TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
Monday, December 2, 2024, Meeting

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, December 2, 2024, at the Aurora Community Center. 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
[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

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

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner McCormack and seconded by Commissioner Bahhur. The motion passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Public Comment
Under Public Comment, Angela Moore and John Farrow spoke to the Board once again regarding efforts to restart recreation for the young people in the town. They presented a proposal from St. Peter Baptist Ministries, Inc. for Recreational and Community Services in support of a recreational program for Auroras' youth. The proposal was well received. However the Mayor advised the group to report back with a plan to implement recreational activities such as basketball valley ball softball, etc. He added that finding parents and volunteers to work with the children will be the biggest challenge. Ms. Moore and Mr. Farrow were thanked for their efforts in starting a new recreation program for the children in Aurora.

Consideration of Minutes
The proposed minutes of the October 7, 2024, regular meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Bahhur and seconded by Commissioner McCormack and were approved with a 4 to 0 vote.

Old Business
Under Old Business the Clerk presented the council with a Resolution and Contract for RK&K and the Resilient Coastal Communities Program Phase 4 Construction Management Contract. This is for the WWTP project which includes restoration of the two wetland cells, improvement of the berm for flood protection, and removal of sludge from the holding ponds. This Construction Management Contract represents $40,000 that is totally covered by the RCCP Phase 4 grant. A motion to approve the Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enact the contract on behalf of the Town for the implementation of the RCCP Phase 4 WWTP project was made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner Jordan. The motion passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

A motion was then made by Commissioner Peed to approve the contract for RK&K to Manage the Construction Contracts for the implementation of the RCCP Phase 4 WWTP project by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner Bahhur. The motion passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Next under Old Business, the Clerk presented to council the Resolution and Contract for the Mid-East Commission to write the grant application for the Division of Water Infrastructure CDBG-I grant to improve our water infrastructure as identified in the Asset Inventory Analysis presented to the Board in July 2024. A motion to approve the Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enact the contract on behalf of the Town for the Mid-East Commission to write the CDBG-I grant application was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Peed. The motion passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

A motion was then made by Commissioner Peed to approve the contract for the Mid-East Commission to write the grant application for the DWI- CDBG-I grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCormack. The motion passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

New Business
Under new business, Public Works Director Ashley Barnes gave an overview of his written report which is attached.

The conversation turned to water and sewer utility rates. Mr. Barnes is working diligently to get both utilities functioning efficiently. Basic tools that were needed had to be to be obtained. Safety issues were briefly addressed. Because of these issues and the price of fuel impacting the cost of treatment chemical and lab analysis, a decision to raise the utility rates was discussed at length. At the close of discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to raise both utility rates 10 percent; the motion was seconded by Commissioner McCormack and passed with a 3 to 1 vote

Lastly under New Business, the Mayor gave an update on the Industrial Park project. The Mayor and Clerk outlined a funding shortfall due to lack of electrical engineering that has cost totaling an additional $175,549. This figure had been confirmed by the project engineer with The East Group. Our representatives with NC Department of Commerce and Golden Leaf Foundation and the Mid-East Commission will be meeting here Aurora sometime next week to discuss and find a funding solution.

Adjournment/Recess
There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Bahhur and seconded by Commissioner Jordan to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Jeff Peed, Mayor Pro Tempore   Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk