to match the county’s setback of fifty feet (50’).

Attorney Dill said Paradise Harbor’s Homeowners’ Association (HOA) had the ability to enforce a different setback if they choose to do so and if it is included in their covenants. It is the duty of their attorney to enforce any violations noted.

Mayor Berry suggested the Planning Board review the request and makes a recommendation to the Board. Alderman Phillips asked that the item be tabled for later discussion. Alderman Sigmon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

CALENDAR: Administrator Brooks said she had two training sessions this month, one for her clerk’s certification and one for zoning.

CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (CRF): Administrator Brooks received and deposited monies in the amount of three thousand thirteen dollars and one cent (\$3,013.01) as reimbursement for cleaning supplies and PPE. The remainder of the funds, in the amount of forty-three thousand three hundred sixty-one dollars and ninety-nine cents (\$43,361.99), were reverted back to Burke County for Deputy Sigmon’s salary for the time period of June to December, 2020.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT:

CALDWELL TIMBER PROPERTIES/POSSIBLE ANNEXATION: Caldwell Timber Company and Crescent Resources are currently in negotiations regarding two parcels on Decker Road. These parcels are adjacent to town limits at Paradise Harbor. There is a possibility of the land becoming a subdivision with interest of annexing into town limits. Mayor Berry asked that Attorney Dill keep the Board informed. He said if this comes to fruition there may be CDBG grants available for water/sewer infrastructure.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Berry reported that he attended a VEDIC Executive Committee Meeting on January 12th, a WPCOG Policy Board Meeting on January 26th and both a Regular and Executive Committee Meeting for VEDIC on January 28th. Due to COVID, all meetings were held virtually.

FINANCE: Alderman Smart was absent, excused. Alderman Phillips presented the financial reports. Financial reports are available for review.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

POLICE: Alderman Childers asked Deputy Sigmon to give his report for December 2020 and January 2021.

DECEMBER 2020

Larceny – 1	Fraud – 2	Breaking and Entering – 1	Missing Person – 1
Order for Arrest – 1		Warrant for Arrest -- 2	

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE: 77

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE 2020: 1386 / AVERAGE NUMBER OF CALLS PER MONTH 2020: 115.5

JANUARY 2021

Breaking and Entering – 1	Motor Vehicle Theft – 1	Missing Person – 1
Investigation – 1	Shoplifting – 1	

WATER/SEWER: None.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Alderman Duncan asked if the Board would like to proceed with planning the festival and the concerts. Due to COVID, it might be difficult to keep social distancing and sanitation with children's activities and vendor spacing. Alderman Turner made a motion to plan for the concerts only this year, due to COVID. Alderman Childers seconded the motion.

PERSONNEL: Alderman Sigmon said she would like to recognize Mayor Berry, Zeke Sigmon, Cole Rowe and Greg Childers for picking up trash along Israel Chapel Road.

It was also noted the Israel Chapel Road sign at Highway 70 is missing. Mayor Berry said both signs at the intersection of Israel Chapel Road and Tomlinson Loop are missing. Alderman Childers then said there is a town limits sign missing on Oak Ridge Church Road. Administrator Brooks said she would check to see if there were replacements in storage. If not, she would order them and have them put up.

PROPERTY:

DUKE ENERGY / LED LIGHT PROGRAM: Administrator Brooks said the installation of the LED lights has been delayed to COVID. She is expecting a call this week to reschedule.

COMMUNITY ROOM FLOORING: Alderman Phillips said the flooring in the community room has been completed by Midway Flooring.

TRANSPORTATION: Alderman Turner presented two estimates for repairs to the water tank road from Evans Construction. The first estimate is to place asphalt at a cost of thirty-one thousand five hundred sixty dollars (\$31,560.00). The second estimate is to resurface with milling at a cost of twenty-one thousand three hundred sixty dollars (\$21,360.00). Alderman Turner said the resurfacing would last longer and would not wash away as quickly. He made a motion to accept the proposal to resurface the water tank road at the cost of twenty-one thousand three hundred sixty dollars (\$21,360.00), as proposed. Alderman Phillips seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS:

STORAGE BUILDINGS: Mayor Berry asked about repairing the storage buildings behind town hall. Alderman Turner said he would speak with Brent Lowman about it and report back to the Board.

MEMORIAL FOR SUSIE GREENE:

Administrator Brooks presented information to the Board regarding a memorial gift for Susie Greene, wife of former mayor, Carl Greene. The Board said they would like more information before making a contribution in her memory. Alderman Phillips said he would make an inquiry and report back to the Board next month.

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 Sigmon seconding the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Johnny E. Berry, Mayor

Tamara Brooks, Town Administrator/Clerk