

October 14, 2024 Regular Meeting

Meeting minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Marla Thompson at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Mayor Thompson conducted the roll call: Alderman Phyllis Pennington, Alderman Tim Hertz, Alderman Allen Bumgarner, Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt were all present. Alderman Genita Hill was absent. Mayor Marla Thompson was present.

Invocation

Alderman Phyllis Pennington provided the invocation.

Approval of Minutes

September 9, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the September 9, 2024 regular meeting minutes. There were no questions, concerns, or changes raised.

A motion to approve the September 9, 2024 regular meeting minutes was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Alderman Tim Hertz. The motion to approve was unanimous.

September 20, 2024 Closed Session Special Meeting Minutes

Next was the approval of the September 20, 2024 closed session special meeting minutes. Similar to the previous item, there were no questions, concerns, or changes.

A motion to approve the September 20, 2024 Closed Session Special Meeting Minutes was made by Alderman Tim Hertz and seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The motion to approve was unanimous.

Items for Discussion

Long View Lion's Club 75th Anniversary Presentation

Wayne Houser, a member of the Long View Lion's Club presented a detailed history of the club, highlighting its impact and contributions to the community since its founding in 1950. The club's activities include trash pick-ups, vision screening events for children, and other community services. The speaker emphasized their mission, "We Serve," and requested the town's recognition of their 75th anniversary by naming recreation center in their honor or otherwise acknowledging their service.

The presentation also featured notable historical achievements, like their work in establishing the Long View Volunteer Fire Department and a local recreational center. The financial assistance offered by the club and its voluntary services in broader districts of Western North Carolina were also discussed, along with their efforts in disaster relief following recent hurricanes, providing water and shower facilities for impaired elderly residents left without power.

Recognition for Employee Achievement

Police Chief TJ Bates recognized two employee achievements. Officer Hope Creed obtained her intermediate law enforcement certificate, marking a significant milestone in her career. Police Chief Bates also recognized the efforts of the Animal Services Coordinator, Tim Lail, who secured grant funding for training without affecting taxpayers. Lail completed his training significantly ahead of schedule and demonstrated considerable dedication and initiative.

Public Information Officer Policy

Town Manager James Cozart stated the designated Public Information Officer, Heather Minor, was acknowledged for her role in improving information dissemination to the town's citizens during emergencies, with recent instances of knowledge-sharing during hazardous weather conditions. The proposed Public Information Officer and Media Communications Policy was presented to the board.

A motion to adopt the Public Information Officer policy was made by Alderman Tim Hertzell and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. The motion to adopt was unanimous.

Code Enforcement Quarterly Report

Western Piedmont Council of Government Code Enforcement Officer, Chad Powell, accompanied by WPCOG Code Enforcement Officer Kevin Wyatt, provided a summary of the code enforcement activities, detailing a 60% resolution rate from a total of 158 cases, involving junk vehicles, minimum housing standards, non-residential minimum standards, tall grass, and debris. The process for handling violations, including fines for noncompliance, was also detailed, alongside clarifications on inactive and escalating cases.

Finance Report

Finance Director, Melissa Lalonde, provided the finance report indicating that 25% of the fiscal year had come to pass with 30-35% of budgeted fund revenues already collected and expenditures tracking below budget expectations. Specifically, the general fund saw revenues exceeding expenditures by \$353,000, while the utility fund's revenue exceeded expenses by \$149,182.

Public Comment

There were no public comments for this session.

Closing Remarks

The concluding remarks saw expressions of gratitude extended towards the town's police, fire department, and public works for their work during recent emergency responses, particularly for their commendable efforts during the hurricane recovery.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. The motion to adjourn was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Staff in attendance:

Town Manager James Cozart, Town Attorney Jimmy Summerlin, Police Admin. Sidney Shirley, Police Chief TJ Bates, Police Captain Dennis Hardin, Finance Director (Filling in as Clerk) Denise Collins, ACO Tim Lail, Finance Director Melissa Lalonde, Fire Captain Alex Smith, Town Planner Charles Mullis, IT Alan Bumgarner, WPCOG: Chad Powell, WPCOG: Kevin Wyatt, Public Works Director Chris Eckard.

Public in attendance:

James "David" Bolick, Wayne Houser, AliceFaye Peugh, David and Sherry Beard, Barbara Teague, Lou Frye, Terry Hall, James Peugh, Millie Drum, Dawson Hart, Liz Hart, Dough Frye.