

TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
Monday, May 6, 2024, Meeting

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, May 6, 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
[] Jeff Peed
[X] Steve McCormack

Attendance: [X] Judi Lannon – Town Clerk/Finance Officer
[] James Ham - Public Works Director
[X] Rhonda Stallings - Administrative Assistant/Utility

Billing [X] Various members of the public were in attendance

Commissioner Peed was unable to attend the meeting.

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

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Bahhur. The motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

Public Comment

Director of the Aurora Fossil Museum Cynthia Crane thanked the Town for the annual allocation towards security coverage for this year's North Carolina Fossil Festival and also for the help from the Public Works Department. She briefly listed the events and reminded the council to please take part in the annual parade.

Consideration of Minutes

The proposed minutes of the April 1, 2024, meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Bahhur and seconded by Commissioner McCormack and approved with a 3 to 0 vote.

Presentation to Council

Jeffrey Robinson, President of the Aurora Volunteer Fire Department presented the Richland Township Fire and Rescue Tax proposed 2024-2025 fiscal year budget. Mr. Robinson walked the council through both the proposed department budget for Fire and for Rescue. A general discussion surrounding the cost of fire trucks took place. The council thanked both fire and rescue departments for their continued service. A motion to receive the proposed 2024-2025 Richland Township Fire and Rescue Tax was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner McCormack. The motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

Old Business

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing to receive public comment on the Town of Aurora's intent to convey lot 10 of the Aurora Industrial Park to Bul-Hed Corporation. On the advice of the Town Attorney the Mayor requested a motion to continue the Public Hearing as Bul-Hed Corporation's council required more time to complete their documentation. The motion to continue was made by Commissioner McCormack. The motion to second was made by Commissioner Jordan and passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

Next under Old Business was the lease agreement for the Community Gardens with PRI Health Corps. The Clerk advised the Board that the work on the lease agreement was underway, however it was discovered that the 2018 Joint Use Agreement for the Athletic Fields with Beaufort County Schools was in effect until 2027. The gardens are located on approximately one acre of the 20 acres that comprise the Joint Use Agreement. The school will benefit from the Aurora Wellness Gardens and Learning Center and it was believed that it was a matter of disclosure and communication.

Continuing under Old Business the Board considered the Resolution and Agreement for Duke Energy Holiday Receptacles on Light Poles Proposal. Commissioner Jordan who had met with Duke Energy on the project gave an overview of what was to take place. A motion to approve the Resolution and Agreement was made by Commissioner McCormack and seconded by Commissioner Bahhur. The motion was approved on a 3 to 0 vote.

New Business

Under New Business the Mayor called for a motion move in to closed session. A Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan, seconded by Commissioner McCormack and approved with a 3 to 0 vote to enter in to 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, a motion was made by Commissioner McCormack, seconded by Commissioner Jordan and approved with a 3 to 0 vote to enter into the PFAS Resolution and Legal Services Agreement.

Next the Board considered the Resolution to Apply for The NC Resilient Coastal Communities Program Phase 4 grant for the restoration of the wastewater treatment lagoons. The motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Bahhur. The motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

Continuing under New Business, the Board considered the Accounting Instruction & Mentoring Program Resolution and Memorandum of Agreement. This is a pilot program offered by the NC League of Municipalities free of charge. The motion to participate in the program was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner McCormack and passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

Staff Reports

An update was provided by Rhonda Stallings on the Water and Sewer Utilities. She advised the Board that she and the Town Clerk were working on the upcoming Consumer Confidence Report as well as the mandatory Lead and Copper Inventory report. She requested that the Board consider raising the water and sewer customer deposit to \$150.00 from \$50.00 for property owners as the minimum base rate for water and sewer and trash pick-up was now \$59.17. The motion was made by Commissioner McCormack, seconded by Commissioner Bahhur and passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

Mayor and Board Comments

Mayor Williams gave an update on the Aurora Industrial Park project. The Golden Leaf Foundation and NC DEQ located some deliverables from the prior AIA grant, Asset Inventory Analysis that was being performed by Mac Gay Associates in 2021 that had not been completed for the Town. This includes an analysis of the wastewater treatment system and a rate study.

He also informed the Board that the Town has the opportunity to apply for a Transportation/HUD grant that may help with infrastructure.

Adjournment/Recess

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Bahhur and seconded by Commissioner Jordan to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

Clif Williams, Mayor

Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk

