

TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
Monday, November 4, 2024, Meeting

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, November 4, 2024, at the Town Hall. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order with the following present:

Officials Present: [X] Clif Williams, Mayor

Commissioners Present:
[] Omar Bahhur
[X] Coley Jordan
[X] Steve McCormack
[X] Jeff Peed

Attendance: [X] Judi Lannon – Town Clerk/Finance Officer
[X] Ashley Barnes - Public Works Director
[X] Rhonda Stallings - Administrative Assistant/Utility Billing
[X] Various members of the public were in attendance

Commissioner Bahhur was unable to attend the meeting.

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

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

Public Comment

Under Public Comment, Reverend Willie Cox Jr. with 3D Ministries gave an update on food distribution efforts being made in Aurora and Edward. He reported that the church was working with several entities which included Joy Dunn with Aurora-Richland Township Chamber, Feed Craven in New Bern and the Kate B Reynolds Foundation. He also spoke about Goodwill Industries and the work being done in Aurora. Mayor Williams added that he also had spoken to GWI and their plan to utilize the old Family Dollar building and their intention to provide 30K towards Christmas for the children in Aurora.

Next under Public Comment, Beverly Horvath gave an update on the condition of the neighboring property near her business on Main Street. She hoping to see more action. The Board was in agreement with the business owner.

Continuing under Public Comment, several citizens accompanying Angela Moore and Pamela Moore expressed concern for the lack of recreation for the teens and youngsters in Aurora.

Angela Moore reported that she and several other residents wanted to restart recreation efforts in the town and wanted to begin with being able to use the gym at S.W Snowden for basketball. The Mayor commended them for their efforts. He let them know that they would have to work with the school on the use of the gymnasium. The Clerk stated that there was a little funding in the budget for equipment like basketballs. The Mayor advised them to check with the school and once things got moving to let the Board know what equipment may be needed.

Also, Under Public Comment Pamela Moore voiced her concerns about the condition of the roads and asked why we were building a business park for Nutrien and not working on getting a grocery store for Aurora. Commissioner Peed explained to her the history of why the grocery store had to close and why more commerce and tax revenue were needed in order to attract another grocery store/chain to invest in Aurora. He went on to explain that the Industrial Park was being built for the purpose of increasing tax revenue and commerce for the Town.

Consideration of Minutes

The proposed minutes of the September 3, 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.

Old Business

Under Old Business the Clerk presented the council with a Resolution to Adopt the Town of Aurora Drainage Ditch and Tributary Maintenance and Easement Plan as prepared by Jamie Heath, Planner with the Mid-East Commission. The Clerk advised as the Town has participated in the program with Golden Leaf Foundation and RK&K engineering since 2022 in the goal of reducing flooding, The plan must now be adopted by the Town and the Resolution of the Adoption must be provided to the funding organization, Golden Leaf. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner McCormack. The motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

Next under Old Business was the topic of water and sewer utility issues and adjustments. Commissioner Peed advised council of his recommendation after researching the meter replacement problem and resulting billing error at the Mini-Mart. If a meter stops working and cannot be replaced immediately, which we should strive to do, the base rate should be charged and not an average. After reviewing the two separate audits he advised the Town credit the Mini-Mart \$600.00. The council was in agreement, so the Mayor requested a motion to enact the credit to the account. The motion was made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner Jordan. The motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

New Business

Under new business, new Public Works Director Ashley Barnes gave a follow-up to his written report provided in October. His update covered many issues from mowing to the maintenance of equipment, potholes and street repairs to the operation of the new water treatment plant.

Commissioner Jordan commended him on his hard work and said folks were starting to notice the difference.

Mayor and Board Comments

Commissioners Peed and Jordan requested that the Town research what other water utility services have a “suspension of service clause” in their ordinance and let’s come back and look at that.

Commissioner McCormack asked about the Marina and NC Wildlife’s arrangement with the Town as the Marina is in need of some repair and upgrades. He was advised that the last NC Wildlife upgrade had been performed in 2010 and it had taken many years to make that happen. The Board was in agreement that we should go ahead and address the issue.

Adjournment/Recess

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner Jordan to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

Clif Williams, Mayor

Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk