

## Minutes Regular Monthly Meeting April 9, 2018 at 7:30 PM

Mayor Horace Reid called the meeting to order. Present were Mayor Pro Tem Archie Aples, Commissioners Sid Eley, Frank Norman and Quentin Jackson. Others present were Town Manager Brandon Shoaf, Town Attorney Ben Gallop, Town Clerk Cindy Sharber, Pam Hurdle, Diane Stallings, Murielle Harmon, Edgar Salvo, Peter Williams, Sharon Smith, Lora Aples, Tim and Kim Brinn, Skip Matthews, Earnell Brown, Barry Ford, and Gilbert Vaughn.

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

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Frank Norman, and passed 5-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

Quentin Jackson asked about the vote number in the minutes. He thought the mayor only voted in case of a tie. Ben Gallop said the mayor had a vote on all issues.

Motion by Quentin Jackson and seconded by Frank Norman, and passed 5-0 to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 12, 2018 as presented.

### **Scheduled Business Appointments**

There were none.

### **Administrative Concerns**

There were none.

### **Citizen Concerns**

Lillian Holman complimented the town on how good Missing Mill Park looks. She also asked council to consider keeping with the soft lighting in the historic district.

Archie Aples said they do make LED in the soft lighting. Lillian asked why change the lights if they are going to look the same. Archie said the current lighting is almost outlawed plus saves money.

Earnell Brown suggested the following changes to the Hertford, NC website: Historic Hertford currently has only a narrative and it can be updated with pictures and supporting narrative, about us needs current photos the most recent is 2015, events since Toast of Perquimans is included add the River Bash, out of the 44 Toast of Perquimans photos only 2 African Americans included in photos, Town information, news and events update or develop a separate events link and highlight events such as River Bash, Toast of Perquimans, Carolina Moon upcoming events, PAL events, images not reflective of Hertford, 13 images with no ethnic community representation, only whites.

*Draft*

Quentin Jackson asked if there was on timeline on the website upgrade. He felt that Brandon could be responsible for updating the website information on a day to day basis but felt that someone else needs to be responsible for the redesigning the website. Frank Norman said he thought that Quentin and others have volunteered to work on the website. Quentin said he never put that in the form of a motion and wasn't granted permission to work on the website.

Murielle Harmon said after the January meeting she took to heart about the website and suggested that Mr. Jackson get with Mrs. Smith to discuss ideas for redesigning. She said during the February meeting someone shouted perhaps Mr. Jackson could do the web page and he responded if they paid him he would do the website. Seems to be a money issue. She said there is a lot of talent out there all they have to do is reach out. She said they have been talking about it since January and nothing had been done. She suggested that they decide how important the web page is and she said we are not all experts and they needed to reach out for help. She said she drove around town to look at the lighting issues Mr. Aples brought up at last month's meeting and she felt the town just needed more lights period not just lighting. She said she was recently in Edenton and the LED lighting is the amber color. She said citizens are planning to help revitalize the downtown. She said White's Dress Shop was the only business downtown that had their lights on at night. She said she had helped to redo the windows at Hertfordshire Antiques and they added more lighting in the store. She said they are concerned about the retail corridor and a big clean up is scheduled for Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> and primary areas have been identified. She said town council can't do it and the money is not in the budget. She said she had received a 2-page letter from Mr. Jackson in response to her questions from last month at 6:20 tonight and if he would like to meet with her after the meeting they could settle it privately.

### **Continued Business**

Brandon Shoaf presented the Golden Leaf Disaster Recovery Grant Funds update.

Brandon Shoaf said he planned to do interviews along with Archie Aples, another Town Manager and 2 retired law enforcement officers all day April 12<sup>th</sup> for the police chief position.

### **New Business**

Sharon Smith requested additional time and space for the River Bash. Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Quentin Jackson, and passed 4-1 to approve the request. Mayor Reid voted against the motion.

Brandon Shoaf reported that the in-car cameras had not been operational since August 2017. The former chief had been notified and had been researching fixes and replacements but had not been successful in the first. At the time the department had "new" body cameras, so it was not considered an issue, as the men were instructed to use those while a fix was found. At that time, as well, the somewhat new budget did not have any new camera purchases in it. In the transition to the interim chief, the information of that need was not passed to him. There are

several systems out there to replace the systems we have from L3, the manufacturer, but all are extremely expensive. In the \$3,000 to \$7,000 range and there is no technical support or parts available for the models we have. At the time of purchase, they were already beginning to phase the particular models out that we have. Shoaf said he did not realize that or may have considered another option, but that was in 2012. Since he believed the consensus is to replace the in-car camera systems I have directed the Interim Chief to research systems that can be purchased in pieces but remain compatible. The goal would be to have a system that integrates together as one, is seamless and is user friendly. I have instructed the interim to research grants that could be used to offset the cost of such systems.

Brandon Shoaf said 50/50 grants are available to use for purchasing in-car cameras, but they needed to act quickly to get in on this cycle, however there are other cycles coming up. They would need 3 quotes and they have received 2 quotes in the \$50,000 range. He said the grants start over every November. Frank Norman felt they had missing pieces because one officer stated operating the body camera was cumbersome. Quentin Jackson said he had asked that the interim chief be present at the meeting. Brandon Shoaf said he didn't ask him to come, since simply pushing a button to demonstrate how a camera is turned on warranted his presence. Frank Norman said they couldn't budget for when they didn't know they needed replacing. Quentin Jackson said it's a police issue not a race issue he said it was about being transparent and had he not been on council they would have never had an internal investigation.

Mayor Reid said he sets an agenda and we need to remember we are Hertford not Charlotte or Raleigh, so we can't get everything at one time.

Gilbert Vaughan asked were cameras not a priority.

Sid Eley said they are a high priority but if they could purchase them for half the price even if the purchase had to be split over 2 budget years. He felt they need to stop rehashing the issue and move forward.

Mayor Reid agreed with possibly splitting up the purchase over a couple years till they get all the cameras needed.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 5-0 to approve the NCDMV License Plate Agency Contract as presented.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Quentin Jackson, and passed 5-0 to approve the Waste Industries Curb Side Collections Contract as presented.

Brandon said we have been receiving the videoing surveys and he would like to hold it open till the end of the month before reporting the results.

Peter Williams said he would have something in the Perquimans Weekly regarding the videoing survey.

Kim Brinn felt it would have been helpful to include the price of videoing. Shoaf told her the price is still up in the air, in a way, since the number of meetings per year for videoing had been questioned.

Motion by Archie Aples and seconded by Quentin Jackson, and passed 5-0 to award the bid for Wynne Fork Utility Relocation Contract to Ralph Hodge Construction in the amount \$110,618.50.

Brandon Shoaf presented the Creative EDC 2018 Strategic Plan Update Projects Scope of Work.

Motion by Frank Norman to have a public hearing for a police advisory board. Motion died for lack of a second. Quentin would like to see something on paper and would like to wait until after the new police chief is hired. Archie said there is more pros than cons to having a police advisory board but also would like to wait until we hire new police chief. Sid Eley said they needed more information and he agreed they needed to wait till new chief hire. Murielle Harmon said she didn't know of a citizen that would be willing to sit on the board without parameters. Earnell Brown felt that maybe the strategic plan would identify these needs and be like a road map.

Motion by Quentin Jackson to form a utilities advisory committee. Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion by Sid Eley to table the Community Watch Groups discussion until after a new police chief is hired. Motion died for lack of a second.

**Draft**

Motion by Quentin Jackson and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 4-1 to seek hiring an engineer after the budget process for Municipal building upgrades. Mayor Reid voted against the motion. Quentin mentioned employees having to eat at their desk, employees having to count money coming out from the back to wash their hands in the only bathroom, people sitting down the hallway and probably only being able to see him and Mr. Norman. Earnell Brown felt as the governing body the council could do some homework and put their proposals in writing to cut down on so much conversation. Kim Brinn said they voted for building upgrades but didn't say what they needed to upgrade. Murielle Hamon said if it's for making council more visible why don't they just move their meetings. She wanted to know where the money is coming from.

Brandon Shoaf said the town would be receiving NC Department of Labor Safety Awards on May 8, 2018.

Archie Aples presented the ABC report showing an increase of 7.52% over last March.

Motion by Quentin Jackson and seconded by Frank Norman, and passed 5-0 to go into closed session pursuant to GS§ 143-318.11(a)(6).

Motion by Quentin Jackson and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 5-0 to go into regular session.

Motion by Archie Aples seconded by Frank Norman and passed 5-0 to accept Brandon Shoaf's resignation as town manager effective May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

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

*Draft*