TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
Monday, October 7, 2024, Meeting

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, October 7, 2024, at the Town Hall. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order with the following present:

Officials Present:	[X] Clif Williams, Mayor
Commissioners Present:	[X] Omar Bahhur [X] Coley Jordan [X] Steve McCormack [ ] Jeff Peed
Attendance:	[X] Judi Lannon – Town Clerk/Finance Officer [ ] Ashley Barnes - Public Works Director [X] Rhonda Stallings - Administrative Assistant/Utility Billing [X} Jamie Heath – Planner, The Mid-East Commission [X} Sharon Edmundson, NC League of Municipalities [X] Various members of the public were in attendance

Commissioner Peed was unable to attend the meeting. The new Public Works Director, Ashley Barnes had a previous engagement and was not able to attend. Mr. Barnes provided the Board with a written statement.

Mayor Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner McCormack led in prayer.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Bahhur and seconded by Commissioner McCormack. The motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

Public Comment
Under Public Comment Beverly Horvath addressed the Board of Commissioners regarding public safety and the dangerous state of 354 Main St., a retail storefront building located next to her business. Ms. Horvath stated that the broken glass had finely been removed from the sidewalk, but now the entire building looks as though it may collapse at any time. At the very least the building should be secured and it really needs to be condemned. The Board was in agreement. The Clerk stated that the owner has been contacted many times and keeps promising that he will secure the building and has not followed through. The discussion then turned to the fact that the building could no longer be secured and that it needed to be demolished. The topic came to a close with the understanding that if the owner could not afford the demolition, then the Town would have to take it up with the county building inspector and the Town would then shoulder the cost of the condemnation process, demolition and court costs.

Next under Public Comment, Nancy Cameron-Hubbard announced that the Aurora Leadership Council is gearing up for "Christmas in Aurora" and requested the Town please consider making the same allocation as last year for the event. The Clerk stated that it was already in this fiscal year budget. The Clerk expressed her concern that a licensed electrician may be needed to hang the snowflake and angel

Christmas lights from the new light poles. Commissioner Jordan disagreed and stated that an electrician would not be necessary. The Clerk would contact Duke Energy to confirm.

Curt Hendrix expressed his gratitude for the mowing getting caught up and now the Town needed to focus on pot holes.

Consideration of Minutes
The proposed minutes of the August 6, 2024, regular meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner McCormack and were approved with a 3 to 0 vote.

The proposed minutes of the August 29, 2024, recessed meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Bahhur and were approved with a 3 to 0 vote.

Old Business
Under Old Business Jamie Heath, Planner with the Mid-East Commission walked the Board through the current Aurora Resilience projects and next steps to be taken. Ms. Heath presented council with the Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Accept Grant Assistance from the NC Resilient Coastal Communities Program Phase 4 Grant for construction of the Wetland Restoration at the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. This includes restoring two wetland cells, elevating the berm around the facility and removing /disposing of sludge from the holding ponds. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Bahhur. The motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

Next under the RCCP Phase 4 project, the Board considered the Mid-East Commission RCCP Phase 4 grant administration contract for 37,012.00. This amount is included in the RCCP Phase 4 grant budget with no local match required. The motion to accept the Mid-East Commission administrative contract was made by Commissioner McCormack and seconded by Commissioner Jordan. The motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

Ms. Heath asked the Board to consider the Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Accept Grant Assistance from the NC Land and Water Fund (NCLWF) for Engineering/Design and Construction of the Bailey's Creek Nature Based Tributary Improvements Project. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Commissioner McCormack and seconded by Commissioner Bahhur. The motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

Next under the Bailey's Creek Nature Based Tributary Improvements Project, the Board considered the Mid-East Commission NCLWF Grant administration contract for 46,109.00. This amount is included in the NCLWF grant budget with no local match required. The motion to accept the Mid-East Commission administrative contract was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by McCormack. The motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

The Planner closed her presentation of the Aurora Resilience Projects with a short discussion regarding the upcoming Town meeting with Bob Taylor with NCDEQ and reviewing the Asset Inventory Analysis findings of our water and sewer systems and then locating funding and resources to repair what we already have in the ground and then looking to the future to expand the water and sewer systems for future growth of Aurora.

Next under Old Business the Mayor introduced Sharon Edmundson Director of Municipal Finance Programs with NC League of Municipalities. Mrs. Edmundson has been assigned as “Mentor” to the Town of Aurora for the NCLM Accounting, Instruction and Mentorship Program. She reported on the progress the Town Clerk has made in the program which began in September and what steps lay ahead to bring the Town current in the fiscal year audit process. In closing, she provided the Board with a copy of the “Internal Controls for a Small Unit of Government “by the NC Department of State Treasurer as a reference. The Clerk and the Board thanked her for accepting the Town in the program and traveling to the meeting to speak with them.

The last item under Old Business was the consideration of the revised contract for Back-Up Wastewater Operator in Responsible Charge with Mr. Dale Davis. Mr. Davis requested the removal of text relating to the Primary ORC. After review, a motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner McCormack to approve the revised contact for Back-Up Wastewater ORC. The motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

New Business
Under new business council considered a revision of the original American Recovery Act Resolution passed by the Town of Aurora in August 2021. The Town must adopt a Grant Project Ordinance for the Town of Aurora American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Funds. The Clerk reported that the Town passed a Resolution in August 2021 accepting the Recovery Act funds an earmarking those funds for sewer lift stations. The state is now requiring that pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, a grant project must be adopted. (Attached) A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Commissioner McCormack and seconded by Commissioner Bahhur. The motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

Mayor and Board Comments
The Mayor wanted to discuss the issue of the Mini-Mart water meter not being replaced once it ceased to work many months ago. The customer had been billed an averaged amount which is customary. However, the meter was not replaced in a timely manner as there was only one employee in Public Works during this time. Also the water system valve at that intersection was thought to be under heavy pressure and the valve was known to be broken, which would make the repair under heavy pressure too difficult for one person. Also the average that had been billed to the customer was way too low and once a new Billing Clerk had been hired, the adjusted average was way too high. Also, when the meter was successfully replaced, it was discovered that the water pressure wasn’t too high as to make the repair difficult. After all of these points had been debated, the only conclusion was that the billing account would have to be audited by an outside source. The topic came to a close.

Adjournment/Recess
There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner McCormack and seconded by Commissioner Bahhur to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

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Clif Williams, Mayor Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk