

Minutes Regular Monthly Meeting October 14, 2014 at 7:30 PM

Mayor Horace Reid called the meeting to order. Commissioners present were Mayor Pro Tem Lillian Holman, Carlton Davenport and Sid Eley. Ed Lane was absent. Others present were Town Manager Brandon Shoaf, Town Clerk Cindy Sharber, Town Attorney Ben Gallop, Police Chief Doug Freeman, Allen Asbell, Pam Hurdle, Dan Westra, Erie Haste, Helen and Todd Hunter, Charles and Harriett Woodard, Frank and Connie Jaklic, Anne White, Peter Williams, Hattie Sharpe and Kim Hunter Daugherty.

Mayor Reid led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a moment of silent prayer.

Motion by Lillian Holman and seconded by Sid Eley, and passed 4-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by Carlton Davenport and seconded by Lillian Holman and passed 4-0 to approve the minutes of September 8, 2014 as presented.

Scheduled Business Appointments

Allen Asbell spoke highly of Jimmy Hunter and said a lot of work had gone into requesting the sign change from the bridge on Center Hill Road just beyond Helen Hunter's home to what we call the high rise bridge.

Mayor Reid asked Helen Hunter and family if they approved of the moving of the sign from the bridge on Center Hill Highway to the high rise bridge.

Helen Hunter said that no matter where she and Jimmy traveled while he was playing ball she always knew that Hertford and Perquimans County would always be their home because of his love for this area.

The children expressed their gratitude for the change and felt that a lot more people would see the sign at the high rise bridge opposed to the bridge just beyond their parents' home.

Mayor Reid read the High Rise Bridge Dedication Resolution in memory of Jimmy "Catfish" Hunter. Mayor Reid apologized to the family for not having the resolution ready for presentation, but said it would be soon. He also thanked those they came in support of this change on his behalf.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Carlton Davenport, and passed 4-0 to approve the resolution as presented.

Administrative Concerns

Carlton Davenport said there is a dead dogwood tree in front of Mark Rose's house that needs to be removed before it falls in the street. He also said the intersection by PNC Bank needs to be patched.

Sid Eley said repairs need to be made to the large dip in the road on Covenant Garden between Grubb Street and Market Street.

Lillian Holman asked Brandon if he had heard anything about the status of the informational sign that is to be erected downtown. He said they had not.

Sid Eley advised on October 21, 2014 about 21 antique Duesenberg cars will be at the Hertford Baptist Church parking lot for about an hour.

Citizens Concerns

Frank Jaklic spoke about Virginia Miller's complaint about the old Hertford Café. He felt Brandon had been dealt a bad hand. He felt the town was lacking some serious ordinances to control businesses.

Brandon said he and attorney Ben Gallop have been working on the draft of an ordinance similar to the minimum housing ordinance they have for residential properties. He said they hope to have the draft by November Council meeting.

Ben Gallop said up until about 3 or 4 years ago municipalities couldn't adopt ordinances regarding commercial properties.

Anne White said she was here representing those who feel their voice had been silenced. She asked that the deposit policy that is being presented during a public hearing later in the meeting be changed to not exceed \$250 for deposit, make everybody pay a deposit regardless if they are a home owner or could provide a letter of good credit, keep the current fees as they are for penalties, disconnect, reconnect fees etc., she also asked that the town establish a utility club for customers who have met the conditions for having their deposit return that they could choose to have it put in an escrow account. Anne said she was asking for this change for new customers and that it not be retroactive.

Continued Business

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Carlton Davenport, and passed 4-0 to approve the demolition ordinance – code enforcement of 413 Dobb Street pending title search information for the current property owner by the town's attorney.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Carlton Davenport, and passed 4-0 to approve the demolition ordinance – code enforcement of 410 Market.

New Business

Motion by Lillian Holman and seconded by Sid Eley, and passed 4-0 to approve awarding the Hertford Marina Contract to Eure & Son Construction, Inc. for \$61,855

Mayor Reid opened the public hearing.

Brandon read the ordinance amendment concerning fishing from Walter's Bridge.

Mayor Reid opened the hearing for public comment.

Anne White asked for clarification about the bridges location and asked why the statement of no urination needed to be included. She asked Police Chief, Doug Freeman couldn't he arrest anyone for urinating in public. Chief Freeman said they could. Anne felt the statement was unnecessary.

Frank Jaklic said he would appreciate a trash receptacle be placed at the bridge and also at the S-Bridge.

Dan Westra asked that the trash cans be placed at each end of the bridges.

With no further comment Mayor Reid asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Carlton Davenport, and passed 4-0 to close the public hearing.

Motion by Lillian Holman and seconded by Sid Eley, and passed 4-0 to approve the ordinance amendment with the addition of including trash cans.

Motion by Lillian Holman and seconded by Carlton Davenport, and passed 4-0 to open a public hearing to hear changes to the utility deposit policy.

Brandon Shoaf read over the proposed changes to the deposit policy and other fees associated with utility billing.

Anne White clarified and repeated her recommendations for changing the deposit cap to \$250 and keeping all others fees as they are now. She also felt if the town was adopting fees from neighboring towns why not adopt their deposit policy as well.

Frank Jaklic said he lives next to an apartment house and a new tenant had to pay \$390 deposit for a one bedroom apartment. He said the tenant felt that was too much.

Brandon said the current proposal would lessen the deposit however the increase of fees are being requested because we are someone else's customer and we don't have any way of paying the town's electric bill late.

Hattie Sharpe asked if the night deposit box had a timer to know when payment was deposited.

Cindy Sharber explained that the night deposit box as well as the mail was collected and processed before we add the late fee.

Hattie Sharpe couldn't understand why a future tenant was being asked to make a \$400 deposit for one of her rentals and that the tenant had live in Hertford before and doesn't owe the town.

Brandon explained that the average bill for that location was \$200 and the current deposit policy allows the town to collect 2 times of the average bill. Not that the customer was paying for two months of utilities but a security deposit.

Cindy Sharber told Mrs. Sharpe the customer may not owe the Town from when they lived here before but if they didn't pay the bills on time before they would have to make a deposit.

Hearing no more comments, Motion by Carlton Davenport and seconded by Lillian Holman, and passed 4-0 to close the public hearing.

Motion by Lillian Holman and seconded by Carlton Davenport, and passed 4-0 to adopt changes to the utility deposit policy as presented.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Carlton Davenport, and passed 4-0 to declare a 2003 Crown Victoria Police Vehicle with VIN # 2FAFP71W14X106438 as surplus.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Lillian Holman, and passed 4-0 to approve budget amendment #2 for 2014-2015 as follows:

Town of Hertford
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT
Amendment # 2
FY 2014-2015

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the Town of Hertford, North Carolina, that the following amendment be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015:

Section 1. To amend the General Fund Revenues and Expenditures as follows:

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Increase</u>
103990.1400	General Fund- Fund Balance		\$9,112.50
104200.5700	General Fund- Miscellaneous Expense		\$9,112.50

Explanation and notes:

1. The General Fund Balance Appropriation will be increased by \$9,112.50 to cover the costs associated with the physical demolition of the house that was located at 410 King Street. The house posed a serious safety hazard because of the condition in which a fire, from the neighboring property, left the house in.
2. \$9,112.50 was spent to abate the safety hazard at the property listed above. These funds cover the \$2,500 that was paid to the contractor for the work and to the County Landfill for the debris removed from the site, which as another \$6,167. Legal fees for this matter totaled \$445.50 and are included in the total figures of this amendment, on both the revenue and expense side of the budget.

Adopted this 14th day of October, 2014.

Mayor Reid presented the ABC report showing an increase of 4.11% over last September.

Dan Westra invited everyone to the Holy Episcopal Church Friday, October 17, 2014 for their annual lobster sale. He advised the money raised stays within our community for local needs.

Motion by Carlton Davenport and seconded by Lillian Holman, and passed 4-0 to enter into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)3 to consult with the attorney retained by the town to preserve attorney client privilege.

Ed Lane entered at the beginning of closed session

Motion by Lillian Holman and seconded by Sid Eley, and passed 5-0 to go back into regular session.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Lillian Holman, and passed 5-0 to order meeting adjourned.