

TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
June 1, 2020 Meeting

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, June 1, 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
[] Brad Lee
[] 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 Pro-Tem Brad Lee was out of town and Commissioner Peed was unable to attend.

Mayor Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance and Recreation Coordinator Curt Hendrix led in prayer.

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

The proposed minutes for the April 6, 2020, meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Taylor, with a 3 to 0 vote.

Under Old Business, Public Works Director Chuck Bonner gave an update on the Water Treatment Plant Upgrade. Mike Tolson, the engineer with Mack Gay & Associates, had advised that the project would be ready to "break ground" as soon as the pandemic eases and the Governor lifts the lockdown. The only undecided issue was regarding the rate the Town would be paying Beaufort County for water during the installation.

Mr. Bonner then advised the Board that once again, the drinking water had exceeded the allowable standard for Total Trihalomethane and public notices would be sent to customers. The Public Works Director then explained to the Board the testing process and the fact that it is a highly specialized test that cannot be performed in a regular water treatment lab. After some discussion, the Director agreed he would confer with NC DEQ and other municipalities regarding "pre-testing" options for TTHM.

Under New Business, Town Clerk Judi Lannon presented the 2020-2021 budget for the general fund as well as the water sewer utility fund. She advised that the Board would need to conduct a public hearing in order to receive public comment on the proposed budget. She asked that the Board consider recessing tonight's meeting and schedule a recessed for this purpose. This would also give the Board time to review the budgets in full and have further discussion.

Under Staff Reports the Public Works Director Chuck Bonner provided a written report which included the following:

- The Super Z mower is finally repaired and back in use
- The wood chipper on the chipper truck has also been repaired and running fine
- The new high service pumps for the Water Treatment Plant upgrade have been delivered and are being stored until the installation
- James Ham and Chuck Bonner will be attending NC Water training in Hookerton on June 4th
- NC Wildlife Marine Patrol is storing one of their boats in the Public Works yard for easier access

The Recreation Coordinator Curt Hendrix provided a written report which lists the many recreational activities that have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the activities that are still being performed, which is attached.

The Town Clerk gave an oral report which included the following recent activities:

- Annual disbursement of the Nonprofit Governmental Entity Claim of Refund for the 2018-2019 Sales Tax for the Richland Township Fire and Rescue Tax. Refund amount was \$6,528.37
- Reimburse Richland Township Fire and Rescue Tax FEMA monies of \$2,242.92 for the use of equipment in clearing county roads after Hurricane Dorian
- Reimburse the water & sewer fund from the general fund FEMA monies of \$13,698.13 received due to the 7th Street lift station damage caused by Hurricane Dorian
- Invoiced Beaufort County for the annual lease of the Dump/Container site totaling \$ 8,241.00
- Also invoiced the county for mowing services performed by Public Works totaling \$750.00
- Annual disbursement to the Richland Township Seniors of the Beaufort County Outside Agency fund in the amount of \$500.00
- Annual Town Allocation to Richland Township Fire and Rescue Tax of \$5,000.00

Under Board Comments the Mayor gave an update on the Aurora Industrial Park project and advised that the engineer on the project had come upon an issue regarding the large drainage ditch on the property. She would have to get the Corps of Engineers to come inspect the site and designate the ditch as not being "navigable" water. The Public Works Director reported that he had spoken with Mr. Tolson of Mack Gay & Associates and let him know that the Town was interested in future grant funding to replace all of the Town's water valves as the majority of them were quite ancient.

After a short discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Taylor and approved with a 3 to 0 vote to recess the meeting until Monday, June 15th at 7:P.M.in order to conduct a public hearing to receive public comment on the proposed 2020-2021 fiscal year budget.

Clif Williams, Mayor

Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk

Board Report

June 1, 2020

Curt Hendrix, Parks and Recreation

Activity	EVENT	Discussion
Cancelations Due to Covid-19	Fossil Festival	A call was made early in March to Cancel and put efforts into National Fossil Day in the Fall. There was discussion of moving the Festival to the Fall but the Board did not want to move the festival away from Memorial Day.
	Health Fair	Organized Event at Snowden Last year. Cancelled this year.
	Easter Egg Hunt	Annual Event. Cancelled
	Fishing Classes	Coordinated with NC Wildlife to hold fishing classes at the ramp. Series of Classes were to be held in May and June.
	BSA Merit Badges	BSA Comes to Aurora several times throughout the year to utilize the Fossil Museum for Merit Badges. Badges Include: Geology, Mining, Soil & Water and Fishing
	Spring Basket Ball	Plans in the works for a Recreational league consisting of Team players from Snowden and aspiring players from the community.
	Spring Volley ball	Plans to have a Rec League utilizing the school Gym.
	Spring T-Ball	Did not come to fruition due to timing. Will Try to launch a program in the fall.

	Spring Softball	Has been delayed. However First Practice is 6/1/2020 using social distancing and state guidelines to keep players and coaches safe.	
	Gardening Classes	The Library started having classes with a Master Gardener. The first class held was Weeding and Seeding. We will try to pick up where we left off as the State opens.	
	Gardening at Snowden	Snowden Elementary Principal Mrs. Windley allowed me to assign every class a garden bed to be used by the class for science and nature learning.	
	Town History Sundays	In Partnership with the Fossil Museum a group was meeting Sundays from 2-4 to put together a history of Aurora.	
	Tennis	Courts are being used occasionally. There was little interest in the sport from students. In the fall efforts will be made to utilize the courts more from different age groups.	
Programs Evolving Due to Covid-19	Survival Kits	The Museum started to sell Gallon Ziploc bags of reject to homeschoolers. This was so successful that they sold out within minutes every time they posted on the website. So far there have been at least 4 batches of 200 sold for \$40 per kit.	
	Virtual Museum Tours	The Museum created a virtual tour to educate the kids at home.	

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	BSA Virtual Badges	The Scouts and Museum have collaborated to share information virtually.
	Community Gardening	Washington Daily News gave the Garden front Page Coverage on Sunday April 5 th . Gardening is a great social distancing activity.
	Golf	I created a 3 hole 3 par course out on land past the ball field. It has seen some activity so I will be perusing organized activities to lift up the course in the fall.
	School Lunch Run	10:30 to 12:30 have been running lunches for Snowden Elementary Students. Although the Lunch is Free to all students, many have been left home alone or are without transportation during the pandemic.
	National Fossil Day	Since the Fossil Festival had been Cancelled we will have a more organized event on National Fossil Day to be held October 24 th .
Maintenance		This has been a good opportunity to Maintain and Shape the fields and Recreational Areas to a more manicured state. Weeding, Planting, Fire Ant and Pest Irradiation as well as General Maintenance.