

TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
January 6, 2020 Meeting

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, January 6, 2020, 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] Coley Jordan
[X] Brad Lee
[X] Jeff Peed
[X] Tina Taylor

Attendance: [X] Judith 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 Lee, seconded by Commissioner Jordan with a 4 to 0 vote.

The proposed minutes for the regular December 2, 2020, meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner Jordan, with a 4 to 0 vote.

Under Old Business the Mayor opened the discussion on the sale of surplus property of the former Aurora Police Department with an update from the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office has a need to utilize the former Aurora P. D. building as a station or outpost for the southern end of the county and the Mayor requests that the Town make the facility available for that use. The Mayor also stated that he has received a request from the Richland Township Fire and Rescue Tax to consider donating the ballistic vests from the old P.D. to them once they have been declared surplus property. The Clerk stated that she had received a request from former P.D. Chief Harmon requesting that the Town give his service ballistic vest to him for use in his new position. After some discussion, a motion was made to complete the evidence meeting with the Sheriff's Office so the Town could move forward with the disposal of the surplus property. Have the Sheriff's Office advise on the usefulness of the ballistic vests and let the Fire and Rescue have first "fittings" and then contact Mr. Harmon if they are not able to use his vest. The motion was made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner Jordan, with a 4 to 0 vote.

Under new business the Clerk presented a Resolution of Designation of North Carolina Emergency Management Applicant's Agent for the Board of Commissioners consideration. Town Clerk Judi Lannon and former Interim Clerk Sandra Sartin would be authorized to execute and file applications for federal and/or state assistance (FEMA) on behalf of the Town of Aurora and the Richland Township Fire and Rescue Tax. The motion was made by Commissioner Lee, and seconded by Commissioner Taylor, with a 4 to 0 vote.

Also under new business the Mayor wanted to review Commissioner advisory or liaison representation for the Town. He would like Commissioner Lee to continue as Mayor Pro-Tempore and advisory over the water and sewer utility and for Commissioner Peed to continue over Town facilities. He asked that Commissioner Jordan be the advisory or liaison representative for zoning and planning and Commissioner Taylor public works.

The Public Works Director Chuck Bonner gave an oral report which included:

- The storm debris pile from Hurricane Dorian will be burned soon. FEMA has confirmed the size and we have the permit. We will be coordinating with the burn with the Fire Chief.
- Public Works had a slight mishap with the dump truck when an employee drove too close to the storm debris pile and ripped the fiberglass front fender. The town will be checking in to insurance and if any disciplinary action is necessary.
- The South Village lift station area has been filled and cleaned up from the excavation that took place in order to repair the damage caused by the hurricane.
- Rebuilt and replaced two manhole covers located at Main Street extension and at Helen and 5th street.
- Mr. Lancaster from NC Rural Water will be coming to retest the retention ponds now that we have completed the necessary upgrades in oxygenation.
- Unfortunately, we will have to send out another public notice regarding trihalomethanes (TTHM) and haloacetic acids (HAA5). These are caused by traces of disinfectant byproducts deemed above acceptable standards. This is happening because our quarterly sample testing is compiled into a yearly average that is exceeding the allowable perimeter. Commissioner Lee asked about bringing that average down within the acceptable perimeter by taking more samples. Mr. Bonner stated that he had been told who could only sample once a quarter for this test; however he will investigate and pull as many samples as allowed.

The Recreation Director Curt Hendrix gave an oral report which included:

- Many hours have been spent on field work around the ball fields, tennis courts and the community gardens.
- There are several large holes in the field where old metal drain tiles had once been. These are being filled as they are several inches deep and pose a liability.
- The golf equipment being donated by Ironwood will be picked up tomorrow. We will be able to set up a par-three or a par-four course. We can move it around and change it up depending on

feedback from players. The Recreation Coordinator has noticed that during the holidays and during the summer he has not seen children around town. Because of this he is going to be focused on recreation for all ages.

- The weekend of the 18th will be a big Boy Scouting event here in conjunction with the Fossil Museum. The Scouts will be working on their "Mining and Society" badges.
- On December 31st the Fossil Museum counted its 22,000th visitor. This is an impressive milestone which they hope to surpass next year.

The Town Clerk Judi Lannon gave an oral report which included:

- FEMA representatives had met with the Clerk and Sandra Sartin who represented Fire and rescue regarding damages incurred by Hurricane Dorian in September. There are a lot of spreadsheets for man hours and equipment used in the application process to receive public funds. The Public Works Director was instrumental in gathering this data.
- The Audit for 2018-2019 had been completed by the Town Auditor Larry Carpenter and there were no "findings." The Clerk had not received adjustment figures from him as of yet, so she has two fiscal years open in the accounting software. This is temporarily skewing her current budget vs. actual reporting. This also is effecting the reporting in the new code structure for Recreation, but should only be temporary.
- Ethics Training for Elected Officials will be required for the two new Commissioners and webinar of the course will be made available soon.
- Preparation for the issuing of IRS W2's and 1099's would begin soon.

The Mayor began the Board Comments with an update on the Aurora Industrial Park Project. He stated that there were 10 companies who are very interested and in discussion for space at the park. He also informed the Board that signage for the sale of land at the Industrial Park would be going up at either side of the entrance to the park and up at the corner of 306 and highway 33 in town. After a short conversation on local businesses the discussion came to a close.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Taylor with a 4 to 0 vote.

Clif Williams, Mayor

Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk