

Minutes Regular Monthly Meeting February 13, 2017 at 7:30 PM

Mayor Horace Reid called the meeting to order. Council members present were Ed Lane, Archie Aples and Sid Eley. Lillian Holman was out of town due to a death in her family. Others present were Town Manager Brandon Shoaf, Town Clerk Cindy Sharber, Bert Webb, Gary Hartong, Derek Smith, Mary Vidaurri, Jennifer Mechling, Sandy Sperry, Trish Signor, Frank Norman, and Monae Ralph.

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

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 4-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Ed Lane, and passed 4-0 to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 10, 2017 as presented.

Motion by Ed Lane and seconded by Sid Eley, and passed 4-0 to approve the closed session minutes of January 10, 2017 as presented.

Scheduled Business Appointments

Gary Hartong, with the Wooten Company gave a presentation about the issue faced by Minzie's Creek Sanitary District and possible solutions to bring them into compliance. Of the options that the District has to handle their sewer problems, pumping it to Hertford seems to be the most realistic. Brandon Shoaf asked that some sort of proposal be presented so that our attorney could review it and possibly have an engineer look into the matter.

Administrative Concerns

Archie Aples asked what was happening on Grubb Street earlier today? Shoaf said some water repair work.

Citizen Concerns

Mary Vidaurri came before the board representing AWARE (Animal Welfare in the Albemarle Region Everyday). She came before the board with proposed revisions to the town's ordinance for Article III, Section 8-35, Dogs and Other Animals. Her primary focus was the lack of language which prohibits tethering a dog outside. She provided the comments she presented to the Clerk and they are attached here.

Continued Business

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Ed Lane, and passed 4-0 to approve the 2015 -2016 audit report since it recently recieved approval from LGC.

Brandon Shoaf presented some changes he had been working on regarding the current animal ordinance. He said he had heard from citizens regarding bee hives and had added the state's ordinance regarding having bee hives. He said he would continue to work on adding more language and consider incorporating Mary Vidaurri's change request.

New Business

Motion by Archie Aples and seconded by Ed Lane, and passed 4-0 to approve the demolition ordinance for 329 King Street.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 4-0 to award the contract for the demolition of 329 King Street to C & W Grading in the amount of \$6,500. Shoaf reported this was not the lowest bid but the lowest bid did not include the abatement of asbestos.

Brandon Shoaf asked the council to review and score the list of substandard properties and bring back to him for inclusion and discussion at the next work session.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 4-0 to contract with UFS to do a rate study because of the NCEMPA wholesale rate reduction. The work is not to exceed \$8,650 in cost.

Motion by Archie Aples and seconded by Ed Lane, and passed 4-0 to approve the amended and restated agreement with NCEMPA for REP compliance.

Brandon Shoaf informed council of the no sales tax error on the small commercial rate for the month of January. He advised we caught the error quickly and sent out corrected bills and that the issue should not happen again.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 4-0 to approve budget amendment #4 for FY 2016- 2017 as follows:

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, 2017:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Increase</u>
105300.1700	Fire Dept. Vehicle Expense		\$14,229.89

This will result in a net increase to the Revenue line item below.

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Increase</u>
103810.0000	General Fund Misc. Revenue		\$14,229.89

Explanation and Notes:

1. The Volunteer Firemen reimbursed the Town \$14,229.89 for the payment the Council agreed to make on their behalf to Fire Connections for materials and labor, over and above the original scope of work for the new Ladder Truck. The Firemen used funds they raised through charitable activities to reimburse the Town the full amount of the Fire Connections invoice, minus the taxes. Above you'll see an increase to the Revenue and Expenses side of the budget to account for the described action.

Motion by Ed Lane and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 4-0 to authorize the fire department to apply for the 2017 Department of Insurance Grant that if awarded will allow the department to receive

\$20,000 worth of equipment at a cost of \$10,000 to the town which would be paid out the 2017 – 2018 budget.

Brandon Shoaf said he had all the figures in for Hurricane Matthew except the bill for the debris hauled to the landfill. He said it looked like the town would receive around \$39,000 in reimbursement.

Mayor Reid presented the ABC report showing an increase of 2.57% over last January.

Motion by Sid Eley and seconded by Archie Aples, and passed 4-0 to adjourn the meeting.

Attachment

Good evening Mayor Reid, Commissioners and Town Manager

My name is Mary Vidaurri and with me are Jennifer Mechling, Sandy Sperry and Trish Signor.

We are here as representatives of AWARE (Animal Welfare in the Albemarle Region Every Day) which is a non-profit, all volunteer organization devoted to improving the lives of animals in Perquimans, Chowan and Gates counties. AWARE's goals are to provide discount spay/neuter vouchers to area pet owners, support and increase the save rate at Tri-County Animal Shelter and Adoption Center in Tyner, and promote humane principles and educate the public on responsible pet ownership.

Thank you for allowing me to address you with regard to revisions proposed for *Article III. Dogs and Other Animals*.

At my request, Brandon provided me with a copy of the proposed revised Article. My review focused primarily on the lack of language with regard to tethering. Recently Elizabeth City revised its animal ordinance and included language which prohibits tethering a dog outside. Fortunately, this is a growing trend. I have incorporated this language into Section 8-39 and rearranged some of the wording to ensure a proper flow. Here are copies of my proposal.

I would like to emphasize that tethering is an unacceptable method of confinement for any animal and has no place in humane sheltering. Chained dogs are at risk from extreme weather conditions and can suffer injuries. Tethering can make dogs aggressive because they are not socialized around people or other dogs. Tethering ordinances are good for law enforcement as they create clear boundaries, set expectations and result in fewer nuisance (e.g., barking) and dog at large/loose complaints.

Thank you for your attention. On behalf of AWARE and as concerned citizens, we request that you incorporate language banning tethering in the Town of Hertford.

February 13, 2017.