

TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
April 5, 2021 Meeting

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, April 5, 2021, at the Town Hall. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order with the following present:

Officials Present: [X] Clif Williams, Mayor
[X] NC House Representative Keith Kidwell

Commissioners Present: [X] Coley Jordan
[X] Brad Lee
[] Jeff Peed
[X] Tina Taylor

Attendance: [X] Brett Land – Baron & Budd Environmental Litigation
[X] Judi 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

Commissioner Peed is unable to attend the meeting.

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

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

During the Public Comment Period Vernice Whitaker gave an update on the Fossil Museum Grand Re-opening to be held on Saturday, May 29th.

At this time, Mayor Williams welcomed two guests: NC House Representative Keith Kidwell and Attorney Brett Land with Baron & Budd law firm.

The proposed minutes for the regular February 1, 2021 meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Taylor, with a 3 to 0 vote.

At this time Mayor Williams advised those in attendance that Brett Land had been previously scheduled to meet with the Board to confer on a legal matter and that he was requesting a motion to go into closed session. A motion was made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Taylor and approved with a 3 to 0 vote to enter into closed session pursuant to 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.

When the meeting returned to regular session, the Mayor introduced NC House Representative Keith Kidwell. The Board thanked Mr. Kidwell for his assistance in the Golden Leaf Foundation Disaster

Recovery Grant for the seven emergency generators that had been recently installed. Mr. Kidwell said he dropped in for the Town Board meeting as he had just previously left the County Commissioners meeting in Washington. Several topics were discussed which included: access to broadband service in southern Beaufort County; support of the Sheriff's Department as well as federal and state funding opportunities that would be available through the American Recovery Act. He was also very interested in any needs of the Richland Township Fire and Rescue departments. At the close of discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Jordan and approved with a 3 to 0 vote to issue a proclamation in support of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department.

Under Old Business, Public Works Director Chuck Bonner provided an update on the upgrade to the Water Treatment Plant. The subcontractor, Wilson Rhodes Electrical, has just completed the re-wiring. The work being done on site is still a little behind schedule due to the pandemic and the availability of parts and equipment across our state and nationwide. Mr. Bonner shared with the Board the "punch list" he put together of issues that still needed to be addressed at the Water Treatment Plant and that he would be discussing these with the project engineer.

Under New Business, the Town has applied and was accepted for two separate funding opportunities. The Public Works Director applied for and was awarded the NC DEQ 2021 Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant in the amount of \$20,000 dollars to be used towards the purchase of a new wood chipper. The Town Clerk applied for and was awarded acceptance in the NC DEQ Resilient Coastal Communities Program. This will help to better situate the Town for future project funding such as Community Development Block Grants primarily focused on our Waste Water Treatment Lagoon.

At this time both the Town Clerk and the Public Works Director indicated they had no further items to report. Recreation Coordinator Curt Hendrix reported the following:

- Beaufort County Schools will be moving towards in school learning with restrictions in place
- Worked with the Town Clerk in requesting the annual \$4,500. "Outside Agency" request from Beaufort County that helps to fund the Richland Township Seniors as well as the Recreation Department
- Spring mowing season has begun at the ball fields and the softball field has been lined and girls softball practice has begun
- He is cleaning and handling the maintenance of the facilities at the ball field
- The old football field has been converted into a full size soccer field and in coordination with the P.E. instructor at Snowden, a coed soccer team is evolving
- The Coordinator also touched on the Grand Reopening of the Fossil Museum on Saturday, May 29th

Under Board Comments the Mayor gave an update on the Aurora Industrial Park. The progress is starting to pick up pace and an updated agreement for the purchase of the land was underway and would be executed soon. Several contracting companies are on board as well as Beaufort County Community College looking at placing a satellite Vo-Tech teaching facility in the park. He also shared that he was excited to hear of studies that were to take place regarding passenger ferries and connecting the outer-banks to the mainland of the state and the financial impact that could have on our county.

After some further discussion on passenger ferries, the April 5, 2021, regular meeting adjourned on a motion made by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Lee and approved with a 3 to 0 vote.

Clif Williams, Mayor

Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk