TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
December 6, 2021 Meeting

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, December 6, 2021, at the Town Hall. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order with the following present:

Officials Present:	[X] Clif Williams, Mayor
Commissioners Present:	[X] Coley Jordan [X] Brad Lee [X] Jeff Peed [X] Tina Taylor
Commissioner Elect:	[X] Omar Bahhur
Attendance:	[X] Judi Lannon – Town Clerk/Finance Officer [X] 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 Peed led in prayer.

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

Public Comment

Under Public Comment the following six citizens addressed council:

(1) Laura Jordan stated that any closed session should take place at the end of the Board Meeting. In general, the board agreed that whenever possible the agenda should be amended to allow for any appropriate closed session to take place after other business.

(2) Nancy Hooker announced that she had accepted the job of putting this year's Christmas Parade together. She presented the council with a list of Christmas Parade safety rules so that there would be no unfortunate accidents along the parade route. She also had a list of parade category awards to promote the holiday spirit.

(3) Joy McCracken presented the idea of the Aurora Leadership Council conducting a "Yard of the Month" in the Town of Aurora. Each month a yard would be chosen by ALC members and the winner would receive donated certificates and coupons and a sign placed in the yard celebrating the designation. The idea was very well received.

(4) Ann Brown and Earlene Selby came to the meeting to express the need to improve and beautify downtown Main Street. The Mayor stated that at last month's meeting a plan to partner with a non-profit organization in historic preservation and revitalization was introduced and that this type of partnership was working in other small towns.

(5) Wendy Moore stated that we need a grocery store. All in attendance were in agreement.

Presentation for Outstanding Community Service
At this time Mayor Williams presented a resolution honoring the outstanding community service of Mr. Perry Gaynor.

Presentation of Plaque Honoring Commissioner's Service
Mayor Williams presented outgoing Mayor Pro-Tempore Brad Lee with a plaque honoring his years of service as both Commissioner and Mayor Pro-Tempore and thanked him for his seventeen years of service to the Town of Aurora. Commissioner Lee spoke of the challenges and also the changes that he had witnessed. He is pleased to see all the good changes currently happening in the Town of Aurora.

Oaths of Office
The Town Clerk administered the oath of office for Mayor Clif Williams.

The Town Mayor administered the oath of office as Board member for Jeff Peed.

The Town Mayor administered the oath of office as Board member for Omar Bahhur.

At this time Mayor Williams asked for a motion to appoint Commissioner Jeff Peed as Mayor Pro-Tempore. The motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Taylor and approved with a 4 to 0 vote.

Public Hearing
Mayor Williams opened the Public Hearing to receive public comment regarding an ordinance to Amend Section 30-157 "Streets" of Article III. "Improvements And Minimum Standards of Design" of Chapter30 "Subdivisions" of the code of ordinance of the Town of Aurora. There was no public comment received. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Peed to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Taylor and passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

A motion to approve the zoning amendment of Section 30-157 "Streets" of Article III "Improvements and Minimum Standards of Design" of Chapter 30 "Subdivisions" of the Code of Ordinances was made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner Jordan
Jordan and approved with a 4 to 0 vote.

Old Business
Under Old Business Public Works Director Chuck Bonner reported on the status of the Water Treatment Plant Upgrade. There are a few items yet to be completed such as the concrete base for the ladder to access the brine tank. The engineer, Spencer Busch, is still making final adjustments. Mr. Bonner then gave an overview of continued problems surrounding all three lift stations. Each lift station is to have two operating pumps in order to be compliant with NCDEQ. He is keeping pumps going, but upgrades should have been performed years ago and this issue needs to be addressed.

Also under Old Business the Mayor gave an update on the Aurora Industrial Park. He shared the letter from Mike Dirham with Nutrien to N.C. House Representative Keith Kidwell from November 29th where they pledged $100,000 to Beaufort County Community College for equipment for the proposed satellite facility in the AIP. The Mayor also shared his letter to Mr. Dirham thanking him for Nutrien's support for the AIP and making him aware of the newly formed Aurora Leadership Council and its efforts in developing a strategic plan.

New Business

Under New Business the Clerk presented a Groundwater Protection Resolution. This is a program the Town has participated in for many years with NC Rural Water Association in identifying and protecting our wells and water supply from contamination. The resolution was passed on a motion made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner Taylor and approved with a 4 to 0 vote.

Also under New Business ALC Chairman Kurt Ryan asked that the Town consider participating in RISE29 through ECU's office of Community Engagement. Basically, students studying community planning would assist in the gathering of data for the development of the Aurora Leadership Council's Strategic Plan. The motion to participate was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Peed and approved with a 4 to 0 vote.

Mayor and Board Comments

Under Mayor and Board Comments Commissioner Jordan made a motion that the American Recovery Act Funds be used to upgrade the lift stations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peed and approved with a 4 to 0 vote.

Kurt Ryan informed the Board that Sharon Holland would be giving her presentation on cities and towns partnering with non-profit organization on historic preservation and downtown revitalization at the next meeting and also asked if they would pose for some pictures before they left the building.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Peed, seconded by Commissioner Jordan with a 4 to 0 vote.

Clif Williams, Mayor

Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk