

TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
September 8, 2020 Meeting

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at the Town Hall. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order with the following present:

Officials Present: [X] Clif Williams, Mayor

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

Attendance:
[X] Judi Lannon – Town Clerk/Finance Officer
[X] Chuck Bonner – Public Works Director
[X] Curt Hendrix – Recreation Coordinator
[X] Rick Baker – Aurora Community Watch
[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 Lee and seconded by Commissioner Peed with a 4 to 0 vote.

During the public comment period, Rick Baker of the Aurora Community Watch thanked the Board for allowing the placement of the shipping container on Town property for their storage use. He then asked if they would consider allowing the Community Watch to run an electrical line to the shop so they could charge equipment batteries. After some discussion, the Mayor suggested that they could hook up to the shop electricity, but if the Community Watch ever disbands the Town would get to keep the shipping container. The Clerk would look into writing such an agreement. A new resident to our region, Mike Carter of "Comfort Plastering" introduced himself and shared his business card.

Mike Tolson, Project Engineer with Mack Gay Associates came before council to discuss the changes to the upgrade of the water treatment plant. Mr. Tolson reviewed the necessary changes which included installation of a 4" meter with double check valve required by Beaufort County to add to the existing interconnection. As discussed previously, the County needed to have the flow being delivered to the Town metered for accurate billing and recording. The follow through with the necessary electrical service will be completed. Mr. Tolson advised that back on August 20th he had requested additional funding from the NC Division of Water Infrastructure that explained the meter requirements as well as additional change order costs to remedy the discovered electrical deficiencies at the site. The request was approved on the 26th and documentation which must be processed by the Town would be received forthwith. The cost totaling \$36,852 would be added on to the back end of the Town's current State Revolving Fund (loan) for the Drinking Water Treatment Plant project.

Mr. Tolson then produced two new funding opportunities for the Town to consider: the first being a Sewer Collection System Rehabilitation/Relining project and the second being a Well Rehab, Telemetry and Valve Replacement project. Both of these opportunities were Department of Environmental Quality State Revolving Funds. The council declined entering in to any other loan agreements at this time and requested Mr. Tolson inquire about any Community Development Block Grants that may become available for both of these proposed upgrades.

The proposed minutes for the June 1, 2020 meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Taylor, with a 4 to 0 vote.

Under Old Business, the Clerk produced a Resolution for the Boards consideration designating the two Police Department vehicles as surplus property and authorizing the method of sale. The Resolution passed on a motion made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Peed with a 4 to 0 vote.

The Clerk provided a second Resolution for the Boards consideration designating the Police Department Inventory as surplus property. The resolution indicates that the Town will coordinate the effort with the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department and Lawmen's Distribution in Raleigh. The Resolution passed on a motion made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Peed with a 4 to 0 vote

Under New Business, the Town Clerk provided a third Resolution to adopt the Pamlico Sound Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Resolution passed on a motion made by Commissioner Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Taylor with a 4 to 0 vote.

Also under New Business, the Clerk advised council that a zoning permit application for the Mask Factory had not been approved as they would need to have a special use permit to manufacture clothing in the Community Business zone. Commissioner Peed advised that the company is producing PPE or Personal Protective Equipment and that should not be considered as clothing. The Clerk will contact the zoning administrator, the Mid-East Commission, and request the application be reconsidered.

Under Staff reports, the Public Works Director presented a written report that contained the following:

- Smoke testing was performed on the Town sewer system and over 60 leaks were located. This testing had not been done in a very long time. The leaks are minor in nature and are being repaired.
- The new Emergency Generators arrived and two of them were incorrect. Generac will replace them with the proper units. All the necessary platforms for the generators have been built and installed
- The 2020 Water Supply Plan was completed with the assistance of Mike Hill from NCRWA
- The county water connection for the upgrade to the water treatment plant is almost complete
- We have experienced some high bacteria test scores with the finished product at the lagoon. This is probably due to high temperatures while sampling at that location. A letter is being sent to the Washington Regional NCDENR office advising them of some changes we are making

- The hydrant at the end of John Drive was hit by a local farmer mowing ditches. It is broken at the base. The hydrant valve does not work and there is no leakage, but it will have to be replaced.

Recreation Coordinator Curt Hendrix reported the following:

- Coastal Storm Softball is continuing with practice Monday through Thursday, so the field house is being sanitized daily
- Maintenance and mowing of the ball fields continues almost daily
- Working on plans to clear the Nature Trail
- Beaufort County Schools has extended virtual learning for another nine weeks but we are still working on combining recreation and P.E. activities for the children once they are allowed to physically interact.
- The Fossil Museum hopes to reopen soon at 50% capacity

There being no further business, the September 8, 2020, regular meeting adjourned on a motion made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Jordan with a 4 to 0 vote.

Clif Williams, Mayor

Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk