

**TOWN OF AURORA, NC  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES  
February 3, 2020 Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, February 3, 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  
[ ] 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. Commissioner Lee was unable to attend the meeting.

A motion to approve the proposed Agenda was made by Commissioner Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Taylor with a 3 to 0 vote.

The proposed minutes for the regular January 6, 2020, meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner Jordan, with a 3 to 0 vote.

The Mayor opened the floor for Public Comment. Rick Baker with the Aurora Community Watch, Inc. requested the Town Board consider allowing the Community Watch to place a donated storage building described as a 12x16 shed or 8x20 con-ex on the adjacent Town property used by the Public Works department. Public Works Director Chuck Bonner states that they have a location they are preparing for the unit inside the yard. Mr. Baker thanked the Board and invited all in attendance to the Community Watch Meet and Greet to be held on the evening of February 11<sup>th</sup> and to mark their calendars for the September 12, 2020 Aurora Night Out event where they hope to provide a street dance and cookout.

Lloyd Gaskins, a home owner on Main Street, advised the Board of a zoning issue that is negatively impacting his right to access the rear of his property due to a fence that his neighbor installed one year ago. The Clerk had spoken with Mr. Gaskins prior to the meeting and had a copy of the zoning permit approved by the Town's zoning administrator, the Mid-East Commission on January 3, 2019. There was a brief discussion of setback limits, the survey that had been performed and the owner's right

to access his property. The Clerk was advised to research the situation with the Mid-East Commission and see if a variance or other means of resolution could be sought.

Denise Shaner, a home owner on Chapin Street, expressed her concern regarding the house directly across the street from her. She stated that it was deteriorated and had junk and house appliances in the yard. She asked the board why nothing had been done to remove the house. Mrs. Shaner told the Board that she had read the Town Ordinances and the Town does have a responsibility. Commissioner Peed briefly explained the condemnation process and that the county Building Inspectors office would have to get involved. The Mayor advised that this would have to be done at the taxpayers' expense. After much discussion, the conversation came to a close once the issue of appointing a new planning board was covered.

Under Old Business the Mayor opened the discussion on the sale of surplus property. Town Clerk Judi Lannon reported that she had met with the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office at the former Police Department building on January 30<sup>th</sup>. The Sheriff's Department completed their recovered property/chain of custody reports. The next step in the sale of surplus property of the Aurora P.D. is for the Town to contact Chief Rose regarding the firearms. The Sheriff's Department advised the Town to donate all the ballistic vests to the Richland Township Fire and Rescue. A motion was made by Commissioner Peed to donate the ballistic vests to the Fire and Rescue. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan, with a 3 to 0 vote.

Under Old Business the Clerk presented to the Board a proposed "Town Advisory Board Application and Procedures" document that could be used for appointing a new Planning Board. After a brief discussion, it was decided to table the issue for further research.

Under Staff Reports the Public Works Director Chuck Bonner gave an oral and written report which included the following:

- All new street signs that were previously ordered are now installed.
- The new JCB Backhoe is being repaired. All the work is under warranty and the company will be covering the cost of transport.
- NC Wildlife provided two signs at the marina to prohibit parking in the boat loading area.
- There was a sewer main clog on John Drive that was removed.
- NC DOT is working on drainage problems at NC 33 and 5<sup>th</sup> Street.
- New LED lights have been installed at the Public Works shop building.
- The "Regal" smart valve at the lagoon being sent off for a repair estimate.
- Work is continuing in organizing and cleaning up the Public Works shop building.
- New Public Works uniforms have been ordered.
- The Public Works Director reported that he will be having knee surgery in mid-March.

The Recreation Director Curt Hendrix was unable to attend the meeting and provided the Clerk with the following:

- Tomorrow on February 4, he will be having a much needed truck load of sand delivered to the ball field to fill up all the holes.
- He is receiving some interest in the par 3 golf range and has received donations of golf balls.
- The Scouting event on January 18<sup>th</sup> brought in over a 100 kids and parents to the Fossil Museum where the Scouts worked towards their "Mining and Society" badges.
- Both the girls and boys basketball teams at Snowden won their games on the same night last week and that had not happened in over 20 years.
- A couple of people in town are interested in helping coach recreation basketball once the Snowden season is over in mid-February.

The Town Clerk Judi Lannon gave a lengthy written staff report which is attached.

The Mayor began the Board Comments with an update on the Aurora Industrial Park Project. He stated Bul-Hed Company wants to buy a sizeable piece of property but they also want to buy the wetlands. This is great news and the developer Sandy Acton is working on the pricing. EnViro-Vac still wants to put their regional office in the Aurora Industrial Park.

Commissioner Peed let the Board know he was planning to attend the "North Carolina Opportunity Now Summit" in Charlotte by invitation of the White House through the NC League of Municipalities. Mayor Williams is speaking with NC House Representative Keith Kidwell to help coordinate introductions. The Commissioner planned to address concerns regarding the upcoming 2020 Census and the fact Aurora has been listed as regressing in the last two censuses and probably will again. Aurora and Creswell were both listed in 2000. Creswell has grown and in 2010 Aurora was the only municipality in North Carolina listed as regressing. Commissioner Peed also spoke about the new guardrails on the NC 33 Bridge and his concern of how narrow NCDOT made the bridge connectors. There is 250' to 300' feet of new guardrail and where that connects to the concrete bridge is bumped out several inches on both sides. With school bus and log truck traffic, the guardrails have made the bridge more dangerous. It is now very difficult to move farm equipment across the bridge.

Commissioner Jordan asked the Board if they were aware of the erosion and damage to the bridge being caused by the county's release pipe from their softener (brine) treatment facility. A short discussion took place surrounding the repairs of the bridge. The Mayor would like have a NCDOT representative to come speak to the Town Board.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner Jordan, with a 4 to 0 vote.

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Clif Williams, Mayor

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Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk