

SPENCER BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2010
7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Jody Everhart
Mayor Pro-Tem Scott Benfield
Aldermen: Tracy Aitken
Delaine Fowler
Donnie Hinson
Jeff Morris
Reid Walters

Also present were Town Manager Larry Smith and Town Attorney Rivers Lawther.

Mayor Everhart opened the meeting with prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

RECOGNITION – Alderman Benfield thanked the public works employees for their work with the planter boxes on Salisbury Avenue. Mayor Everhart commended the public works employees for their efforts during the recent bad weather. Alderman Walters thanked public works employees for the graffiti removal at Eighth Street park and the storm drain work on Fourth Street. Alderman Aitken recognized Town Manager Larry Smith for his professionalism and organizational skills.

Mayor Everhart recognized Spencer’s new Fire Chief, Gray Grubb, and the new Assistant Chief, Stacy Baker. Chief Grubb recognized Spencer’s newest firefighters, Adam Moore, Todd Spencer, and Joseph McClanahan, and presented them with their badges.

STUDENT APPRECIATION AWARD for this month was to Jessiany Lucio, North Rowan Elementary student.

OLD BUSINESS

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 8, 2009. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN HINSON AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. MAYORAL & COMMITTEE REPORTS – Chairman Benfield reported that the Street Committee had met and has an item on tonight’s agenda. Mayor Everhart reported on meetings he had attended during the last month.

3. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS were given by Police Chief Robert Bennett, Public Works Director Jeff Bumgarner, Land Management Director Dustin Wilson, and Town Clerk Lisa Perdue. Fire Chief Gray Grubb reported that 50 firefighters from four departments participated in the “live burn” training exercise on January 2.

4. TOWN MANAGER LARRY SMITH reported on ongoing town projects. He reviewed the history of the Town's website management and reported that he is waiting on a proposal from GovOffice concerning the website.

NEW BUSINESS

5. OPEN COMMENT

Rod Whedbee, 305 Hedrick Lambe Drive, addressed the Board concerning private property rights. Jim Gobbel, 609 Eighth Street, pointed out that the State's website offers guidelines on repair of historic structures, such as the Library. Beth Nance, 749 Fourth Street, asked the Board to consider reinstating the Summer Recreation program, as one of their goals at the planning retreat.

6. LIBRARY ASSESSMENT REPORT – RAMSAY BURGIN ARCHITECTS INC.

Bill Burgin reported to the Board that the Library building is sound and the structure is good. Alderman Walters stated he would like to study the building, and would prefer to wait and discuss the Library at the planning retreat. Burgin stated he would be willing to meet with the Board at the Library or come to the retreat if needed. The roof will need repair soon.

ALDERMAN BENFIELD MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD DIRECT THE TOWN MANAGER TO GET PRICES FOR THE ROOF AND EXTERIOR WALL REPAIR. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN MORRIS.

Following discussion, **ALDERMAN BENFIELD AMENDED HIS MOTION TO INCLUDE ALSO GETTING ESTIMATES FOR ASBESTOS AND LEAD PAINT REMOVAL. AMENDED MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN MORRIS AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. STREET PAVING POLICY

Alderman Benfield reported that the Street Committee has reviewed and recommends adoption of the proposed Street and Sidewalk Paving Policy, which would establish a 15 to 20 year rotation for street paving.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD TO APPROVE THE STREET AND SIDEWALK PAVING POLICY. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN WALTERS AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION WAS THEN MADE BY ALDERMAN FOWLER TO USE UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$200,000 FROM POWELL BILL FUNDS FOR STREET PROJECTS THIS YEAR, AND ALLOCATE 25% OF FUTURE FUNDS FOR

LARGE PROJECTS, ALONG WITH 25% OF THE CURRENT FUND BALANCE. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. MANAGEMENT & PERSONNEL SERVICES – MAPS GROUP

Rebecca Veazey, representing the MAPS (Management and Personnel Services) Group, explained how her organization could assist in the assessment and hiring process for Police Chief.

Following discussion, **MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD TO DIRECT THE PERSONNEL (FINANCE) COMMITTEE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE TO STUDY WHAT REQUIREMENTS THEY WANT IN A POLICE CHIEF. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN FOWLER AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTION WAS THEN MADE BY ALDERMAN MORRIS THAT THE HIRING AND ASSESSMENT FOR POLICE CHIEF BE HANDLED INTERNALLY AND NOT USE AN OUTSIDE FOCUS GROUP. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN WALTERS AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. COMMITTEE REAPPOINTMENTS

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN MORRIS TO REAPPOINT BOB OSWALD TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION, TOM LONG TO THE PLANNING BOARD, AND CURRY KRIDER TO THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN HINSON AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Alderman Walters read a resolution he has drafted in response to the School Board's recent action on redistricting.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN WALTERS TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION CONCERNING NORTH ROWAN HIGH SCHOOL. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Everhart reminded Board members of the planning retreat to be held on February 5th and 6th. Department heads will be present for the Friday portion of the meeting.

Alderman Walters expressed concern about the need for liability signage (general warnings) at the parks.

PAGE -4- BD. MINUTES 1/12/10

With no further business, Mayor Everhart adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa B. Perdue
Clerk to the Board