

TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
September 6, 2022 Meeting

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, 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
[X] Chuck Bonner – Public Works Director
[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 proposed agenda was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Taylor with a 4 to 0 vote.

Public Comment

Steve Goldman addressed the Board of Commissioners once again regarding his plans to purchase the Hooker Oil building located at 114 NC Highway 33 E and place a tire recycling facility on the site. He expressed his displeasure in the length of time it was taking for him to receive a zoning permit from the town. The Clerk reported that she had been advised by the zoning administrator, The Mid-East Commission, that Mr. Goldman would need to receive his approval from NCDEQ before the town could issue a zoning permit.

After much discussion, it was agreed that the Aurora Planning Board would move forward with their consideration of the amendment to (Section 38-242) Special Use Permit Process, and Section 38-172, by updating the table of permitted uses to allow for a recycling facility in the Community Business District. The Planning Board would render their recommendation to the town council. Mr. Goldman can apply for a special use permit and the Town Council has 45 days to consider the application and conduct a public hearing. The Clerk would verify the process with the Town Attorney and the Mid-East Commission. Commissioner Peed made a motion to amend the zoning process as stated and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan and approved with a 4 to 0 vote.

Consideration of Minutes

The proposed minutes of the March 7, 2022, March 18, 2022, and April 4, 2022, meetings were approved on three separate motions made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner Jordan, with a 4 to 0 vote for each set of minutes respectively.

Presentation to Council

Michele Oros, who had been engaged by the town council to write a grant application for the “NC Department of Commerce Rural Transformation Grant Fund-Rural Engagement and Investment Program” came before the town board to walk through the requirements of the grant and what the town board wanted to accomplish through this grant. Michele covered the four main categories under the program which included: Downtown Revitalization, Resilient Neighborhoods, Community Enhancement for Economic Growth and Rural Community Capacity Building. Attached is Michele Oros’ grant application assessment of the RTG Program.

After a long discussion settling that the grant should be split in three avenues of one third of funding going towards housing on Bailey’s Creek, one third of funding going towards a new CAMA/160D plan, and one third for paving.

Discussion concluded when it was decided that Michele will focus the town’s needs in the following order while moving forward in the grant application process: 1. Housing Plan for Bailey’s Creek 2. CAMA/160D Plan 3. Demolition/Combination substandard housing 4. Paving/Resurfacing plan.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner Taylor to have Michele Oros proceed in writing the NC Dept of Commerce Rural Transformation Grant application on behalf of the Town of Aurora. The motion passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Old Business

The Town Clerk presented to council the Mid-East Commission Grant Administration Contract for the Golden Leaf Foundation-Town of Aurora Drainage Ditch and Tributary Maintenance Program. The motion to approve the Mid-East Commission administration contract was made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner Bahhur and approved with a 4 to 0 vote.

Next under Old Business, Aurora Leadership Council Chairman Kurt Ryan gave an update to council which included the following:

- Aurora Fish and Farm Festival
- ECU Students project for fall semester in Aurora
- ALC Committee schedules through December

Kurt Ryan also gave an update on the meeting with the Beaufort County Commissioners to present the Town of Aurora Strategic Plan and it was very well received. He also announced that the Nonprofit Organization for the Aurora Downtown Historic Preservation had received their 509c2 designation. The “PartP” only works towards issues addressed in the town’s Strategic Plan. He also reminded council that the one year anniversary of the kickoff of the ALC will take place in October and please plan to attend.

Also, under ALC news Sharon Holland announced that they have ten new Home Town Heroes Banners that have been placed in town. She also gave an update on the Fish and Farm Festival and that the festival footprint would be the Main Street corridor and the festival will focus on local ag and water culture and children’s activities and there would also be a tractor pull.

New Business

The Clerk presented a letter from the Local Government Commission indicating that the town was under a “monitoring” status as the 2021 Municipal Audit had not been filed. The audit was late to Covid-19 and the previous CPA auditor retiring. The Clerk informed the councils that the CPA firm contracted to conduct the 2021 audit was not able to complete the process as the town was unable to provide closing

adjustment figures as previously provided by the former auditor. Sandra Sartin, former Town Clerk/Finance Officer, who performs contract accounting for the town confirmed the situation. There were no funds missing or misappropriated indicated, however, we would need the advice of an outside CPA who was not contracted to conduct the municipal audit.

Staff Reports

The Public Works Director Chuck Bonner gave an update on work being done at the 3rd Street lift station that will be performed by Pearson. He also reported that had the sold the old Hustler mower and parts and the old Ford chipper truck through County Boys Auction for \$3,915.00and had purchased the Super Z mower for\$ 12,897.54 as agreed upon verbally. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the purchase of the new mower while in session. The motion was made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner Bahhur and passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Recreation Coordinator Curt Hendrix provided a written report which is attached.

At the request of the Town Clerk, a motion was made by Commissioner Peed, seconded by Commissioner Jordan and approved with a vote of 4 to 0 to enter into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1); and N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

Adjournment

When the meeting returned to regular session, a motion was made by Commissioner Peed to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bahhur and passed with a 4 to vote.

Clif Williams, Mayor

Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk