

TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
July 6, 2020 Meeting

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, July 6, 2020, at the Town Hall. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order with the following present:

Officials Present: [X] Clif Williams, Mayor (Via teleconference)

Commissioners Present:
[X] Coley Jordan
[X] Brad Lee
[] Jeff Peed
[] 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

Commissioner Lee led the Pledge of Allegiance and Recreation Coordinator Curt Hendrix led in prayer. Commissioners Peed and Taylor were unable to attend.

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

The proposed minutes for the May 4, 2020 meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Lee, with a 3 to 0 vote.

Mayor Williams opened the Public Hearing to receive public comment regarding the 2020-2021 fiscal year budget. Hearing no Public Comment on the proposed budget the Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Under Old Business, Public Works Director Chuck Bonner gave an update on the Water Treatment Plant Upgrade. We have received the water rate that Beaufort County is offering to the Town during the installation process. The rate will be \$1.50 per 1000 gallons. He also shared the updated cost of the county water connection information received on July 10 from the contactor A.C. Schultes of \$30,112.46.

The Clerk advised the Board that the Town Attorney Scott Davis had been in contact with John Prescott with the Nutrien Land Office regarding the renewal of the lease agreement for the wastewater treatment lagoon site. She made the Board aware that the Town Attorney had also proposed a donation of the property in his letter to Nutrien.

The Clerk also provided an update on the Golden Leaf Foundation Grant for Emergency Generators. Both she and Martyn Johnson with Beaufort County Economic development had attended the GLF Grants management training on June 23rd and were working on the first report that is due back

to Golden Leaf by July 20th. The Public Works Director reported that the new emergency generators were on order.

Under New Business, the Town Clerk requested a motion to approve the 2020-2021 fiscal year budget as previously presented. The motion to approve the budget as presented was made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Jordan with a 3 to 0 vote.

Also under new business the Clerk presented a budget amendment for outstanding legal fees to the Manning Fulton firm who had worked on the land purchase agreements for the Aurora Industrial Park. The budget amendment also included engineering expenses from The East Group. The engineering expenses will be covered through the GLF grant for the Aurora Industrial Park, however legal expenses are excluded. In fact legal expenses are excluded from both GLF and the NC Department of Commerce grants currently on process for the AIP project. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Lee to approve the requested budget amendment with a 3 to 0 vote.

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

- Mowing grass and ditch banks is being performed daily as is expected this time of year
- The department is almost complete edging the sidewalks all the way down Main Street to the Marina and then will begin the edging on 5th Street
- The Director is planning to begin a beatification project on the chain length Town sign on 33
- Water utility passed the quarterly disinfection byproducts sample for the last quarter with a very low reading however, the Town will still have to send out another customer letter to the yearly average scoring too high

The Recreation Coordinator Curt Hendrix provided a written report which included the following:

- Six sets of golf clubs had been donated which will be used at the 3 hole 3 par golf course
- The Fossil Museum had raised close to \$100,000 by mailing "emergency dig kits" all over the county which enabled the staff to continue working improving the museum during the lock-down
- The Community Garden is moving along and growing well
- The Coastal Storm girls softball team has begun using the field for practice with social distancing
- The Director had participated in the Lunch Program for children this summer
- The fire ant population has been greatly reduced due to his continued efforts at the ball fields

The Clerk/Finance officer stated that the budgetary concerns the Board considered at this evening's meeting contained the content of her report.

After a short discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Lee and approved with a 3 to 0 vote to adjourn the meeting.

Clif Williams, Mayor

Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk