

TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
Monday, February 5, 2024, Meeting

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, February 5, 2024, at the Town Hall. 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] Jeff Peed
[X] Steve McCormack

Attendance: [X] Judi Lannon – Town Clerk/Finance Officer
[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 Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Bahhur. The motion passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Public Comment

Director of the Chamber of Commerce Joy Dunn announced that the Chamber had raised the funding to begin the roof repair on their building. The repair to the roof of the Chamber office and the Venue meeting hall was underway.

Next under Public Comment Jennifer Ryan announced that the volunteers of the Aurora Leadership Council had completed cleaning up the “Welcome to Aurora” sign and would like to know why the sign cannot be lit. Commissioner Jordan responded that it is an old halogen light fixture that no longer works and needs to be replaced with a solar switch. He mentioned that the ALC may want to contact Nutrien for a contribution.

Consideration of Minutes

The minutes of the December 4, 2023, meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Peed and approved with a 4 to 0 vote.

Old Business

Under Old Business the Clerk presented the completed and filed application for the Town of Aurora Sewer System Evaluation FEMA grant. The Clerk reminded the Board that the

planning of the rehabilitation of the Towns' gravity fed wastewater treatment lagoon through the Resilient Coastal Communities Program failed to receive funding at stage III. The Mid-East Commissioner partnered with RK&K engineering located the BRIC grant through FEMA. "Building Infrastructure In Communities" will pick up where the RCCP program ended.

Next under Old Business, the Board has a follow-up discussion surrounding getting an electrical contractor to complete the work needed to be done on a pump switch at the wastewater treatment facility. James Ham is having to operate the pump manually.

A follow up report was heard regarding the new roof on the water treatment plant as well as repair and new siding on the back of the Community Center building. Contractor Barry Nethercutt completed both jobs.

Lastly under Old Business, discussion took place regarding a citizens' request to purchase the half-acre lot the Town owns on Main Street across from the 2nd Street intersection. Commissioner Jordan agreed look into the land records and have a discussion with that individual.

New Business

Under New Business there was a brief discussion regarding the consideration of budget amendment requests from the Richland Township Fire and Rescue Tax bookkeeper. After a general discussion It was decided that the Richland Township Fire and Rescue Tax Board should consider these items first and then the Town Board will consider the request.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peed, seconded by Commissioner Jordan 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.

When the meeting returned to regular session, Commissioner Jordan made a motion to raise the water and sewer rates by 10 percent. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCormack and approved with a 4 to 0 vote.

Staff Reports

Under staff reports the Clerk provided the Board with a cash balance report for the Town General Fund and Water/Sewer Utility and an overview of funding spent so far on the Aurora Industrial Park.

Utility Billing Clerk and Receptionist Rhonda Stallings advised the Board on efforts she was making in getting the Towns mandated NCDEQ reporting up to date as apparently

there was a lapse that occurred after the December retirement date of out going Public Works Director F. Charles Bonner. Mrs. Stallings is working with both NCDEQ/NCDENR and Mike Houston with NC Rural Water on getting the Town back in reporting compliance. Her efforts were highly commended.

Adjournment/Recess

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

Clif Williams, Mayor

Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk