

Recessed Meeting October 18, 2018 at 7:30 PM

Mayor, Horace Reid called the meeting to order. Commissioners present were Mayor Pro Tem, Archie Aples, Sid Eley and Frank Norman and Quentin Jackson. Others present were Town Manager, Pam Hurdle, Town Attorney, Hood Ellis, Town Clerk, Cindy Sharber, Connie Brothers, Vanora Brothers, Sara Winslow, Murielle Harmon, Kay Matthews, Connie and Frank Jaklic, Edgar Salvo, William T. Winslow, Earnell Brown, Leeora Brown, Stan Howell, Paul Chappell Police Chief, Dennis Brown, Officer, Bert Webb, deputy Ray Fesperman and deputy Jordan.

Frank Norman had the prayer.

Mayor Reid led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Archie Aples seconded by Sid Eley and passed 5-0 for the meeting to come out of recess.

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Archie Aples and passed 5-0 to approve to table agenda items Old Library Building and Tourism Board and approve the amended agenda.

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Archie Aples and passed 5-0 to approve the minutes of the regular and closed session minutes of September 10, 2018 as presented.

Scheduled Business Appointments

There were none.

Council Concerns

Frank Norman felt that the minutes were not always complete as they could be, and they are unable to receive a copy of the audio. He would like to find another source of recording the meetings or record in more than one form.

Quentin Jackson apologized to Mayor, Horace Reid, Mayor Pro Tem, Archie Aples and Councilman Frank Norman for last weeks council meeting by saying if was another black eye for the town however he would not apologize for his actions.

Archie Aples wanted to go on record and thank public works for doing a good job cleaning up the issue Ms. Brothers brought to the attention of the town. Mayor Reid also thank public works staff for what they do for the town.

Citizen Concerns

Sara Winslow read the attached.

Frank Jaklic address members of council and called out Frank Norman and Quentin Jackson and told them he was their constituent and told them they would want to pay attention to what he had to say. He said about a year ago citizens thought this town council wasn't headed in the right directions and made substantial changes to the town council hopefully to move in a more positive direction. He wanted to know what had the town done to bring new business to the town, what had they done about the parking issues downtown on Wednesday and other days when they don't have adequate parking for this business they currently have, he asked when was the town going to vacate Municipal owned properties along the valuable waterfront so those properties could be turned to commercial use, we is the town going to move to eliminate abandoned buildings in this town, we is the town council going to help them improve property values so they don't have to pay increased taxes as increasingly lower real estate values strike this town, when are you going to control the speed on Church Street, what is the town's vision for the future if you have any, he wanted to thank those that are still trying to keep the town running especially Pam Hurdle, street cleaning looks great, yard waste removal is excellent, and they have excellent support from her office for public events, but this town council needs to move forward with their vision that's what they were elected to do.

Mayor Reid thanked Mr. Jaklic and said he hope they would have some information for him at the next meeting.

Quentin Jackson told Mr. Jaklic council agreed not to respond to citizens concerns during the meeting but wanted them to know he hear everything that is said and encourage citizens to email him. He said they have 5 new businesses coming to town in the next 3 months. He said as far as vacating the building he really didn't care to vacant the building, but they would like to do some facelift to the building he said clearly Cindy would love more room in this building. He said this council is new, this is a new task for him and he bite off more than he can chew. He encouraged citizens that they didn't have to wait to come to the council meetings to express their concerns. He said they have hired a new police chief and hopefully he can address the speeding issue on Church Street. He said he would like to see everyone work together and stop complaining but come up with ideas. He said tries to walk through Hertford to gain new ideas and he has been researching the S-Bridge project.

Mayor Reid told Mr. Jaklic they will try to do some of the things that had been mentioned and he said they have hired a police chief and hopefully they will get some additional members to work with him to clean up some of this, he said they have another thing that they hope they can deal with. He said they get some funds from the gasoline tax that comes in he said they won't be able to do everything at one time, but they will try to do at least 1 then move on to another.

Frank Jaklic said he was deeply concerned that the things that fund so much of what is done in this town are a result of property taxes and that they keep an eye on things that no longer reduce property values in the town.

Mayor Reid said they will do what they can but as Ms. Winslow mentioned earlier about the pipes hopefully they could go ahead and get some work done before someone hits them with a car or truck they could possibly turn the vehicle over. He couldn't say when but hopefully they can begin work soon. Hopefully they would be able to do some of the things mentioned by Ms. Winslow and Mr. Jaklic.

Murielle Harmon said she thought there was a misunderstanding the concern was the weight on the equipment not someone hitting it.

Mayor Reid said he was referring to the pipe under the roads because the pipe under the roads are gone which would create a bad situation.

Archie Aples said some of the citizens that come to the normal meetings know they have a proposal for work to begin on the underground plumbing in town. Frank Jaklic said not so much the piping today but the suspect he said you could spend millions of dollars today but if those trucks run over them it is all down the drain. Archie said he understands the concerns, but he is an optimistic kind of guy. He said personally if they don't bring a new bridge he would be fine with that also because he drives around anyway he said with what he had been reading with the new proposal he doesn't believe it will happen anytime soon. He said not only does he sit on this board but he is on the library board and they have a new library and they do have businesses coming in and a new football stadium going up but there is still more things they can do he said he wants to do good things for the town and everybody has ideas on how to do that that's why he applauded public works because they are working hard to make this place look good for us to live. He said he pays a lot of taxes too and he doesn't want his taxes to go up or his property value to go down either. He said we had to work together that the town council wasn't about just 2 Mondays in a month but working every day. He applauded the citizens who bring their concerns and for those citizens that did their homework on the S-Bridge he encouraged citizens to come to build not fight, everyone needs to get along and put differences aside to make this a good place for everybody to live.

Frank Norman said a couple of things he was going to mention was already address the pipe situation and the other businesses coming in, but he did want to mention he had lived here for 25 plus years a lot of people come to the council meetings and they don't see the good that has done. He said they don't know if council has a vision, but they just assumed they didn't. He said he didn't mind citizens coming and beating up on him because that was what he signed up for but said as you beat up look around at your town to see what has been accomplished. When you can't attend the meeting he encouraged them to look back at the items that came up on the agenda and see what they have voted for and what they have voted against see what they have done before you say they have done nothing because they have done a lot of things for the better and a lot of things don't come right away. He said businesses are coming and they have hired a police chief and he is extremely happy to have him here and hopefully he can bring some changes such as the speeding issue mentioned earlier to make Hertford a safer town. He said he had been coming to meetings for a long time and now whatever has been done right

or wrong it has got them in their seat .she can take any complaint or concern don't always mean they can do or should od. He thanked the citizens for coming to the meetings.

Sid Eley said in the last few weeks the new businesses that had opened were Brown's Chiropractic Clinic, Story's Seafood, and Family Market. He said the Tap House will be opening soon and the old Gulf Station was putting up signs. He said other businesses are coming into vacate buildings some are waiting on the state and others don't want the word out yet. He said he would try to keep them updated.

Murielle Harmon said the Chamber of Commerce puts information in their news blast and that Pam had starting a new post about happenings. She said she isn't beating them up but did ask if they had a backup plan.

Continued Business

Pam Hurdle presented the results of the Town of Hertford's "Daylily" survey showing 157 yes votes and 104 no votes. Motion by Frank Norman seconded by Archie Aples and passed 5-0 to approve daylily as the towns official flower.

Mayor Reid asked if the banners were up? Sid Eley said they were taken done before the hurricane. Pam Hurdle said that HHI picked the daylily banners that were up, and that decision would be up to HHI what banners would go back up. Frank Norman said HHI wanted to go further with the daylily such as decorating around town. He said it is branding not just banners. He said we don't have consistent branding and he would like everything to be consistent.

Frank Jaklic encouraged them to talk to the folks that they used during the STEP program to assist with the branding.

Quentin Jackson asked who is paying for the branding? He said we they began discussing the adoption of the flower there was no cost to the town.

Frank Norman said he wanted the branding of the daylily added to the website upgrade and added to material we are already using. He also wanted to give credit to HHI for spearheading this adoption of the flower.

Connie Brothers asked if the daylily would be displayed around town. Frank Norman said he would get more information after the HHI meeting. Sid Eley said this may encourage people to plant daylilies which are hardy plants and they multiply.

"S" bridge update from email Jerry Jennings, Division Engineer Division One NC Dept. of Transportation.

- The Department requested the Design Build Team to look at implications of revising the design on the North end of the project to include 1) changing to a round-a-bout intersection design, 2) shifting the alignment further North and East, 3) Holding the current alignment, but adjust the pole line on the West side of the roadway, evaluating

with and without concrete curb and gutter. We asked the Design Build Team to report back with a narrative for each option that discusses property, environmental, permit, design, traffic, cost, and schedule inspections.

- In addition, the Department requested the Design Build Team to look at a way for School buses to turn around near the Day Care Center on Bear Garden Road.
- The Department also asked the Design Build Team to look at further reducing impacts to the Winslow property at the South End of the project by moving the Tender House parking to the other side of US 17 and look at deleting the proposed yard swales and avoiding the pecan trees.
- The Department has also met with the State Historic Preservation Office to review their comments regarding the design within the Historic District. We are currently evaluating these comments and adjusting the designs as necessary. Right of Way acquisitions within the Historic District have been put on hold until these issues are resolved.

It is their intent to be in a position to report back the findings of the above actions by the end of October.

Pam Hurdle introduced Police Chief, Dewayne Dennis Brown. She said right now he is just operating in an administrative capacity pending additional paperwork.

Quentin Jackson wanted to thank and commend the interim police chief, Bert Webb for stepping up while they could hire a police chief.

New Business

Motion by Sid Eley seconded by Quentin Jackson and passed 5-0 to move the November regular town council meeting date to Tuesday, November 13, 2018 since the original meeting date falls on the observance day for Veterans Day.

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Frank Norman and passed 5-0 to authorize the town manager to negotiate with Waste Industries regarding the price increase for recycle services to lessen the impact when Waste Industries can begin charging. They had sent notice that they would be charging \$0.78 per unit beginning October 1, 2018 however review of the current contract with Waste Industries doesn't allow for this increase.

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Frank Norman and passed 4-0 to recuse Mayor Reid from discussion about the First Baptist Missionary Baptist Church request since he is a trustee of the church.

Leeora Brown asked the town to waive the mowing fees placed on the Speller property located on Hyde Park. The church would like to purchase the property from the Speller family, but mowing fees added by the town total \$8,163.30. She said the reason they are requested the waiver is that the church has been cutting the grass on this property.

Frank Norman asked was this the same property they had discussed last month? He was told this was a different property. Pam Hurdle said she has records backing up when the town cut the grass and the fees added. Attorney, Hood Ellis said since the church doesn't own the property they don't want to do anything in advance of the church purchasing the property from the Spellers. Quentin Jackson asked could the church buy the property 1st then the town remove the fees? Attorney, Ellis suggested that the church deal with the owners 1st then get a contract. Frank Norman felt they were being asked to decide before they have any information.

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Sid Eley and passed 4-0 to table the fee waiver from First Baptist Missionary Baptist Church.

Motion by Sid Eley seconded by Frank Norman and passed 5-0 to approve the NC power week resolution as presented for the week of October 7-13, 2018.

It was brought to their attention that they could not suspend enforcing the ordinance in the Overlay District. Attorney, Hood Ellis said what they did previously through a motion was null and void and did nothing to change the ordinance. He told them they were right back to where they were with their present ordinance until they draft a text amendment and submit to the Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments and they make a recommendation then you can act on that amendment. Members of council said they would like to see written permission from the property owner. Council instructed the town manager to go through the process to request amendment to the overlay district.

Motion by Sid Eley seconded by Archie Aples and passed 5-0 to approve the request from HHI to close Church Street between Grubb Street and Market Street from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM for 2018 Grand Illumination on November 30, 2018.

Pam Hurdle informed the board that a letter of support had been sent for Operations Ceasefire: Northeastern NC/Northeastern North Carolina Violent Crimes Task Force. She said City of Elizabeth City is applying for a grant for a ballistic machine to be housed in Elizabeth City. The cost for the machine and training will cost \$334,715. She said Elizabeth City plans to have 2 officers trained and housed in Elizabeth City. The cost to train an officer is \$18,000 so they would be looking at officers planning to remain with the department. In addition to cutting down the turn around time for testing these officers will also be certified to provide expert testimonies.

Pam Hurdle presented a request from Foundation Fitness on behalf of Perquimans County High School for the 5K run with different levels of sponsorship. Pam Hurdle reminded council this is not a budgeted item. Quentin Jackson said they need to remember during next year's budget to see if they could add some in the budget for request such as this. Archie Aples said he would write a personal check in the amount of \$150.00 on behalf of the town.

Pam Hurdle presented a copy of the expenditure report for the administrative travel budget for information only.

Mayor Reid presented the ABC report showing a decrease of 50.07% over last September. This report reflected the time they were closed for renovations. Frank Norman said he stopped in after the renovations were completed and said the building looked beautiful inside.

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

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

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Archie Aples and passed 5-0 to accept the manager's contract as amended and by adding Mr. Norman's statement that when she travels that it be beneficial to the town and that she reports back to council.

Edgar Salvo joined the meeting.

Quentin Jackson asked where the town was now with the police evidence room if they were relying on the Sheriff's Dept. to correct issues?

Pam Hurdle said she was getting ready to have someone come in to do the inventory and figure out what isn't in the evidence room and put those things in the evidence room. She said the process would take a long time because she thought they were going back as far as 2010. She said because it is such a long process and the police department have been short staff it hasn't been done.

Archie Aples asked if the new chief was working on this? Pam said no that if she was him, she would have never gone over there with out an audit. Pam said they are just getting it in inventory then they will do the audit because next year they will be audited by the State and Feds.

Frank Norman asked what was the time frame? Pam said she couldn't answer that at this time, she had asked Office Ben Martin who had been handling the evidence how long and his response was months.

Quentin Jackson asked if the town was looking at hiring any potential officers? Pam said that Dennis had said he already has 2 officers that want to come to work. She said he was contacting all the BLET classes today because they would be graduating in December. She said he has sent out ads to the Justice Academy and Indeed. He is writing a proposal about possible sign on bonus, sponsoring while in school, a 5 year and 10-year plan. Quentin Jackson asked where we were with mutual aid because Elizabeth City had denied mutual aid.

Pam Hurdle said that City Manager, Rich Olson denied us mutual aid to the surprise of the chief and the deputy chief. She said even though you don't offer any officers you still need to enter that agreement because you never know when you will need mutual aid.

Quentin Jackson said that he has talked to other council members at the mutual aid. He said they offer to Camden and other surrounding counties.

Pam Hurdle said she hasn't received the denial letter from Elizabeth City yet.

Frank Norman said if a motion was needed, he would make a motion. He wanted the town manager to report back next month with a timeframe for when the evidence room inventory/audit would be complete.

Pam Hurdle said she could probably give them a timeframe before the meeting. The person who is coming in will be here Saturday.

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Frank Norman and passed 5-0 to adjourn the meeting.

DRAFT