

February 12, 2024 Regular Meeting

Meeting minutes

Call meeting to order: Mayor Marla Thompson at 5:30pm.

Board of Aldermen Members Present: Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt, Alderman Phyllis Pennington, Mayor Marla Thompson, Alderman Genita Hill, Alderman Tim Hertz, Alderman Allen Bumgarner

Board of Aldermen Members Not Present: NONE

Invocation: Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt

Approval of January 8, 2024 Open Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2024 open session as presented was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Alderman Genita Hill. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approval of January 8, 2024 Closed Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2024 closed session as presented was made by Alderman Genita Hill and seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt. The motion was carried unanimously.

Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Audit Presentation

Fiscal Year Budget Review

Phil Church with Lowdermilk, Church, and Co., LLP presented a detailed report on the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

An update on the municipality's investment portfolio was provided. It was noted that the portfolio had shown moderate growth and aligned with the municipality's risk management strategy.

United Arts Council of Catawba County

Executive Director, Ingrid Keller and Alex Frick, Board Chair gave an overview on the economic impact of the United Arts Council, as well as, a broad overview of what the United Arts Council does.

Public Hearing for Camping, Loitering, and Panhandling Ordinance

Police Chief Bates presented the Camping, Loitering, and Panhandling Ordinance that was drafted by Town Attorney Jimmy Summerlin. Mayor Thompson called for a motion to open the public hearing. A motion was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Alderman Tim Hertz. The motion to open the public hearing was unanimous.

Mayor Thompson asked Town Planner/Code Enforcement Charles Mullis if he had anything to add. He did not. Mayor Thompson asked if there was anything anyone would like to say or had questions for at this time. There were none.

Mayor Thompson called for a motion to closed the public hearing. A motion to close was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Alderman Tim Hertz. The motion was unanimous.

Mayor Thompson called for a motion to adopt the ordinances. A motion to adopt the three presented ordinances was made by Alderman Genita Hill and Seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The motion to adopt was unanimous. These ordinances will go into effect in 30 days from the adoption date and will at that time be enforceable. That date is March 13, 2024.

Call for Public Hearing for March meeting for:

Rezoning vacant lot US Hwy 70 S.W. PIN 278212954237

Town Planner Charles Mullis stated that he received a rezone application for a vacant lot located on US Hwy 70 SW. The request is to rezone the property from C5 to R3. Town Planner Mullis stated that the Planning Board

would have their recommendation to the Board of Aldermen next month. Town Planner Mullis stated that the property is currently zoned Commercial, however, it is not large enough for commercial development. Mr. Mullis requested the Board of Aldermen call for a Public Hearing to be held at the March 11th meeting. Mayor Thompson called for a motion to hold the public hearing. A motion was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Alderman Tim Hertz. The motion to hold a public hearing for rezoning at the March 11, 2024 regular meeting was unanimous.

Selection of Replacement of Randall Mays on the WPCOG TAC Board

Mayor Thompson called for a motion to appoint someone to the WPCOG TAC Board. Alderman Phyllis Pennington made a motion to appoint Alderman Genita Hill to replace Randall Mays on the board. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt. The motion to appoint was unanimous.

Update on Long View Public Safety Training Facility

Chief Bates gave a brief update regarding the Public Safety Training Facility. He stated that as the weather is clearing up, they would be installing the permeant target system, Con-X Container, signage, metal shelter, tables, and a port-a-john. Chief Bates stated that two range masters have been assigned to the facility so that all trainings can run through these individuals. These range officers are Major Justin Reid with LVPD and Captain Alex Smith with LVFD.

Manager's Report

Town Manager James Cozart reported that the Finance Department finalized the software conversion to Edmonds and began using it on February 5, 2024. The utility department is estimated to start on it on March 1, 2024, but that would likely be pushed out. Manager Cozart stated that we had received the \$800,000 direct deposit from the State of North Carolina for the appropriation funds for radios, water, and sewer infrastructure. Lastly, Town Manager Cozart recognized Deputy Finance Director/HR Director Denise Collins for her hard work during our period of being short staffed, from dealing with the software conversion, to preparing the agenda, all while doing her regular duties as Deputy Finance Director.

Public Comment

Melissa Pearson: 1103 26th St. SW- Ms. Pearson stated that she wished to have chickens on her property as she would like to be as self sufficient as possible, especially with the prices of groceries being as high as they are. Mayor Thompson advise Ms. Pearson that this has been a recurring topic and unfortunately, we are unable to change our ordinance because of the issues it has previously caused. Code Enforcement Officer Charles Mullis advised Ms. Pearson that the issues we face consist of lot sizes being too small, chickens being left to run loose, roosters crowing at all hours, coyotes coming into yards and killing the chickens. He advised that we are just not able to regulate them well.

Jim Accurso: Public Affairs Specialist with US Small Business Administration- Mr. Accurso stated that Catawba County had received a disaster declaration and have set up an emergency center in Newton for folks who experienced any damage from the Tornado that hit on January 9, 2024. He gave information to the board to disseminate to the citizens of Long View, should anyone need it.

Adjournment

There being no further items to discuss, the meeting was moved to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting concluded at the stated time. 6:20pm.

Staff Present:

Major Justin Reid, IT Alan Bumgarner, Town Planner Charles Mullis, Deputy Finance/HR Director Denise Collins, Town Manager James Cozart, Police Chief TJ Bates, Police Captain Dennis Hardin, Fire Captain Alex Smith, Deputy Fire Chief Tyler Keener, Public Works Director Chris Eckard, Town Attorney Jimmy Summerlin.

Public Present: Alex Frick, Melissa Pearson, Phillip Church, Ingrid Keller.