

**Minutes Regular Monthly Meeting February 12, 2018 7:30 PM at Perquimans County
Courthouse**

Mayor Reid called the meeting to order. Commissioners present were Mayor Pro Tem, Archie Aples, Quentin Jackson, Frank Norman and Sid Eley. Others present were Town Manager, Brandon Shoaf, Town Clerk, Cindy Sharber, Police Officer, Clinton Brothers, Phil, McMullan, Judy Bateman, Pam Hurdle, Erie Haste, Mary Alice Brinn, Connie and Frank Jaklic, William T. Winslow, Nathan Downing, Ed Lane, Lillian Holman, Danny Gregory, Ray Winslow, Michael Stallings, Elva Lee, Wilbert Thomas, Todd Tilley, Latoyia Lewis, Clifton Johnson, Roy Brothers, Deshae Rankins, Clarence White, Herbert Farrow, Kay Matthews, Stan Howell, Paul Chappell, Tiara Mullen, Porsche Jennings, Marion Leary, Billy Layden, Penny and Georff Byrd, Sharon and Jim Smith, Edgar Salvo, Tony Riddick, Michael Hare, Skip Matthews, Tim and Kim Brinn, Leary Winslow, Shelby White, Gilbert Vaughan, Gracie Felton, Rob Woodard, Barry Ford, Jaleesa Banks, Jameesha Riddick, Tyvonder Miller, Helen Banks, Dorcas White, Reginald White, Lora Aples, Diane Stallings, Anne Benton, Connie Brothers, Drew Woodard, Peter Williams, Sara Winslow, Marvin Sutton, Brian Chappell, Jonathan Nixon, Grant Walker, Grayson Stevens, Rob Hollmier, Greg Terranova, Jackson Woodell, Robbie Reed, Chad Chappell, William Eure,

Mayor Reid led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mayor Pro Tem, Aples had the prayer.

After discussion from council regarding Quentin Jackson wanting to add utilities and the town attorney to agenda. Motion by Sid Eley seconded by Archie Aples and passed 4-1 to approve the agenda as presented. Quentin Jackson voted against the motion.

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Archie Aples and passed 5-0 to approve the minutes of January 8, 2018 regular and closed session minutes and January 16, 2018 special called meeting minutes.

Scheduled Business Appointments

There were none.

Administrative Concerns

Quentin Jackson said he had attended funerals of Pete Hunter and Walter Leigh. He said that Perquimans County Middle School went undefeated in football and basketball. He said he would like the town attorney present at meetings.

Quentin Jackson said the town has 2 police officers on duty during the day and at night but they don't have unlocking tools for vehicles and this is being done by the Sheriff's department. He felt like the town needed to carry their own weight.

Town Manager, Brandon Shoaf said the town had stopped unlocking vehicles for insurance reasons but did say in an emergency they would break the glass if necessary.

Quentin Jackson said he felt the town's website needed improvement and that Sharon Smith the Tourism Director would be happy to help.

Quentin Jackson said that during the work session citizens don't get to speak but they had disruptions from the citizens at the work session.

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Archie Aples and passed 4-1 to have the attorney present at the town meetings. Sid Eley voted against the motion.

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Archie Aples and passed 5-0 to have speakers and video recordings at the meetings.

Sid Eley said that he and Frank Norman attend the meeting with Citizens for the Preservation and growth of the Town of Hertford. He endorses their application for a 7.5 million dollar grant to be shared amongst 5 towns.

Frank Norman said he was pleased with the Michael Bonner, Jr. Day celebration.

Citizens Concerns

Ed Lane presented and read from a prepared statement addressing Quentin Jackson's telling him to shut up and calling him out at the work session last Monday night. He felt he needed to respect the public, firemen, employees and law enforcement officers. He said Jackson works for the citizens of the Town and he should act like a leader and grow up. He also told Jackson it was disrespectful to not stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Marvin Sutton said 2 children at play signs between Edenton Road Street and Hyde Park had been knocked down and not replaced. He said he would like to see more police presence during the start and end of a school day because of speeders.

Danny Gregory said the town is not in the business of giving away utilities and taxes to individuals. He said he gets nothing for his town taxes that he couldn't get with his county taxes. He told Quentin Jackson to try being a responsible taxpayer and that the bickering needed to stop. He said he should lead by example.

William Eure said he was a contractor and embarrassed by what going on with the council. He felt if they disagreed that they could act like gentlemen and act like professionals.

Tony Riddick said every town meeting in the past had been decided down racial lines. He said he directs people to look at the Colonel Commission and felt that some people were upset that the Council had a majority of black members now.

Gracie Felton said she was at the work session and she felt both Jackson and Lane were both wrong. Her main concern was her utility bill of \$570. She said she had never had such a high bill and others with same size homes had bills of \$130 adding that she heats with natural gas.

Tiara Mullen said she was a veteran and was unable to receive assistance with her bill of \$778. She said she was told by Cindy Sharber to get used to receiving high bills. Archie Aples advised the town does have a payment plan. He also told her to come see him to see if any help would be available through veteran's service.

Quentin Jackson said that typically council doesn't respond to individuals during citizens concerns but the town manager would respond to them but he did want to say that until we have liberty and justice for all he will not stand for the Pledge.

He thanked Brandon and Cindy for the utility information that had been sent to council. He shared from that information that the customers of the town had received \$31,872.27 from 3 agencies assisting with utility bills since December 1, 2017, Hertford Housing Authority had paid utility allowances in the amount of \$4,209.00 in December 2017 and \$4,133.35 in January 2017, cut offs for December 2017 of customers not cut back on resulted in final balances owed the town of \$1,1383.90, cut off's for January 2018 of customers not cut back on resulted in balances owed as of February 6, 2018 in the amount of \$6,838.45 not including their final bill which will be calculated around the 22nd of the month, and the town's total utility billing for December 2017 was \$315,909.79 and \$463,386.02 for January 2018. He said that Brandon had a hard job of trying to make money for the town and he felt Brandon should tell the customer no if they are asking for additional time but felt they needed to review their policies.

Continued Business

Brandon Shoaf said the town had received roughly \$650,000 for the Golden Leaf Disaster Recovery Grant Funds to be used for sewer repair and surveying of areas for repair had begun but work had been delayed due to weather.

Brandon Shoaf said the police chief application deadline is February 28, 2018 and he had received 10 applications to date with the furthest from Detroit.

Brandon Shoaf said once they begin work on the S-Bridge the DOT is expecting a closure of the S-bridge to be 8 months since most of the work will take place parallel to the existing bridge & causeway.

Brandon Shoaf informed council that his request to have a penalty for the October sludge application be waived had been denied and that the town would have to pay \$4,067.97. He said we had received the penalty because the contractor had applied the sludge on the wrong field.

New Business

Archie Aples asked to have a meeting with the Fire Chief and executive officers of the fire department. Archie asked Drew to set the meeting date. Fire Chief Drew Woodard said either the 20th or 26th would work for him and the assistant chiefs. No date was decided on.

Sid Eley said he had been very embarrassed tonight and feels he has to apologize for the way the Council has been acting to citizens. He said he supported the fire department and their bylaws and he and his father were members of the department.

Brandon Shoaf presented the NCEMPA rate projections for wholesale power costs. He explained that the projections he was presenting tonight were different from those a year ago. Coal Ash clean up costs had skewed the new projections for the purchase of wholesale power and the power agency board had voted to keep the rates the same for this year, but would need to adjust them in future years. He felt we would need to revisit rates much sooner than he had planned after the last big wholesale decrease. He explained that the wholesale rates for Hertford would actually increase by about 1% this year because of our demand needs, but that he would not suggest any retail rate adjustment during the budget process.

Motion by Archie Aples and seconded by Sid Eley, and passed 5-0 to approve the fire department to apply to for Department of Insurance Grant as presented.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 5-0 to approve surplus resolution for pickup truck, compressor, and car as presented.

Motion by Archie Aples and seconded by Sid Eley, and passed 5-0 to approve the demolition liens to be applied to 327 and 329 King Street as presented.

Mayor Reid presented the ABC report showing an increase of 7.51% over last January.

Phil McMullan came before the board requesting a resolution in support of the Golden Leaf Foundation grant application for funding of \$7.5 million for development of the five towns around the sound at \$1.5 million each, which includes a total of \$200,000 to be deducted from each town grant to sustain the operation of the IBX Authority for a period of 2 years.

Motion by Frank Norman and seconded by Sid Eley, after review of the resolution by the Manager, and in principal to approve the supporting resolution. The motion passed 5-0.

Quentin Jackson would like to meet in a workshop to learn the policies of the town, get to know the department heads, to be introduced to staff. He said he would like the clerk present since she deals with the customers day to day.

Deshae Rankins came before the board about her \$860 utility bill. Brandon Shoaf said they could discuss later and suggested an energy audit because the alarm for the building went off.

Councilman Sid Eley made a motion to adjourn, that was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Archie Aples and was approved, 5-0.