

SPENCER BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2013
7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Jody Everhart
Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Gobbel
Aldermen: Scott Benfield
Kevin Jones
Jeff Morris
David Smith
Reid Walters

Also present were Town Manager Larry Smith and Attorney Rivers Lawther. Mayor Everhart opened the meeting with prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

RECOGNITION - Alderman Morris thanked the first responders who helped with the recent fatal accident in Spencer, and also recognized the diverse population of Spencer. Alderman Benfield recognized the public works department for their fine work at Eighth Street ballpark and cleaning the ditches. Alderman Walters gave recognition to the life of Eric Lentz and all his service to the Town of Spencer.

Mayor Everhart turned the meeting over to Police Chief M. T. James to recognize those who helped on January 18 with the traffic accident with multiple fatalities. Certificates were presented to Eric Wittich and Jarrett Bradshaw, who were the first on the scene and called 911. Chief James then recognized Sgt. Brigman, Officer Cayer, and Officer Bard who responded to the accident scene that night as well. A special certificate and junior police badge were presented to Charles Patrick, who was one of the survivors from the crash. Chief James expressed condolences to Martha Dunlap, present in the audience, who lost her daughter and several grandchildren in the accident.

STUDENT APPRECIATION AWARDS went to: Jada Hawkins, North Rowan Elementary School; McKenzie Shoaf, North Rowan Middle School; and Devante Everhart, North Rowan High School.

1. ADDITIONS / DELETIONS AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN SMITH AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN MORRIS TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING ON JANUARY 8, 2013. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – METAL AWNINGS

A request was received to install a metal awning on the Allman property on Fifth Street, which is currently not allowed. Historic Preservation Commission approved the ordinance amendment. Planning Board approved the amendment with specific guidelines attached.

Mayor Everhart opened the public hearing. Bob Oswald explained that the HPC also considered the cost of maintenance before giving their approval. Beth Nance stated she is not in favor of metal awnings. Patrick Morrison (contractor for the Allman property) assured the Aldermen that he would see to it that the improvements would look very professional. Mayor Everhart closed the public hearing.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD TO ADOPT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 13-02, DEALING WITH METAL AWNINGS IN THE COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR OVERLAY DISTRICT. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN MORRIS. During discussion, Alderman Morris asked Land Management to investigate administrative permitting if an applicant is willing to select the standing seam awning colors from a color palette that has been preapproved by HPC and the Planning Board. Following discussion, **THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS were given by: Police Chief Mike James, Fire Chief Jay Baker, Public Works Director Joel Taylor, Land Management Director Price Wagoner, and Town Clerk Lisa Perdue.

5. TOWN MANAGER LARRY SMITH reported on major town projects. The Board authorized the Town Manager to use his discretion in conversations with Salisbury Rowan Utilities over how Spencer's allotment for utility extensions should be used. Alderman Benfield suggested that the Town Manager get options for employee bonuses for upcoming budget discussions. Alderman Walters reported that Spencer's information needs to be updated on the Tourism Authority website.

6. MAYORAL & DELEGATE REPORTS

Mayor Everhart reported on recent and upcoming events and activities. He suggested that Spencer host the regional mayors' meeting, perhaps this summer. Alderman Walters reported an upcoming meeting with the Metropolitan Planning Organization with the N. C. Secretary of Transportation on February 27.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Oswald and Beth Nance expressed concern over downtown businesses whose owners do not maintain their property.

NEW BUSINESS

8. STREET PAVING PROPOSAL

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD TO APPROVE THE STREET PAVING PRIORITY LIST AS PRESENTED (CAROLINA AVENUE, MID-BLOCK TO 11TH STREET, REMAINDER OF STREET FROM LAST SPRING; ROWAN AVENUE, 8TH STREET TO 11TH STREET; AND 8TH STREET, SPENCER TO HUDSON) AND PROCEED WITH THE BID PROCESS. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN MORRIS AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. RESOLUTION – BLACK HISTORY MONTH

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD TO ADOPT THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN MORRIS AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. COMMITTEE REAPPOINTMENT – COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN WALTERS TO REAPPOINT ALEASHIA BRANDON, 503 OAKWOOD, TO THE COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN GOBBEL AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. PROPERTY LIENS

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN MORRIS TO APPROVE LIENS AS FOLLOWS: 603 3RD, \$493.50; 1017 N SALISBURY, \$431.00; 909 3RD, \$556.00; 1003 3RD, \$306.00; 816 5TH, \$431.00; 419 N SALISBURY, \$368.50; AND 215 W 17TH, \$743.50. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN GOBBEL AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. LANDSCAPING PLAN – LIBRARY PARK

Bill Godley has worked with Public Works Director Joel Taylor on a plan to replace the cherry trees at Library Park with kousa dogwoods and muskugee crepe myrtles. The plan would require an addition of approximately \$7400 to the budget, divided between this fiscal year and next fiscal year.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN WALTERS TO APPROVE A TOTAL OF \$7400 TO BE ADDED TO THE BUDGET FOR THE LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS AT LIBRARY PARK. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN GOBBEL AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PAGE -4- BD. MINUTES 2/12/13

Alderman Walters suggested that the Community Appearance Commission should discuss establishing an annual award to be given for non-residential property improvement in memory of Eric Lentz. Another suggestion was to put a plaque at Library Park in Eric's name to dedicate the new plantings.

With no further business, Mayor Everhart adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa B. Perdue, CMC
Clerk to the Board