

TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
Monday, August 7, 2023, Meeting

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, August 7, 2023, 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
[] James Ham – Public Works Director in Training
[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 agenda was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Bahhur. The motion passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Public Comment

Denise Bonner announced that the Aurora Community Watch would be conducted the annual Aurora National Night Out on Saturday, October 14, 2023.

Consideration of Minutes

The minutes of the May 1, 2023, meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Peed and approved with a 4 to 0 vote.

Old Business

The Board of Commissioners considered the authorize the Aurora Leadership Council to move forward with the biannual assessment and update of the update of the Town of Aurora Strategic Plan 2022-2024. Commissioner Omar Bahhur made the motion to approve and authorize the ALC to move forward with biannual updating of the Town of Aurora Strategic Plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan and was approved with a 4 to 0 vote.

New Business

Under New Business the Clerk provided council with a letter from Mackenzie Todd, DEQ Coastal Resilience Specialist, informing her that the Town's application to participate in Phase 4 of the Division of Coastal Management's Resilient Coastal Communities Program had not been selected. The assessment and upgrade of the Town's wastewater treatment lagoons had been the focus throughout the RCCP since 2021. NCDEQ encouraged the Town to apply for funding through the NC Division of Water Resources Development Program. Further discussion was heard regarding the possibility of

future funding resources through the Golden Leaf Foundation or a FEMA Building Resilient Communities (BRIC) grant.

Next under new business, a second look was taken of the proposal prepared by Nancy Cameron-Hubbard (May28) to have the council consider annual budgeting for the three events of: NC Fossil Festival; Aurora Fish and Fam Festival; Christmas in Aurora to \$500.00 a day to assist in managing their security needs. After a lengthy discussion which covered the need of these entities reach out and partner with local businesses, and the cautioning of setting a precedence not intended by council, a decision was made to table a decision of the proposal.

At this time, Laural Jordan, on behalf of the Aurora Leadership Council made a request that the Board consider matching last year's request from the ALC for \$500.00 to assist with safety and communication needs for the annual Aurora Fish and Farm Festival. Commissioner Omar Bahhur made the motion match last year's \$500.00 request for the event by the ALC. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan and passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

In place of staff reports, Commissioner Jordan presented an overview of all the lots currently being mowed by our Public Works department. Half of what is being mowed is not Town property and the Town needs to start billing for it. He gave several examples where property owners were not held responsible. All were in favor of moving forward with the project.

The discussion then turned to streets and the filling of potholes. It was agreed that a pothole packing, or tamper machine was needed to maintain the streets and may be able to be accepted under Powell Bill funding. A motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to assist in locating a pothole tamping machine. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan and passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peed, seconded by Commissioner Bahhur and approved with a 4 to 0 vote to enter in to closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(1) To prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

Adjournment/Recess

After the meeting returned to regular session, a motion was made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner Taylor to recess this evening s meeting to Monday, August 14, 2023, at 6:00 PM to consider further funding arrangements for the Aurora Industrial Park project. The motion to recess passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Mayor

Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk