

Special Called Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2015 at 7:30PM

Mayor Horace Reid called the meeting to order. Commissioners present were Mayor Pro Tem Lillian Holman, Ed Lane, Carlton Davenport and Sid Eley. Others present were Town Manager Brandon Shoaf, Town Clerk Cindy Sharber, Administrative Executive Assistant Pam Hurdle and Ray Lassiter.

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

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

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Lillian Holman, and passed 5-0 to approve the minutes of September 14, 2015 as presented.

Scheduled Business Appointments

There were none.

Administrative Concerns

Ed Lane asked about the removal of the house on the corner of Grubb and Covent Garden. Brandon said he had spoken with Franky Brown and it would have already been taken down but he had equipment issues.

Lillian Holman asked about the house torn down on Dobb Street that was in good shape. Brandon said that was foreclosed on by State Employees Credit Union and they had taken down homes like that before. He offered that it must just be their model for that type of thing.

Mayor Reid said the sidewalk on the other side of Grubb Street heading to Covent Garden is raised and is a potential trip hazard.

Ed Lane said the storm drain at the corner of Covent Garden and King Street had again washed and there was a hole beside of it that was dangerous.

Sid Eley said that the edged sidewalks look good but he would like the town to edge the sidewalks on the other side of railroad tracks. He said he participated in the walk to school day and notice how bad they look.

Mayor Reid asked about the state trimming. Brandon Shoaf said he would check with the NCDOT local folks.

Citizens Concerns

There were none.

Continued Business

Brandon Shoaf gave an update on the commercial business incentives. No action was taken.

Brandon presented a memo stating that Mayor Reid, appointed Lula Eason to the Hertford Housing Authority Board for three more years. This was for information purposes only since the appointment comes from the Mayor.

New Business

Motion by Lillian Holman and seconded by Sid Eley, and passed 5-0 to open a public hearing to discuss an electric retail rate reduction. Brandon Shoaf presented new electric rate schedules that had been prepared by Utility Financial Solutions, LLC.

Mayor Reid opened the hearing for discussion.

Ray Lassiter wanted to know since the reduction is 15% what was the town going to do with the other 8% that is not being passed on to the customer.

Brandon Shoaf said that the electric system is 80% depreciated and the other savings are factored into a 10 year work plan for items such as lines, trucks, transformers etc. He said that is the past years the town had no funding set aside for repairs/upgrades.

Ray Lassiter said that line trucks aren't that expensive he recently purchase one for Harvey Point. He also said that insulators and lines don't go bad.

Brandon Shoaf said that the electric fund had operated in the red the last three years. He said he would be happy to share with Mr. Lassiter the 10 year work plan.

Brandon Shoaf also explained that starting this year, there were wholesale increases to the Town that were factored into the reduction and the decrease provided a stable retail rate for a few years.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Carlton Davenport, and passed 5-0 to close the public hearing for the electric retail rate reduction.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Carlton Davenport, and passed 5-0 to adopt the electric rates as presented.

Motion by Lillian Holman and seconded by Carlton Davenport, and passed 5-0 to open a public hearing to discuss an ordinance amendment for grass on streets.

Brandon Shoaf presented the ordinance amendment for grass on streets, Section 4-18 of the General Ordinances.

Mayor Reid opened the hearing for discussion.

Lillian Holman asked if a resident cut their grass and followed proper procedures and public works didn't get it picked up and it blew in the street would the resident be responsible for the \$50 fine.

Brandon Shoaf said they would not be responsible to pay the fine because the resident followed proper procedures.

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

Motion by Ed Lane and seconded by Carlton Davenport, and passed 5-0 to adopt the ordinance amendment, section 4-18 of the General Ordinance for grass on streets as presented.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Lillian Holman, and passed 5-0 to open a public hearing to discuss ordinance amendment for Article 10 – Board of Adjustment.

Brandon Shoaf shared that this change was brought on because of state changes.

Mayor Reid opened the hearing for discussion.

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

Motion by Lillian Holman and seconded by Sid Eley, and passed 5-0 to adopt the ordinance amendment for Article 10 – Board of Adjustment.

Motion by Ed Lane and seconded by Lillian Holman, and passed 5-0 to reappoint Michael Hare to the ABC Board for another 3 year term, ending in August 2018.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Carlton Davenport, and passed 5-0 to update the Personnel Policy Article VII. Holidays and Leave as required by the State.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Ed Lane, and passed 5-0 to allow HHI's Grand Illumination street closure request.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Ed Lane, and passed 5-0 to table HHI's request for camping on Academy Green and street closure for the Unhilly 100 until the November meeting to allow Brandon Shoaf a chance to check with neighbors in the area proposed for camping.

Mayor Reid presented the ABC report showing an increase of 20.78% over last September.

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