

TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
June 3, 2019 Meeting

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on June 3, 2019, 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] W. C. Boyd, Police
[X] John Farrow, Public Works
[X] Brad Lee, Water and Sewer (Mayor Pro Tempore)
[X] Jeff Peed, Buildings and Facilities

Attendance: [X] Sandra Sartin, Interim Town Clerk/Finance Officer
[X] Terry Groome – Public Works Director
[] Curt Hendrix – Recreation Coordinator
[] Brantley Peck – Town Attorney (Excused)
[X] Various members of the public were in attendance

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

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

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing to receive citizen comments on the proposed 2019/20 budget that had previously been submitted to the Board and held at the Town Hall for public review. There were no citizen comments and a motion was made by Commissioner Peed, seconded by Commissioner Farrow and approved with a 3 to 0 vote to close the public hearing.

The proposed minutes for the recessed March 25, 2019, meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Peed with a 3 to 0 vote.

The proposed minutes for the special May 14, 2019, meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Lee and Seconded by Commissioner Peed with a 3 to 0 vote.

(Commissioner Boyd arrived at the meeting at 7:15.)

Allen Paul presented the proposed agreement between the Town of Aurora and Allen Paul and Sandy Acton for oversight of the Aurora Industrial Park project. Mr. Paul informed the Board the meeting with the Department of Commerce went well and that a decision is expected June 18 about the requested \$750,000 grant for infrastructure for the industrial park. The Golden Leaf Foundation is also expected to make a decision soon about a \$200,000 grant for the industrial park. Mr. Paul reported that he has met with fifteen (15) contractors and eight (8) are ready to make a decision depending on funding approval. It is anticipated that businesses at the proposed site will provide sixty-five (65) jobs, twenty-six (26) of which will be new jobs. It has also been discussed about the possibility of setting up a

training program for welders. Commissioner Boyd would like for an attorney to review the agreement before it is approved and he is not sure the Industrial Park will solve any problems in Aurora. After Board discussion about the proposed agreement, it was decided that the following changes should be made:

- The statement that legal costs will not exceed \$50,000 is removed
- Language is included stating that a loan from Beaufort County for \$450,000 to purchase the site will not be requested until 75% of the land has been “purchased” by the contractors

It was again agreed that grant funds will pay for all legal fees and the Town of Aurora will have no financial responsibility for legal fees. Mr. Paul will revise the agreement to be presented to the Town Board at the next meeting.

After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Farrow and approved with a 4 to 0 vote to approve Resolution 2019-06-01, accepting the \$150,000 grant offer from the North Carolina Division of Water Infrastructure for the Waste Water AIA project.

The revised agreement submitted by Town Attorney Brantley Peck between Rodman, Holscher, Peck and Edwards, PA, and the Town of Aurora was discussed. It included a \$130 hourly rate (which was a reduction from his regular client rate) and also stated that Mr. Peck would not attend Town Board meetings unless his presence was requested. Commissioner Boyd suggested that the 60 day notice of termination period be removed from the agreement. After discussing the Town's current financial position and Mr. Peck's insistence on involving himself in matters that should be handled by Town staff, Commissioner Lee made a motion to give Town Attorney Peck a 60 day notice for termination of the Town of Aurora's agreement with his firm for legal services. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Farrow and approved with a 3 to 1 vote. Commissioner Boyd voted in the negative.

Public Works Director Groome presented the Enterococci Study reports from January, 2017, until January 10, 2019, and Total Trihalomethanes Information from February 4, 2012, until February 5, 2019. He explained how the Town's water system has been impacted by these factors. The Enterococci Study has been in compliance since November, 2018. Auto flushing devices assist with Trihalomethane testing results. He also presented a revised replacement schedule for Town vehicles and equipment. In his opinion, the backhoe and flatbed truck are the items that need to be addressed first. He was instructed to get estimates on new and used backhoes for the Board to consider.

The paving of Main Street near the Marina was discussed. The Board unanimously agreed that “crush and run” was needed for this project, particularly due to its location, and that Terry Groome should contact Garriss Paving for a revised estimate.

After discussion about the sewer lagoon system, it was decided that the original pond might need to be dredged.

Recreation Coordinator Curt Hendrix had presented a written monthly report to the Board before the meeting because his attendance was required at the baseball field to assist with setting the lights into the proper position.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Farrow and approved with a 4 to 0 vote to authorize Interim Town Clerk/Finance Officer Sandra Sartin to make the necessary

adjustments to the budget to balance each department and present a list of the adjustments at the July Board meeting.

Interim Town Clerk/Finance Officer Sandra Sartin presented a request from the United Methodist Church Disaster Response Ministry for approval for volunteers working in the Aurora area to park their vehicles in the vacant lot beside the Library on Main Street. A motion was made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and approved with a 4 to 0 vote to approve this request. A request to park two or three travel trailers at the same site was denied because of the restrictions stated in the Town's Code of Ordinances.

Mrs. Sartin reported that eight (8) applications have been received for the Town Clerk/Finance Officer position. She was instructed to contact each applicant and notify them that a salary range of \$30,000 to \$36,000 has been set for the position and to determine which applicants have an accounting background. Interviews will be scheduled soon.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Farrow and approved with a 4 to 0 vote to enter into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5)(ii) To establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (ii) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract; and N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee.

When the meeting returned to regular session, a motion was made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and approved with a 4 to 0 vote to hire Harold Walton at \$15.00 per hour, dependent upon him passing a background check.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Peed and approved with a 4 to 0 vote to recess the meeting until June 17, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Clif Williams, Mayor

Sandra Sartin, Interim Town Clerk/Finance Officer