

June 10, 2024 Regular Meeting

Meeting minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Marla Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

All present: Alderman Allen Bumgarner, Alderman Tim Hertzel, Alderman Genita Hill, Alderman Phyllis Pennington, Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt, and Mayor Marla Thompson were all in attendance.

Invocation

Alderman Genita Hill provided the Invocation.

Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from May 13th, 2024 were presented. A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Items for Discussion

Recognition of Sgt. Bowman & ACO Tim Lail

Police Chief Bates recognized Sgt. Bowman for receiving his Intermediate Law Enforcement Certificate and praised ACO Tim Lail for passing the Animal Control Officer 1 training. Both achievements were highlighted and their contributions appreciated.

Call for Public Hearing to be held July 8, 2024

Chief Bates discussed the necessity of an ordinance to handle human waste issues in public areas and introduced updates to an animal services ordinance. Chief Bates stated that a public hearing would need to be held at next month's regularly scheduled meeting to move forward with the approval of these ordinances.

A motion to call for a public hearing on July 8, 2024 was made by Alderman Tim Hertzel and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. The motion to call for a public hearing was unanimous.

Reschedule Public Hearing to Amend Code Enforcement Ordinances

Town Manager Cozart informed the board that the public hearing advertisement was missed by the Observer News Enterprise and requested to reschedule.

Call for Special Meeting

Town Manager Cozart proposed a special meeting for June 25th to conduct the public hearing and to present any year-end budget amendments, as well as, providing a year-to-date finance report.

A motion was made by Alderman Genita Hill to call for a special meeting on June 25th, 2024 at 2:00 pm and was seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The motion to call for a special meeting was unanimous.

A motion was then made by Alderman Genita Hill to call for a Public Hearing to repeal and replace the Code Enforcement Ordinances suggested by WPCOG Code Enforcement. The motion was seconded by Alderman Tim Hertzel. The motion passed unanimously.

Fee Schedule Amendment for FY23/24

Finance Director Melissa Lalonde presented amendments to the fee schedule concerning civil fines for animal services.

A motion to adopt the amended fee schedule for the current fiscal year was made by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt and seconded by Alderman Tim Hertz. The motion to adopt was unanimous.

Adoption of 2024/2025 Fiscal Year Budget

Finance Director Melissa Lalonde advised that the public hearing for the 2024/2025 Proposed Fiscal Year Budget was held at the last meeting and if there were no further questions, she requested that the Board vote to approve the presented budget.

A motion to adopt the 2024/2025 Fiscal Year Budget was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. The motion to adopt the budget was unanimous.

Habitat Development Discussion

Town Planner Charles Mullis presented the Board with a preliminary development plan from Habitat for Humanity. Concerns were voiced about lot sizes, utilities, and infrastructure. It was mentioned that further studies are needed to determine feasibility. Public Works Director Chris Eckard suggested having a full utility study done on that property to see what the current sewer system can hold and what will need to take place in order for additional homes to be put on the property. Town Planner Charles Mullis was given instruction to contact Habitat Director, Mitzi Gellman and Public Works Director Chris Eckard was advised to reach out to McGill and Associates regarding a utility study.

Public Safety Training Facility Update

Police Major Justin Reid provided an update on the Public Safety Training Facility. Major Reid advised that grass has been sown, the drive was paved to the gate. Next steps are in the works to place structures on the property, which will take place after July 1. Following the placement of structures would come installation of water/utilities.

Manager Report

Adoption of Codified Personnel Policy

Mr. Cozart presented an updated personnel policy, developed with amendments and municipality guidance, for approval.

A motion to approve the proposed codified and updated personnel policy was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Alderman Tim Hertz. The motion to approve was unanimous.

Public Comment—Left off here

Randall Mays 2251 15th Av SW. - Mr. Mays stated that since he was not able to attend the public hearing for the budget, he wanted to know what the new tax rate for Long View would be. He was advised the rate is still \$0.49. He stated that his taxes more than doubled last year. He also asked if we were passing along the increase we received from City of Hickory. He was advised that we were. He asked why we don't try and negotiate with them for a better rate.

Charley Perry 2200 6th Ave NW. - Mr. Perry asked how much larger was OneH2 going to get, since they're expanding. He was concerned about the production of hydrogen at the plant. He was advised that we believe they're solely filling hydrogen tanks at that location.

Closing Remarks

The mayor reminded everyone of upcoming National Night Out event and extended condolences for the recent passing of community member Ken Jenkins.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. The motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting Adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Staff Present: Town Manager James Cozart, Finance Director Melissa Lalonde, Police Chief TJ Bates, Deputy Fire Chief Tyler Keener, Fire Captain Alex Smith, Police Major Justin Reid, Police Captain Dennis Hardin, Lt. Davey Anderson, Animal Services Coordinator Tim Lail, Town Planner Charles Mullis, Public Works Director Chris Eckard, Grant Newton (FD), HR Director/Dep. Finance Director Denise Collins, Town Clerk Heather Minor

Public Present: Randall Mays, Charley Perry