

BOARD OF ALDERMAN

October 04, 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 Steve Smart, Alderman Josh Phillips, Alderman Carroll Turner and Alderman Kimberly Sigmon. Alderman Ramona Duncan was absent, excused. Also, in attendance were: Attorney Redmond Dill, Town Administrator Tamara Brooks, Deputy Brian Sigmon, Detective Sergeant Isaac Propst, as well as residents Katharine Campbell and Dennis Seagle. 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: An invocation was given by Alderman Phillips 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 Turner seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES: Mayor Berry noted one correction in the Mayor's Report on the last sentence. VEDIC plans to meet at town hall on September 23rd, not August 23rd. Alderman Turner made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Aldermen's regular meeting on September 13, 2021, with the correction as noted. Alderman Sigmon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

NUISANCE ABATEMENT PROPERTIES:

Mayor Berry introduced Detective Sergeant Isaac Propst with the Burke County Sheriff's Office to give his presentation on nuisance abatement properties. He explained what qualifies a property for nuisance abatement and what the requirements are for the town and property owner to work through the abatement process.

Alderman Phillips asked what the time frame normally is for the abatement process. Detective Sergeant Propst said it varies from case to case. Alderman Turner asked how the town could start the process for those properties that qualified as nuisance properties. Propst said he needed the Board's approval to begin. Alderman Childers made a motion to proceed with the nuisance abatement process for any and all properties within town limits that qualify. Alderman Phillips seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

YEARBOOK ADS:

Administrator Brooks said she received request from both East Burke High School and Draughn High School to place ads in their yearbooks. Each ad would cost one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for a total of two hundred dollars (\$200.00). Alderman Childers made a motion to approve ads for both yearbooks. Alderman Smart seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Attorney Dill said neither he nor Administrator Brooks have received any petitions requests from any property owners on Sophia Street to date.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Berry said he attended the VEDIC Committee Meeting held here at town hall's picnic shelter as well as a WPCOG Policy Board Meeting hosted by the City of Claremont on September 28th.

FINANCE: Alderman Smart presented the financial reports and said they are available for review.

He said since there have been no confirmed guidelines established for how the American Rescue Plan funds (ARP) can be used, he suggested moving those monies into a separate money market account to prevent the appearance of co-mingling of funds. He asked Administrator Brooks to take care of setting up the new money market account and transferring the ARP funds.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

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

Motor Vehicle Theft – 2 Breaking and Entering – 1 Recovered Stolen Property – 1
Larceny – 1

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE: 90

WATER/SEWER: None.

PARKS AND RECREATION: None.

PERSONNEL: Alderman Sigmon wished Mayor Berry a Happy Birthday coming up on October 6th.

PROPERTY:

OUTDOOR BUILDINGS: Alderman Phillips said the installation of the building is scheduled for Monday, October 11th.

SEASONAL BANNERS: Alderman Phillips presented pricing options for different seasonal banners to be placed along Highway 70. Alderman Smart raised the question of permits from NCDOT to allow trucks to hang the banners along Highway 70 and the cost of manpower/equipment each time the banners were changed. After a brief discussion, Alderman Smart made a motion to purchase four (4) sets of banners, one for each season, to be placed on the light poles at town hall. Alderman Phillips seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Alderman Smart said he would look into the cost of manpower and equipment for possibly hanging banners along Highway 70 in the future.

PAVING BEHIND VETERAN’S MEMORIAL: David Poore, with West Consultants, submitted a cost estimate for paving a small section of the gravel area behind the Veteran’s Memorial and installing a trench drain at the edge of the town’s property adjacent to Lovelady Fire & Rescue. This repair work would eliminate storm water run-off onto the fire department’s parking lot. Poore estimated the cost at eleven thousand five hundred seventy-five dollars (\$11,575.00). Alderman Smart made a motion to put the work out for bids. Alderman Sigmon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

TRANSPORTATION: None.

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