

TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
November 4, 2019 Meeting

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, November 4, 2019, at the Town Hall. Mayor Clif Williams called the meeting to order with the following present:

Officials Present: [X] Clif Williams, Mayor

Commissioners Present:
[X] W. C. Boyd, Police
[X] John Farrow, Public Works
[X] Brad Lee, Water and Sewer (Mayor Pro Tempore)
[] Jeff Peed, Buildings and Facilities

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

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

The Mayor advised council that Commissioner Peed was unable to attend due to another meeting. A motion to approve the proposed Agenda was made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and approved with a 3 to 0 vote.

Mayor Williams welcomed those in attendance and introduced visiting guest, North Carolina House Representative Keith Kidwell. Mr. Kidwell stated that he was in the process of visiting all of the twelve municipalities in the 79th district that he represents. This comprises Beaufort and Craven counties. He expressed his desire to help the needs of his constituents and the needs of Aurora especially. While he stressed the importance of creating jobs, he also stated the importance of attracting good educators to come live here and teach. Representative Kidwell informed the Board that he would stay for the duration of the meeting to see what was happening in Aurora. He invited all in attendance to contact him with questions or concerns at any time.

The proposed minutes of the recessed September 24, 2019, meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Boyd with a 2 to 0 vote.

The proposed minutes for the regular October 7, 2019, meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Boyd, with a 3 to 0 vote.

Under Old Business the Board discussed the sale of surplus property. The Clerk advised the Board that she had been contacted by the NCSBI regarding the retrieval of evidence that had been in custody of the former Aurora Police Department. The evidence was located and the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department will be coming to recover it. While assisting in the effort, the Clerk learned that

there was a large amount of Police Department equipment and firearms that needed to be disseminated, and then sold as surplus property. This included the 2009 Crown Victoria and the 2014 Dodge Charger. The Sheriff's Department will be advising the Town as to how to proceed regarding the firearms. After some discussion the Board tabled the issue until after the Sheriff's Department visit.

Also under Old Business the Board discussed zoning ordinance violations. The Clerk shared a letter from a town resident who lived across the street from a derelict house. The resident wanted something done as she knew the Town ordinances were not being enforced. After much discussion it was agreed that the Town Hall and Public Works would continue to share and compile the violations and begin the notification process and that a committee or planning/zoning board may have to be re-formed and appointed.

In place of new business, the Mayor requested a motion to amend the agenda to receive a Proclamation. The agenda was amended on a motion made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Boyd with a 3 to 0 vote. Mayor Williams read aloud the Proclamation of appreciation for the service of Commissioner John H. Farrow who had chosen not to run for re-election. The Board thanked him for his years of service.

Public Works Director Chuck Bonner was not able to attend and had submitted a written report. His report contained follow-up on the repair of mowers. The Town had the repairs done by John Skaglione at AIS at a much lower cost than quoted by NAPA. There was further discussion on the age of the public works mowers and how many were needed during peak season. The Director states that we need two new sewer pumps and is researching prices. Mr. Bonner also reported that the department had all begun their first round of inoculations and the second round would be December 2nd and the 3rd round five months later. He also reported that they would be installing new street signs in November and that the Aurora Community Watch had graciously offered to help.

Recreation Coordinator Curt Hendrix provided a report which covered maintenance of the ball fields and outbuildings. He reported on various community events such as National Fossil Day and the Aurora Community Health fair. He took part in the Trunk or Treat event at Halloween. He spoke with the Community Watch group about moving the event to the ball field next year, as there was better lighting and space and would make the event safer as well. He was also networking on a Christmas tree lighting event that may not take place this year but definitely by next year.

The Clerk reported that the annual audit was almost complete and that she had met with the Town Auditor, Larry Carpenter regarding the new accounting processes that will have to be in place for all three funding streams for the Aurora Industrial Park. He advised that each grant would need a separate bank account as well as its own account code structure in our municipal accounting system. This would be in addition to the Clerk's regular accounting and clerical duties. Commissioner Lee advised the Clerk to keep them abreast of the new AIP workload and to let them know if additional help was needed.

The Mayor gave the Board an update on the Aurora Industrial Park. Martin Johnson and Judi Lannon had visited Golden Leaf Foundation on November 1st and they had agreed to an advance in funding for engineering and planning. The project is moving forward and a lease agreement was being finalized and a contractors meeting was being scheduled to take place this month.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Farrow with a 3 to 0 vote.

Clif Williams, Mayor

Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk