

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

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, September 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)
[] Jeff Peed, Buildings and Facilities

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 Boyd led in prayer and Mayor Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The proposed minutes for the regular August 5, 2019, meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Boyd, with a 3 to 0 vote.

The Clerk provided the Board with correspondence from grant administrator Shannon Russell regarding the water treatment plant upgrade. This comprised her request to receive Authorization to Award the project from NC Department of Environment Quality and the NC Division of Water Infrastructure.

The Mayor announced that both Golden Leaf Foundation and the NC Department of Commerce have initially accepted grant funding requests for the Aurora Industrial Park project. Because of this, it would be necessary to recess this evenings meeting at the close of business and schedule a recessed meeting in order to conduct a public hearing to receive public comment on the project prior to entering into any contracts. The Clerk advised the public hearing must be advertised at least ten days prior to the recessed meeting of when it will be conducted. Mayer Williams then explained the proposed timeline of the Industrial Park project.

Public Works Director Chuck Bonner updated the Board on his decision to purchase the JCB backhoe from Company Wrench in Smithfield, North Carolina. The company has provided the Town

with a loaner backhoe that is very much appreciated by the Public Works department. JCB was also able to provide the Town with a 3-Tier engine as requested on the new backhoe, which should be delivered in 90 days. After some discussion the board advised the Director to have the old John Deere backhoe looked over by Billy Edwards (under no obligation) to see if it is worth repairing and or reselling.

Mr. Bonner reported that a Powerhorse Portable Generator, one of two purchased by the Town last year after Hurricane Florence had been stolen from the Public Works cage room at the shop. He went on to report that the generator had not been used after the storm and had been stored in its original shipping box. When preparing for Hurricane Dorian earlier today; it was discovered that the box was not factory sealed and inside was an old automobile tire and rim. The Beaufort County Sheriff's Department was contacted and a report had been filed. Commissioner Boyd expressed concern as that area is usually locked and to check for any other missing equipment.

Mr. Bonner also reported on Hurricane Dorian preparations being performed by his department; which included gutters and trimming tree limbs and preparing the large generators. He informed the Board that there had been a lightning strike that affected the central air system at the Community Center. The problem was resolved but it cost the Town around \$1,400 in repair expense. The Director also reported that they had completed the sewer repair at Holy Cross Church. There was a short discussion on fuel costs and the possibility of obtaining of 200 gallon fuel tank in the future. Mr. Bonner also reported that the eight year old Hustler mower had died. Commissioner Boyd requested that he find out what's wrong with it and if it is worth repairing.

The Department is experiencing several incidences of citizens not obeying the yard waste ordinance. Mr. Bonner is supplying copies of the ordinance to the offenders. After some discussion, the Board agreed with continuing to enforce the "Receptacles for Yard Waste" Section 4-2004 Town Ordinance. The Director thanked the Board for allowing him to give his staff report early as he had to excuse himself from the meeting as it was his 31st anniversary.

Under New Business, the Mayor conducted the Oath of Office to the Town Clerk/Finance Officer, Judi Lannon.

Recreation Coordinator Curt Hendrix presented a report of activities for the month of August. He met with the Richland Seniors at their monthly meeting. He told them about his role and what his future plans were for parks and recreation and the group was very supportive. He had met and connected with the public at the second annual Aurora Night Out event as well. Mr. Hendrix also reported on many improvements happening at the ball field which included completed installation of the scoreboard and foul poles and the addition of Concession Stand appliances. He participated in, and met with parents at the Back to School Cookout and supply giveaway. He has also met with the new P.E. teacher at the school and plans were set to create a recreational soccer program. They also plan to collaborate regarding other sports house league and recreational programs for afterschool and weekends. There was a short discussion on reengaging with the Aurora Volunteer Recreation Board and working in tandem in their efforts. The Coordinator stated that after the impending hurricane he would be assisting Public Works in debris cleanup.

The Clerk reported that she had traveled to Rocky Mount to meet with Marques Crews with the Golden Leaf Foundation regarding grant administration requirements for the upcoming Industrial Park grant. Mrs. Lannon informed the council that she was preparing town financial information for the annual municipal audit that will begin very soon. She also reported that the staff had requested quarterly luncheons where town employees and town council could come together and interact during a meal. She will schedule the event as soon as the audit was submitted. Commissioner Boyd inquired about what amount of funds were being invoiced to the town by Sartin Solutions. The Clerk advised that the amount had decreased moderately since Mrs. Sartin's focus was now the Richland Township Fire and Rescue Tax and that she would provide figures by the next meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and approved with a 3 to 0 vote to recess the meeting until September 24, at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

Clif Williams, Mayor

Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk