

TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
March 2, 2020 Meeting

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, March 2, 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 Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Taylor with a 4 to 0 vote.

Mayor Williams introduced Fire Chief Kevin Bonner who presented the proposed 2020-2021 Richland Township Fire and Rescue Tax Budget. Also present to answer any questions was Aurora EMS Captain Brenda Jones. After some discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner Jordan to approve the proposed Fire and Rescue budget with a vote of 4 to 0. The proposed Richland Township Fire and Rescue Tax budget will now go before the County Commissioners for final approval.

Mayor Williams introduced Town Auditor Larry E. Carpenter who presented the 2018-2019 annual municipal audit. Mr. Carpenter was glad to report that the assets and deferred outflows of resources of the Town of Aurora exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows at the close of the fiscal year by \$1,694,237 (net position). The Town had done well in reducing spending and the former Interim Finance Officer had performed a thorough job with the budget. The presentation of the audit was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Lee, which was seconded by Commissioner Peed with a 4 to 0 vote.

The proposed minutes for the regular February 3, 2020, meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Peed, with a 3 to 0 vote. Commissioner Lee did not vote as he was unable to attend the February meeting.

Under Old Business the Clerk presented a Declaration and Disposal of Surplus Property Worth Less than \$5,000 in accordance with G.S. 160A-266(c). This was for the ballistic vests from the former Aurora Police Department that had been donated to the Aurora Fire Department. The Declaration was passed on a motion made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Jordan, with a 4 to 0 vote.

Under New Business the Mayor opened the discussion and overview of the states mandated adoption of the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and updated 2020 Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS) as approved by FEMA. The Clerk provided the Board with the proposed update to the ordinance and advised the Board that they would need to recess this meeting and schedule a Public Hearing to receive public comment on the proposed changes for later in the month.

The Mid-East Commission has requested that the Town of Aurora appoint a new representative for the Council of Government. Commissioner Lee was no longer able to serve due to work constraints. The Board was not able to select a member to represent the Town so the Clerk volunteered for an interim period. After some discussion, Commissioner Lee motioned to temporarily appoint the Town Clerk Judi Lannon to represent the Town at the Mid-East Commission bimonthly Directors meeting in Williamston. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan and approved with a 4 to 0 vote.

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

- The department recently had Fire Extinguisher training.
- The Police Department building's vinyl siding was repaired after receiving wind damage.
- The site for the Community Watch storage building is prepared.
- The department had all just received their final inoculation as advised by the CDC
- Public Works shop area is looking much better as they continue to take a load of scrap metal out each month. He had David's Trash Service pick up a large number of their old and broken cans.
- We cancelled the dumpster service with "Republic" and are now using David's Trash for our dumpster service at a much lower cost.
- The "Regal" smart valve at the lagoon which monitors the flow of chlorine gas is now operating fine using the digital readout. He was able to password protect the unit once the old paper-chart reader was removed. Being able to do this "in house" saved money for the town.

After a lengthy conversation regarding keeping the softener system functional until the planned water treatment plant upgrade, the Director concluded his report.

The Recreation Coordinator Curt Hendrix gave an oral report which included the following:

- He is working to get NC Wildlife to provide fishing classes here for all ages.
- Also working with the library to offer seed starting and gardening classes which would "dovetail" in with the efforts at the Community Garden.
- There will be an Easter Egg Hunt this year.
- He is still working on putting together an off-season basketball program.

Mr. Hendrix advised that he would be canvassing and inviting kids and adults of when to “come go fishing” and he would make sure the NC Wildlife class would be filled.

The Town Clerk Judi Lannon gave a short oral report which included:

- Barbara Jones was working with NC State Veterinarian School and a group called “Paws and Love” to catch and spayed/neutered, vaccinated and release feral cats from the town.
- Now that the annual audit had been approved; she would be working on imputing the auditor’s adjustment entrees and closing out the books for 2018-2019 and then focusing on the upcoming fiscal year budget.

Under Board Comments the Mayor advised that the Beaufort County Board of Commissioners would be considering the Town’s “Inter Local Financing Agreement” for the purchase of the land for the Aurora Industrial Park on March 9th. Therefore, the Town Board would need to also conduct a Public Hearing in order to receive public comment and also vote on entering into the agreement. After a brief discussion regarding scheduling, he asked for a motion to recess the meeting until Monday, March 23, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall. The motion to recess the meeting was made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Jordan, with a 4 to 0 vote.

Clif Williams, Mayor

Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk