

**TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
October 3, 2022, Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, October 3, 2022, at the Town Hall. Commissioner Peed, Mayor Pro-Tempore called the meeting to order with the following present:

Officials Present: [] Mayor Williams was unable to attend

Commissioners Present:
[X] Omar Bahhur
[X] Coley Jordan
[X] Jeff Peed
[X] Tina Taylor

Attendance:
[X] Judi Lannon – Town Clerk/Finance Officer
[X] Chuck Bonner – Public Works Director
[X] Various members of the public were in attendance

The Mayor Pro-Tempore, Commissioner Jeff Peed led the Pledge of Allegiance and also led in prayer.

A motion to approve the proposed agenda was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Bahhur with a 4 to 0 vote.

Public Comment

Cynthia Crane and representatives of the Aurora Fossil Museum expressed concern regarding the upcoming Fish and Farm Festival to be held on Main Street. Commissioner Jordan had spoken with the Fish and Farm committee and they were providing insurance, security and portable bathrooms with wash stations. Trash disposal would also be addressed.

Denise Shaner, a Town resident, expressed concern and displeasure of the recent and on-going nefarious activities at 610 Pearl Street. She has expressed her concern for the abandoned house to the council before. Most recently there had been gunfire heard and an ambulance had treated someone at the house. She and her neighbors have not been able to get any information on the incident from the Sheriff's Office. The Board of Commissioners agreed with her concern and advised that the Beaufort County Sheriff Department would soon have a greater presence in the Town as they were establishing an outpost in Town's Police Building located at 310 Pearl Street.

Steve Goldman, again addressed the council regarding his plan to start a tire recycling facility at 114 NC Highway 33 E. The Clerk informed the board the Town Attorney responded today and confirmed the procedural process that would be required to amend the zoning ordinance: The proposed ordinance amendment allows for new use "Materials Processing Facility, including Tire Recycling" in the CB District upon the issuance of a special use permit. As it is standard to require use permits for any kind of manufacturing or processing facility rather than just allow it as a matter of right. This evening's advertised Public Hearing to receive Public Comment on the proposed amendment to the ordinance is the beginning of this process.

Scott Vernon Wilson addressed the Board regarding sewer back-up issues that had taken place at 198 Bridge Street. Public Works Director Chuck Bonner provided the Board with the recent events reported and responded to by the department which included the lack of airlock where a commode had been located, since corrected; and the problems being experienced with the 3rd Street lift-station compounded by the heavy rain. Renovation of the lift-station was scheduled and is operating on a generator. No leaks had been located in the recent sewer line smoke testing conducted in that area. Dialog of the site, and diameter of the pipe and possible back flow prevention methods were discussed. A history of the site flooding during hurricanes and high tide events and its position in the flood plan was also covered. The Mayor Pro-Tempore asked the occupant what his future plans were for the location. Mr. Wilson stated that he was not sure, but he thought the town should reimburse him for his expense in clean-up cost. Mayor Pro-Tem Peed advised Mr. Wilson that the Town would investigate installing backflow prevention in that area and that once he completes a zoning application for his proposed use for the site the Town would be better able to work with him in bringing that about.

Consideration of Minutes

The proposed minutes of the May 2, 2022 and May 19, 2022, meetings were approved on two separate motions made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Bahhur, with a 4 to 0 vote for each set of minutes respectively.

Public Hearing to Receive Public Comment

The Mayor Pro-Tempore opened the public hearing to receive public comment on the Amendment to Ordinance No 78-172 Schedule of Permitted Uses of District of Article IV, Use Regulations of Chapter 38 Zoning of the Code of Ordinances.

Item One

Special Use – Material Processing Facility (Including Tire Recycling) contingent of DEQ permitting requirements

Item Two

Public Buildings and Educational Use (Fire & Rescue and Beauford County Community College permitting to operate in the Industrial Park)

After hearing no public comment, and the Clerk confirming the Planning Board's approval of the Tire Recycling facility contingent upon the approval and permit from DEQ and allowing the operation of both the BCCC and the Fire and Rescue within the A.I.P., the Mayor Pro-Tempore closed the public hearing on a motion made by Commissioner Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Taylor and approved with a 4 to 0 vote.

After the close of the public hearing, two separate motions were made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Taylor, with a 4 to 0 vote for both Item One, Tire Recycling and Item Two, Public Building and Education respectively.

Old Business

Under Old Business, the Clerk presented to council the Mid-East Commission grant writing agreement for the NC Land and Water Fund sponsored Bailey's Creek Nature Based Tributary Improvement study. The motion to approve the Mid-East Commission grant writing agreement was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Jordan and approved with a 4 to 0 vote.

Also under Old Business, the Clerk presented to council The Rural Transformation Grant Timeline and Review as prepared by Michele Oros. This documented the research performed in finalizing the RTG

application focus on the Town's Main Street Historic Designation and tying that in with the waterfront Marina and expanding public access. The plan was viewed as "potentially transformational" and aligned with the Town's strategic plan. After review, a motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Jordan to have Michele Oros submit the RTG Application upon the agreed cost of \$2,000. The motion passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Staff Reports

The Public Works Director Chuck Bonner report:

- The Water Treatment Plant pump malfunctioned and the repair is warrantied. A new pump was purchased and installed while the old pump is being repaired.
- He also reported that we were still getting "hits" of high enterococci readings at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and that these were tapering off with the weather turning cooler.
- Hurricane Ian did not cause much damage within the town; however, the 3rd Street lift station was overwhelmed by the storm water again.
- He also reported that he was getting bids for gate valve and check valve replacements as well as "SCADA" style alert systems for the lift stations.

Recreation Coordinator Curt Hendrix provided a written report which is attached.

At the request of the Public Works Director, a motion was made by Commissioner Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Taylor and approved with a vote of 4 to 0 to enter into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1); and N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

Adjournment

When the meeting returned to regular session, a motion was made by Commissioner Bahhur to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Taylor and passed with a 4 to vote.

Clif Williams, Mayor

Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk