

Minutes Regular Monthly Meeting March 12, 2018 at 7:30 PM

Mayor Reid called the meeting to order. Commissioners present were Mayor Pro Tem Archie Aples and Sid Eley. Others present were Town Manager Brandon Shoaf, Town Clerk Cindy Sharber, Town Attorney Ben Gallop, Police Officer Clinton Brothers, Anne and Greg Benton, Sara Winslow, Diane Stallings, Murielle Harmon, Earnell Brown, Connie and Frank Jaklic, Billy Winslow, Larry Chappell, Edgar Salvo, Pam Hurdle, Gay Murray, Tony Riddick, Barry Ford, and Lynne Raymond.

Mayor Reid led the Pledge of Allegiance and had the prayer.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 3-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by Archie Aples and seconded by Sid Eley, and passed 3-0 to approve the February 12, 2018 regular monthly meeting minutes as presented.

Scheduled Business Appointments

There were none.

Administrative Concerns

Sid Eley said he had just received word today that Rich Olson and Wayne Harris were hosting a regional presentation for the Harbor Town Project on March 13, 2018 from 10-12 at the Museum of the Albemarle's auditorium and all are welcome to attend.

Commissioner Quentin Jackson entered the meeting

Archie Aples said he rode through town with a critical eye and he said the town looked shabby. He said the roads are bad and the streets are dark. He said the whiter lights look better and brighter. Archie said he understood some of the road work would be done with the Powell Bill funds. Archie said he would look at the lighting concerns with Tony Riddick. He also felt we had some bad looking properties in town and we needed to get citizens on board about taking care of their property even though this is a difficult time.

Quentin Jackson apologized for being late then said he would like for the town to have a utilities committee to oversee policies. He would like maybe a 4-person committee made up with the clerk or the deputy clerk. He said he would like to do some more research before putting in the form of a motion.

Commissioner Frank Norman entered the meeting.

Frank Norman apologized for being late then suggested they be able to receive the agenda at least 5 business days prior to the meeting to be able to review. He especially was requesting for the work session.

Brandon Shoaf said he would investigate this request before responding. He felt it wouldn't be possible to get them the agenda 5 business days before the work session.

Town Manager Brandon Shoaf said he needed volunteers to deliver meals on wheels March 20th and 21st. Quentin Jackson said he would be available March 20th. Archie Aples said he would be available March 21st. When asked if they needed help on additional days Brandon said Sid Eley was volunteering on March 22nd and that we always deliver on Friday. Mayor Reid said he would be available March 23rd. He told Frank that he could go with any of the them on those days just need the volunteers at the office by 10:30 to pick up car and travel to site to pick up meals. Delivery should be done by 12 if not sooner depending on how much citizens want to talk. Frank told Brandon to pick a date and let him know.

Citizens Concerns

Murielle Harmon started by telling Archie to remember it is March and to give property owners some time to rake and clean up properties from winter. Then she addressed the following concerns from the last two work session and the last two public meetings:

1. She said they were sending mix messages. She said that Brandon, Cindy, Sid and the Mayor made an effort to be here at 6:00 for a special meeting on utilities before the work session last week. Noticeably absence only because town councilman you have raised utility issues since becoming a councilman. You have raised questions for 4 months and come up with quick answers without really understanding all the situation. She wanted the 200 plus people that voted for you to know you didn't come to the meeting nor did you call to excuse yourself from the meeting. You claim this a big issue for you and you don't come when people stay over or come early Sid who has probably heard the information 100 times but felt there was some value to it, so he came to the meeting. She said that was sending mix messages, so which is it. Are you truly concerned about utility issues or had he brought it up to draw attention since you chose not to come to the meeting?
2. She said that the meeting starts at 7:30 not 7:35 or 7:40 and out of the 4-council meeting Mr. Jackson had been late for 3.
3. She said at the last council meetings a gentleman referred to the council meeting as a dog and pony show. She felt that parliamentary rule should apply to everybody. She told Mayor Reid he has made it clear the meetings are his and he need to stick to the agenda and he needed to focus on controlling the meeting. She said that citizens concerns were a time for citizens to address members of council but at the last meeting at least 3 seem to be pandering to the audience instead of addressing members of council and he didn't stop them
4. She said some people think when they get in certain positions that they automatically get respect she said respect is not automatically given to get respect you must give respect.
5. She said it saddens her that our legal person was at the meeting to the tune of \$165 per hour. She felt it was a reality check for the new council members that every time any of them pick up the phone and call legal the meter is running. She felt it was shameful that they couldn't govern themselves. She said they had a budget amendment for legal advice to the tune of \$12,000 of that \$6,000 had already been spent and the other \$6,000 was anticipated to be spent.
6. She said at the last business meeting a question had been raised about how much is in budget for travel. She said she didn't know the format or who determines who travels and who decides if where they are traveling to is worth it. She felt that council members needed to travel in pairs to eliminate he said she said. She wanted to know what the allotment for travel is, who decides, how we go about deciding who goes to make sure Hertford is properly represented since we are being called the laughing stock of the Northeast corridor of North Carolina.

Frank Norman corrected Ms. Harmon that he was in attendance of the utility meeting. Mrs. Harmon apologized and said he was correct that he was at the meeting.

Frank Norman said that he and Mr. Jackson work jobs. Frank said that he is working with his employer to be able to get to the meetings on time. He said that they would both have to work a little harder to get here on time. He begged the community to work with them, they weren't aware of the cost involved when contacting the town attorney.

Quentin Jackson said he is trying to grow up. He said he wasn't going to get into a pity pat with a citizen. He said there was no excuse for being late. He said the information they had heard was incorrect and he wasn't apologizing for anything but being late. He said anyone wishing to contact him could get his email address and phone number off the town website.

Mayor Reid said he would take her information into consideration.

Continued Business

Brandon Shoaf presented for information purposes only the CAMA Land Use Plan Update.

Brandon Shoaf said he had requested \$127,418.80 from the Golden Leaf Disaster Recovery Grant and asked Cindy Sharber if she had received the check yet. Cindy said she had not received the check as of today.

Quentin Jackson asked Brandon if DOT had scheduled the overlay on Church Street. Brandon apologized for not getting back with him but said no date has been scheduled for overlay or patching of Church Street, but that the County Engineer said it was on the list.

Brandon Shoaf said he had began making phone calls to the 14 qualified police chief applicants.

Motion by Quentin Jackson and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 4-1 to have the town attorney in attendance at just the regular monthly meetings. Sid Eley voted against the motion.

New Business

Motion by Quentin Jackson and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 5-0 to appoint Frank Norman to fill the vacated seat by Archie Aples on the Historic Hertford, Inc. Board with the term expiring in 2020.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Quentin Jackson, and passed 5-0 to table the video recording proposal for council meetings for the manager to get a quote for video recording just the regular meetings, not the work sessions.

Motion by Archie Aples and seconded by Quentin Jackson, and passed 4-1 to approve the police department to unlock vehicles if they complete the waiver. Sid Eley voted against the motion. Sid Eley asked the town attorney if the waiver would stand up in court? All Ben would say was it was better to have the waiver than not.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 5-0 to allow the fire department to burn the former Brinn house currently owned by the town.

Tony Riddick asked if the fire department burning old houses was something offered to all residents? He was advised if there was training value to burning the house and after the owner received an asbestos inspection, then yes.

Motion by Archie Aples and seconded by Sid Eley, and passed 5-0 to approve budget amendment #3, below, FY 2017-2018 without the \$10,000 for video recording. Quentin Jackson asked since we are amending for Charger repairs could we sell the Chargers because we need cars. Brandon Shoaf said this was the first major work needed and that our fleet was the best ever.

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, 2018:

Section 1. To amend the General Fund expenditures as follows:

| <u>Acct. No.</u> | <u>Account Name</u> | <u>Decrease</u> | <u>Increase</u> |
|------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 105600.4500 | Powell Bill | | \$10,000.00 |
| 104200.7400 | Admin. Capital Outlay | | \$7,500.00 |
| 105100.1700 | Police Vehicle Exp. | | \$7,000.00 |
| 104200.0400 | Admin. Professional Expenses | | \$12,000.00 |

This will result in a net increase to:

| <u>Acct. No.</u> | <u>Account Name</u> | <u>Decrease</u> | <u>Increase</u> |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 103990.1400 | Fund Balance Appropriated | | \$36,500.00 |

Section 2. Explanation Notes:

1. An amendment to the Powell Bill Expense Line item to cover the costs of patching going forward for the year. It's important to remember that we have Powell Bill Restricted Fund Balance for cases just like this. The extra need is based on repair needs related to water line breaks under pavement.
2. An additional \$7,500.00 would be used for the removal of the two large trees on Market and Covent. The work is scheduled to be complete soon and we will need to make the amendment anyway, so I included it this one. The work was ok'd by Council in November.
3. \$7,000.00 is needed in addition to the budgeted amount for the Police Vehicle Expense line item to cover the cost of head replacements on one patrol car and a valve/cam repair on another. The vehicles have around 80,000 miles, so they are still well within their service life, and suffering from common problems with the Chargers- blown head gaskets and valve train/ cam/ timing.
4. I propose amending the Professional Services line item in the Admin. budget to cover the more than expected costs in legal fees, thus far and what I project we'll need for the rest of the fiscal year. Currently the line item is \$5,984 over and with the vote to have the Town's attorney at the next several meetings, I project at least another \$6,000 in expenses for that purpose.
5. All of this would be completed with an appropriation of \$36,500 from General Fund Balance.

Mayor Reid presented the ABC report showing a decrease of 1.48% over last February.

Quentin Jackson asked if the police department position had been filled because he had heard from citizens unable to police reports. Brandon Shoaf said he had not because he had been focusing on the Chief position but if they would either call the number posted or come to our office our staff will take care of the concerns or relay it to an on-duty officer.

Motion by Archie Aples and seconded by Sid Eley, and passed 5-0 to go into closed session

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 5-0 to go back in regular session.

No action was taken after the closed session.

Motion by Archie Aples and seconded by Sid Eley, and passed 5-0 adjourn the meeting.