

**TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
May 2, 2022 Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, May 2, 2022, 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] Chuck Bonner – Public Works Director
[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 Peed and seconded by Commissioner Jordan with a 4 to 0 vote.

Public Comment

Fossil Museum Director Cynthia Crane gave an update on happenings at the museum. They are just completing an upstairs renovation project which included refurbishing of the pine wood floors. Also, she was happy to announce the roll out of “Food by Chrislyn” a Washington NC chef and caterer who will be providing food on Main Street through the museum. A grand opening will be announced very soon. Vernice Whitaker gave an update on final Fossil Festival preparations. She reported that the festival had received over 5100 views on social media thus far. Differences between local verse nonlocal venders had been worked out and local venders are paying a starting fee of \$150.00, and all venders would be responsible for following health and safety regulations.

Consideration of Minutes

The proposed minutes of the November 1, 2021, meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner Jordan, with a 4 to 0 vote.

Old Business

The Clerk presented a letter addressed to Mayor Williams from the Golden Leaf Foundation Director Scott Hamilton acknowledging the Town’s recent application for the “Town of Aurora Drainage Ditch and Tributary Maintenance and Easement Plan.” The letter also indicated that the foundation was very interested in hearing more about the potential impact this project will have on the community and that a member of the Golden Leaf staff would be in touch to discuss the next steps.

Also under Old Business, there was further discussion regarding the ALC recommended Rural Transformation Grant being provided by the NC Department of Commerce. All agreed it was an

excellent opportunity toward fulfilling many needs for the town. Possibilities outlined by the ALC were as follows:

1. Downtown Revitalization – streetscape planning, parking, waterfront development, underground utilities, Wi-Fi, lighting
2. Resilient Neighborhoods – develop affordable housing & improve housing, health & safety by improving law enforcement facility, EOC, “for profit” assistance-grocery store
3. Community Enhancement & Economic Growth – property acquisition to secure abandoned or neglected properties for renovation or for future uses
4. Rural Community Capacity Building – branding & marketing, planning that supports economic development, schematic & visual concept renderings, hire a planner

In addition, there was good discussion for the need of SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) systems or similar technology to monitor both the water and sewer utility. Commissioner Jordan made a motion to have Michele Oros consider writing the application for the Rural Transformation Grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bahhur and passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Also under Old Business, the Mayor gave an update on the Aurora Industrial Park and announced that Nutrien would be donating the funds for the Fire Department to purchase two lots and funds for their development in the AIP. He also let everyone know that they hoped to have the groundbreaking for the park on July 20th.

New Business

Under New Business, Public Works Director Chuck Bonner gave a complete overview of the necessary repairs needed at the 3rd Street lift station. A total replacement of both pumps including housings and all the electrical wiring is underway.

Continuing under New Business the Clerk reported that the Town’s American Recovery Act Funds reporting requirements had begun, and the lift stations were where the Board of Commissioners designated the funding to be spent. Also, because the new Water Treatment Plant was still being adjusted and the Town had begun to pay the annual DEQ loan on the water plant upgrade, a serious discussion on proposed increases to the water and sewer utility rates took place. The consensus among the council was unanimous, a motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to increase the water and sewer utility rates by 10 %. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peed and passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Staff Reports

The Public Works Director reported that he would need to purchase another mower for the Town. He reminded council that the Town still needed to get rid of the old Ford flatbed as well as an older inoperable mower and another old mower motor that we could not use. With council’s permission he will research auctioning these items and price and search for a new and reasonably priced mower.

Coordinator Curt Hendrix provided a written report which is attached.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the mayor asked for a motion to recess the meeting until May 19th, at 6: PM to consider proposed agreements for the annual renewal of the BHM Regional Library lease and the Real Property Reservation and Lease Agreement for the Aurora Fire Department in the Aurora Industrial Park. A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Bahhur, and

approved with a 4 to 0 vote to recess the meeting until Thursday May 19, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall

Clif Williams, Mayor

Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk