

DRAFT

Minutes Regular Monthly Meeting August 13, 2018 at 7:30 PM

Mayor Horace Reid called the meeting to order. Commissioners present were Sid Eley, Frank Norman and Quentin Jackson. Archie Aples was absent. Others present were Interim Town Manager, Pam Hurdle, Attorney, Hood Ellis, Town Clerk, Cindy Sharber, Murielle Harmon, Tim and Kim Brinn, Judy Bateman, Kay and Skip Matthews, Vanora and Connie Brothers, Rod Norman, Woodie Perry, Virginia Miller, Edgar Salvo, Tony Riddick, and Roy Jones

Frank Norman had the prayer.

Mayor Reid led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Frank Norman seconded by Quentin Jackson and passed 4-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Frank Norman and passed 4-0 to approve the minutes of the regular monthly meeting for July 9, 2018 as presented.

Scheduled Business Appointments

Roy Jones with ElectriCities presented public works employee, Rod Norman with the ElectriCities Resolution Plaque to the electric department for the work they did helping to build the site for the first ever line workers rodeo site.

Tim Brinn gave an update on the Historic Preservations District. He said a team of 4 came in on August 4th and spent 4 hours driving around Herford. They reported back that the area that seems to have been affected the most with changes is on King Street near Covent Garden Street. Conversely, the area they feel has some potential with addition and study and fieldwork is the area near the western boundary on West Grubb Street and down South Edenton Road Street. To fully understand the potential for bringing these areas into the district, it will require another visit by the team to assess contributing versus noncontributing resources. The linkage between the original historic district and the new one will need to be made by understanding if enough historic resources in the area can be determined contributing therefore bolstering the number of contributing properties in the district. They should be able to visit again in September to finalize their recommendations. They also believe that an additional, separate historic district could be established west of the railroad tracks to include the very nice collection of late 19th century Victorian era and early 20th century Colonial Revival and Bungalow style houses. That area maintains excellent integrity in the historic housing stock and would be a nice compliment to the existing Hertford Historic District. They encouraged the town to hold off on any proposed demolitions of historic buildings in the historic district or the areas they mentioned until they can fully identify which properties would be contributing to those potential historic areas. On their

next visit in September, they would like to discuss with the town, ideas to market the Brinn house located on the edge of town on West Grubb Street.

Tim Brinn also discussed Fight the Blight. He said he took the list of previous distressed properties and said 27 need to be reviewed. He said the tax department has liens on those properties in excess of \$261,000. He recommended that the town seek help with code enforcement from City of Elizabeth or possibly finding a retired person to help with enforcement.

Quentin Jackson thanked Mr. Brinn for the work he had already put into this project. He said he had always felt the Brinn house on Grubb Street would make a good Bed & Breakfast.

Frank Norman asked if any of the homes in the possibly expanded district were occupied? Tim Brinn said they would know the answer to this in September. Frank Norman asked how would the home owners of these homes be impacted? Tim Brinn said a 15% tax credit for dollar they spend.

Citizen Concerns

Frank Norman said when you click on his name on the website it brings up Lillian Holman.

Quentin Jackson wanted to thank the police department for the National Night Out but wanted to add that he felt the downtown area would be better suited for an event such as that for better visibility. He said that shootings in Hertford are becoming more of a problem and they needed to address the issue. He said he knew they are trying to hire more police officers but at what cost. He said he had talked to a property owner at Brace Street and they had installed cameras but everything they put up gets destroyed. He said the council had up the officers pay and the starting salary and felt it was time for the town to collect.

Mayor Reid said the problem comes when you have 30-40 people in the area of a shooting and when the police ask questions the answer is I didn't see anything.

Frank Norman commended Interim Town Manager, Pam Hurdle for her efforts of trying to recruit officers. He said that a lot of people under the age of 50 don't want to see a police presence in their neighborhood. He felt that shooting victims are those that are most vocal. He said that the citizens need to be accepting of police.

Quentin Jackson where are they at as far as getting the meetings recorded? She said she had received 1 quote and waiting on another.

Frank Norman said he knew a company wanted to submit a bid and wanting to know was she still accepting bids. Pam Hurdle said she was not that she would prefer to stay with the new IT company.

Citizen Concerns

Murielle Harmon said at the June meeting she was videoed and recorded by a private individual who went home and put that recording on their private Facebook page. She said she isn't tech savvy but had gotten a copy of what was posted on Facebook. She said at an open meeting she understood you are no longer a private citizen but felt they should be notified that they can be videoed and recorded when they walk through the doors.

Quentin Jackson said that it is posted on the doors that anyone entering the building or coming on the parking lot would be videoed. He said it was his Facebook page that she was referring to and that he didn't violate any laws. He then apologized to the Mayor because he had said he would not address citizens during the meeting at the citizen comment time.

Kim Brinn asked what was the legal process?

Quentin Jackson said our attorney works for the town she needed to ask that question to her own attorney.

Mayor Reid asked attorney, Hood Ellis about the legal process for videoing someone? He said he was not aware of any legal process.

Murielle Harmon asked that people be notified when they walk through the door they could be videoed.

Frank Norman said in his experience with videography that in a public setting consent is not needed.

Motion by Frank Norman seconded by Sid Eley and passed 3-1 for Pam Hurdle to place a message at the top of the agenda notifying the public that they may be videoed. Quentin Jackson voted against the motion.

At 8:17 Quentin Jackson asked that the police department be called to have the citizens removed since they would not stop talking amongst themselves. He stepped out of the building and placed the call himself. Frank suggested to the Mayor that he and Quentin could change seats because the public wasn't bothering him. Frank suggested to Quentin when he reentered that they could change seats. Quentin Jackson said no he shouldn't have to change seats.

Continued Business

Motion by Sid Eley seconded by Frank Norman and passed 4-0 to approve the proclamation for the Perquimans County First Responders Day as presented.

New Business

Motion by Frank Norman seconded by Sid Eley and passed 4-0 to reappoint Michael Hare to the ABC Board. Sid and Frank both had conversation with workers and other ABC Board members and they all spoke highly of Michael Hare and wanted him to be reappointed to the ABC Board. Quentin Jackson said he would support him this time but thought the last council had said he

wouldn't be reappointed unless he lived in the County. Mayor Reid felt he needed to be on the board until the store renovations are finished.

Motion by Sid Eley seconded by Frank Norman and passed 4-0 to appoint Pam Hurdle to the Albemarle RPO technical coordination committee.

Motion by Frank Norman seconded Sid Eley and passed 4-0 to reappoint Archie Aples to the Albemarle RPO.

Motion by Sid Eley seconded by Frank Norman and passed 4-0 to grant HHI's request to sell alcohol on this property for the Toast the Perquimans on September 22, 2018.

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Frank Norman and passed 4-0 to table utility policy, travel policy, retreat and utility board and asked Interim Town Manager, Pam Hurdle to get a cost for the retreat.

Quentin Jackson felt there was a need for an Assistant Town Manager but didn't know how to go about that process he also felt they needed a code enforcement officer he didn't know if that was something the police department could do. Frank Norman felt they needed to wait till they appoint a permanent town manager. He suggested that maybe they could get a temp for code enforcement or possibly hire someone with code enforcement qualifications.

Interim Town Manager, Pam Hurdle suggested that they come talk to her about these issues. She felt this could have been resolved in her office. She advised them that the class is taught at UNC Chapel Hill only a couple of times a year and the individual would have to pass a test. She said to get someone qualified takes time.

Mayor Reid recommended to table the assistant town manager position.

Motion by Frank Norman seconded by Sid Eley and passed 4-0 to send a survey in the utility bills, post on the town's website and possibly do survey monkey to see if the citizens of Hertford are willing to adopt the daylily as the town's flower. He felt branding brought unity.

Sid Eley said he had spoken to the former horticulturist, Ms. Mansfield and she said that daylilies are natural flowers to the area and are great hardy plants.

Quentin Jackson asked if they adopt the daylily as the town flower who will pay?

Frank Norman said he wasn't asking for additional plants or money to put out plants.

Frank Norman introduce the Business Improvement District. He said that since the town doesn't have a planner or economic developer that an outside committee had some good ideas. He then introduced Woodie Perry.

Woodie Perry said that back in February the USDA and utility Co-ops applied for USDA grant and Perquimans County agreed to sponsor the process. He said they were awarded \$14,000. He said a market study, case study, economic impact study, branding and marketing plan and land

planner to put on paper. He was requesting that the Board ask Electricities if they would match the \$15,000 propose. He said if we can show jobs such as restoring and open the theatre.

Quentin Jackson wanted it to state in the minutes that Pam Hurdle is the town planner and himself and the Mayor are on the EDC Board.

Motion by Sid Eley seconded by Frank and passed 4-0 to table the Business Improvement District.

Mayor Reid said that the county is requesting the police department to lock the basketball courts on King and Grubb Street because kids are playing late at night. Quentin Jackson asked Officer Smith if he had received any complaints for issues at the basketball court. Officer Smith said after 6 -7 nobody on the courts. He said he hadn't received any complaints in months. Sid Eley asked Officer Smith if the times you can be on the court are posted. He said they are posted. Sid Eley said if the times are posted and someone is on the court after the posted times the officers could ask them to leave if they refuse to leave then they could arrest them. Quentin Jackson said he would like to go with the Mayor and Pam when they meet with the County.

Motion by Sid Eley seconded by Quentin Jackson and passed 4-0 that the police department will not lock the basketball courts at this time.

Mayor Reid presented the ABC report showing a decrease of .005% over last July. Sid Eley said he had been told that during the renovation process the ABC store would have to close for 1 to 2 weeks. He said they would have to move all the liquor out of the store to add more room. He was told that after stores had been renovated that they saw sale increases of 7 to 10%.

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Frank Norman and passed 4-0 to go into closed session pursuant to GS §143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel Matter.

Motion by Sid Eley seconded by Frank Norman and passed 4-0 to go back into regular session.

Motion by Sid Eley seconded by Quentin Jackson and passed 3-1 to recess the meeting until Monday, August 20, 2018 at 5:30PM. Frank Norman voted against the motion.

END OF DRAFT MINUTES