

TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
February 4, 2019

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on February 4, 2019, at the Town Hall. Mayor Clif Williams called the meeting to order with the following present:

Officials Present: ☒ Clif Williams, Mayor
 ☒ Sandra Sartin, Interim Town Clerk/Finance Officer

Commissioners
Present: ☒ W. C. Boyd, Police
 ☒ John Farrow, Public Works
 ☒ Brad Lee, Water and Sewer (Mayor Pro Tempore)
 ☒ Jeff Peed, Buildings and Facilities

Attendance: ☐ Terry Groome – Public Works Director
 ☒ Brantley Peck – Town Attorney
 ☒ Various members of the public were in attendance

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

A motion to approve the proposed Agenda was made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Peed and approved with a 4 to 0 vote.

The proposed minutes for the regular January 7, 2018, meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Boyd, with a 4 to 0 vote. The proposed minutes for the January 14, 2019, recessed meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner Lee, with a 4 to 0 vote. The proposed minutes for the January 21, 2019, recessed meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Boyd and seconded by Commissioner Lee, with a 4 to 0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

A presentation was made by Mr. Carlton Gay and Mr. Danny Peed with The Executive Center for Economic & Educational Development, Inc. (EXCEED, Inc.), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit tax exempt community development corporation based in Greenville, N. C. since 2001. Their focus is working with various stakeholders in a community to develop programs to help improve the economic and special conditions of low-to-moderate income families through affordable housing development, entrepreneurship and social programs. Their goal in the Aurora area would be to provide food resources through a co-op grocery store providing locally grown produce, or home delivery of prepackaged food. They believe the need and number of residents in the area are sufficient to support a program such as this. Various grant funds such as a Building Reuse Grant and/or a Catalyst Grant from the N. C. Department of Commerce

and various other grants could be used, if awarded. They gave assurances that the Town of Aurora would not be responsible for any of the funding for the project (with such funding being a part of the grants). An Association would be formed to oversee management of the program and potential grocery store consisting of local members who would pay a one-time fee for participation. Mayor Williams requested that a business plan be developed and presented to the Board for consideration before any decision is made.

Larry Carpenter, CPA, presented the audit of the Town of Aurora's financial records for fiscal year 2017/18. He reviewed key components on several pages of the audit report and stated that it was a "clean" audit. Of concern to Board members was the decrease in the tax collection rate from 92% on the 2016/17 report to 87% on the 2017/18 report. Beaufort County collects taxes for the Town of Aurora and Attorney Mark Bardill oversees the legal procedures for the collection of overdue taxes, which can be a lengthy process. A motion was made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Peed and approved with a 4 to 0 vote to accept the 2017/18 audit as presented by CPA Larry Carpenter.

After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Peed, seconded by Commissioner Lee and approved with a 4 to 0 vote to appoint Mayor Clif Williams as the primary representative and Commissioner Jeff Peed as the secondary representative to the committee for updating the Pamlico Sound Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Interim Town Clerk/Finance Officer Sandra Sartin gave the following report:

- An email has been received from Dr. Teresa Ryan at ECU requesting continuation of use of the Marina for acoustic measurements and atmospheric measurements. The Board agreed to allow continuation of the project since no conflicts had arisen during previous use and as long as adequate parking is available for fishermen using the facility.
- Former Police Chief Mike Harmon brought end of year paperwork for the Mayor's signature and police files to the Town Hall today. He has completed half of the evidence destruction orders and the estimated remaining five hours of work should be completed soon.
- Mrs. Sartin presented the monthly budget versus actual report and explained that we are basically on tract with the budget, but that a few items such as insurance costs, chemical purchases and lab expenses will need to be reallocated in the 2019/20 budget to more adequately reflect actual expenditures.
- The Board decided that electricity and water service should remain on at the police station, and that the internet and telephone service should be terminated.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Peed and approved with a 4 to 0 vote to enter into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) To prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes; N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged; N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body; and N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee.

After returning to regular session, the meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and approved with a 4 to 0 vote.

Clif Williams, Mayor

Sandra Sartin, Interim Town Clerk/Finance Officer

Approved/adopted on this the _____ day of _____, 2019.