

TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
Monday, May 1, 2023, Meeting

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, May 1, 2023, 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] Tina Taylor

Attendance:
[X] Judi Lannon – Town Clerk/Finance Officer
[X] James Ham – Public Works Director in Training
[X] Chuck Bonner Former Public Works Director and Backup ORC
[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 Taylor. The motion passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Public Comment

Cynthia Crane Director of the Aurora Fossil Museum updated everyone on the upcoming Annual Fossil Festival. She was pleased to report that the museum had new awnings placed on their buildings on Main street. Also, Al Powell would be coordinating security for this year's festival. She was also proud to report that the Aurora Fossil Museum had been awarded Best Children's Program by the North Carolina Association Festival and Events.

Kurt Ryan Chairman of the Aurora Leadership Council reported on activities being conducted by students under the ECU Community and Regional Planning Programs that directly focus on Aurora. These programs include: a Wayfinding Sign Project, Grocery Store Feasibility Study and a Waterfront Revitalization Implementation Plan. These are some of the same Aurora initiatives outlined in the Rural Transformation Grant application that did not receive funding in 2022. Mr. Ryan also shared that there was interest in the future connecting of the Beaufort County towns of Bath, Belhaven, Washington and Aurora by water access. This would enable all these waterfront towns in our county to be accessed by tourists and connected by the by water.

Joy Dunn Director of the Aurora Richland Township Chamber of Commerce reported on a new grocery concept called the "Pay what you can" Mobile Market. Joy will follow up with more information as it becomes available.

Consideration of Minutes

The minutes of the December 19, 2022 recessed meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner

The proposed minutes of the December 19, 2022, meeting were approved on motion made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Bahhur and approved with a 4 to 0 vote.

Also, the proposed minutes of the January 3, 2023 meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner Taylor and approved with a 4 to 0 vote.

New Business

James Ham gave an update on the 3rd Street lift station; Pearson Pumps will be completing their work in replacing both pumps and the flanges that hold them in place. The floor at the bottom of the lift station will have to be built up as well.

There was further discussion regarding upcoming repairs that will be needed at the lift station on highway 33

Spencer Busch the engineer associated with A.C. Shultes, the company who performed the upgrade to the water treatment plant has ordered the replacement of the digital panel that needs to be replaced since the power outage last month. Until that time we are operating it manually.

Old Business

Under new Business Mayor Williams informed the Board of Commissioners that they will be closing on the land purchase for the Aurora Industrial Park and that he had confirmed the arrangements with the Beaufort County attorney and out Town Attorney.

Also, under old business the Clerk reported that RK&K Engineering with the assistance of Jamie Heath with the Mid-East Commission has filed the Town's application for the NC Resilient Coastal Communities Phase 4 project for upgrades to the wastewater treatment lagoon. This Phase will move the project from design/engineering to physically upgrading the lagoon ponds.

Adjournment/Recess

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

Clif Williams, Mayor

Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk