

## Minutes Regular Monthly Meeting January 8, 2018 at 7:30 PM

Mayor Horace Reid called the meeting to order. Present were Mayor Pro Tem Archie Aples, and Councilman Sid Eley. Councilman Frank Norman came in during administrative concerns and Councilman Quentin Jackson came in after citizen concerns. Others present were Town Manager Brandon Shoaf, Town Clerk Cindy Sharber, Buck & Claudia Bunch, Larry Swindell, Jo Ann Morris, Murielle Harmon, Barbara Morris, Sara Winslow, Leary & Macon Winslow, Lyl Brown, Tony Riddick, Barry Ford, Mitchell Covey, Sharon Smith, Samuel Forehand, Pam Hurdle, Ed Lane, James Horton, and Police Officer Ronny Williams.

Mayor Reid led the Pledge of Allegiance and Sid Eley had a prayer.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 3-0 to approve the agenda as amended by adding closed session to discuss personnel.

Motion by Archie Aples and seconded by Sid Eley, and passed 3-0 to approve the regular monthly minutes of December 11, 2017 as presented.

### **Scheduled Business Appointments**

There were none.

### **Administrative Concerns**

Archie Aples said the pole on Covent Garden is leaning worse. He was told that it was a telephone pole.

Sid Eley commended the town for cleaning of streets and sidewalks after the snow.

Brandon Shoaf reported the town had 50 gallons of untreated sewer reach a storm drain on Saturday, December 30, 2017. He said our crew responded at 12:30 and finished up around 2:00. Brandon said the spill had been reported to the state.

Brandon Shoaf said DOT had hired a contractor to work after hours cleaning snow in the downtown and they were working as he spoke.

Brandon Shoaf reported that the only power outage was earlier this morning from an outdated small transformer which served about 8 or 9 houses but not all are occupied. He said we replaced the transformer.

Archie Aples made a motion and was seconded by Frank Norman, and passed 3-1 for the town to pay \$500 towards the travel expenses for the student Mrs. Moreland had talked to them about during the work session. Mayor Reid voted against the motion. Brandon Shoaf suggested that the check be wrote to the school instead of the individual. Sid Eley said he would like the

*Draft*

student to report back to council after the trip. Frank Norman said he would like the student to bring pictures from the trip.

### **Citizen Concerns**

Jo Ann Morris said when she was running for town council she campaigned in all neighborhoods and she sought support of every citizen. She said 50 years ago Hertford was thriving and now it is withering. She felt they needed to seek new businesses to have more jobs.

Sara Winslow said she would like the contract and design for the new bridge be made available to all. She would like to see elevation and impact.

Murielle Harmon said she had attended the lengthy work session which a lot she felt was unnecessary. She said she would be glad to provide each member of council with a copy of parliamentary procedure. She said there is no room for their personal agendas that the decisions council make should be for the good of all citizens. She asked council to think of the greater good of the Town not just personal.

Leary Winslow wanted to speak about the allegations that came up at the work session against the fire department. He said it would not be fair to speak about the matter since Mr. Jackson wasn't in attendance. Mr. Winslow said he had researched the fire department by-laws and found Mr. Jackson to not be 100% satisfied. He said in checking the diversity in the fire department that it was aligned with other departments in the area. He said he was proud of our fire department and felt maybe the by-laws need a little tweaking but that the background check is very important since firemen are in people's homes with money and attended to wreck victims who have valuables in their vehicles after they have left in an ambulance.

### **Continued Business**

Brandon said today was the kickoff meeting for Golden Leaf disaster recover grant. He said we would be receiving \$637,094 from this grant.

### **New Business**

TDA Director, Sharon Smith came before the board informing of upcoming events. She said the River Bash will be April 28, 2018 and The Coral Caravan Vintage Flea and Farm Market will be May 19, 2018. Brandon Shoaf said overnight camping will not be necessary. He said we would need to discuss how to place the campers in the downtown area. Frank Norman asked if there was anyway to project the number of new visitors and how would they know if they met that goal.

Sharon said others had a Facebook event page which indicated 194 attended and 550 were interested. She said she doesn't always go back to an event page on Facebook and indicate that she attended the event. She suggested maybe performing self-surveys.

Quentin Jackson said it would be hard for her to know who are new people. Mayor Reid said he didn't see a good way to record that information.

Frank Norman said if the town agreed to allow the event he would like Mrs. Smith to come up with a means of validating outside visitors. He volunteered to help her.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 5-0 allow the TDA street closure request for the Coral Caravan for May 19, 2018.

Michell Covey with Jeff Best, CPA firm presented the FY 2016-2017 draft audit.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 5-0 to accept the draft audit pending LGC approval.

Motion by Archie Aples and seconded by Frank Norman, and passed 5-0 to amend the FY 2016-2017 audit contract for name change of firm and timing of report.

Quentin Jackson had asked to table the Michael Bonner resolution because he had wanted to add to the resolution but had failed to get the additional information to Brandon.

Motion by Archie Aples and seconded by Sid Eley, and passed 5-0 to approve the Michael Bonner resolution pending the amendments and Proclamation Day.

Mayor Reid opened the public hearing for zoning amendment to 4-2.8, bars and taverns.

Brandon Shoaf presented the proposed change recommendation from the Hertford Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments to amend the zoning ordinance, Section 4-2.8 to read that bars in the C-1 District will have a 50 ft. setback from churches, elementary and secondary schools, parks and residentially zoned properties. The setback mirrors that of the State's ABC permits.

Mayor Reid opened the hearing for public comment. There was none.

Motion by Archie Aples and seconded by Sid Eley, and passed 5-0 to amend the zoning ordinance as presented.

Mayor Reid opened the public hearing for zoning amendment to add funeral homes as a CUP to R-8.

Brandon Shoaf presented the proposed change recommendation from the Hertford Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments because of the circumstances surrounding the Swindell property. As it sits right now, it cannot be a funeral home, but is specifically built for that. Brandon presented conditions that he thought would be prudent to apply to this type of request. The conditions that were set as a recommendation, rely heavily on off street parking to limit where Funeral Homes can be placed, by Conditional Use Permit in the R-8 zone. The point being that, the funeral home on Dobbs Street could be utilized as such again but would be difficult to site one in a repurposed house.

Mayor Reid opened the hearing for public comment. Quentin Jackson asked Larry Swindell, current property owner if his 2 residential tenants in the back had been notified. Larry Swindell said they had not be notified. Larry Swindell said no crematorium was at this located nor were there plans to add a crematorium. Larry Swindell felt while a funeral home was in business in the area it helped to stabilize the neighborhood.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 5-0 to close the public hearing.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 4-1 to amend the zoning ordinance as presented.

Lyl Brown, owner of Four Seasons Lawn Care was in attendance to answer questions regarding the cemetery contract. Quentin Jackson said his major concern was the foot stones need to be dug out every couple of months. He asked if that was in the contract or neglect from prior years. Lyl Brown said the contract he has with the town is a maintenance contract not a refurbishment contract. He said he didn't want the responsibility of working on cemetery stones. Archie Aples felt that Roadside Cemetery was not getting the attention as Cedarwood Cemetery. He said he and Ed Lane had taken a beating over Roadside Cemetery last year. Ed Lane said that Lyl had really worked on the overgrowth. Lyl Brown said they are always working in the cemetery not just during the summer months. He told Archie for him to have the people calling him about the cemetery to call him instead. Brandon Shoaf said that Lyl had requested the name on the contract be changed from Four Seasons Lawn Care to Brown's Landscaping for accounting purposes.

*Draft*

Motion by Quentin Jackson and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 5-0 to approve the cemetery contract for one year with Brown's Landscaping.

Brandon Shoaf presented council with an updated police chief job description. Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 5-0 to approve the police chief job description as presented.

Mayor Reid presented the ABC report showing a decrease of 3.37% over last December.

Quentin Jackson asked if they could add discussing getting new iPad's for council and closed session for personnel.

Mayor Reid said they needed to discuss these items at the work session.

Quentin Jackson said he wanted to know when he could make a motion that is not part of the agenda.

Quentin Jackson left the meeting.

Motion by Archie Aples and seconded by Frank Norman, and passed 4-0 to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS § 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel.

Motion Frank Norman and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 4-0 to go into regular session.

Motion by Archie Aples and seconded by Frank Norman, and passed 3-1 to appoint Pam Hurdle as deputy Town Clerk. Sid Eley voted against the motion.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 4-0 to adjourn the meeting.

*Draft*