

SPENCER BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2014
7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Jody Everhart
Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Gobbel
Aldermen: Scott Benfield
Mike Boone
Kevin Jones
Jeff Morris
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 – Mayor Pro-Tem Gobbel recognized the citizens who called him this week, and thanked them for expressing their concerns. Alderman Jones recognized Public Works Director Joel Taylor and the public works department for their preparation for the bad weather.

STUDENT APPRECIATION AWARDS went to: Brianna Peterson, North Rowan Elementary; Russell Bacon Jr., North Rowan Middle; and Zavia Rudisell, North Rowan High School.

1. ADDITIONS / DELETIONS AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN MORRIS TO DELETE #8 FROM THE AGENDA, AS KEITH HOWE COULD NOT ATTEND THE MEETING. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN WALTERS TO ADD #19 – CLOSED SESSION UNDER G.S. 143-318.11 SECTION A, SUBSECTION 6, TO DISCUSS SIMPLY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE TOWN MANAGER AND THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN MORRIS AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN JONES TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING ON JANUARY 14, 2014. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN GOBBEL AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS were given by Fire Chief Jay Baker, Public Works Director Joel Taylor, Land Management Director Price Wagoner, and Town Clerk Lisa Perdue. Police Chief Mike James reported from his 17th Street traffic study that the speed limit there is already 25 mph and he recommends no change. In response to a permit inquiry for recycling and solar farm uses, and a request from Historic Preservation Commission regarding setbacks in the Commercial Corridor Overlay:

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN WALTERS TO SEND RECYCLING AND SOLAR FARMS, AND ALSO THE SETBACKS IN THE COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR OVERLAY TO THE PLANNING BOARD FOR THEIR REVIEW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN GOBBEL AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. TOWN MANAGER LARRY SMITH reported on major town projects and events.

5. MAYOR JODY EVERHART and MPO Delegate Reid Walters reported on meetings they attended over the last month.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Patsy Duncan, 804 4th Street, addressed the Board concerning code enforcement issues. Beth Nance, Spencer Woman's Club, delivered a proposal to the Board that the Woman's Club solicited for upgrades to the Library. Greg Oswald, 506 Carolina; Barbara Kemper, 414 Carolina; Dan Patterson, 504 8th; Shelia Powell Hooper, 500 S Rowan; and Ron Kester, 504 Carolina; spoke about the recent application for a Veterans' Home at 418 S Carolina Ave.

NEW BUSINESS

7. REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – WES TAYLOR – Mr. Taylor was not present.

8. REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – KEITH HOWE - Withdrawn.

9. REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – KELLIE LUTTRELL

Kellie Luttrell updated the Board on her plans to revive the Spencer Cruise-in event. She will make formal requests to the Board at the March meeting.

10. REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – BOB OSWALD

Mr. Oswald addressed the Board concerning the Town website, Small Town Main Street, and the proposed home for Veterans.

11. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – HPC & BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN GOBBEL TO APPOINT DANIEL MCCLERIN TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION, AND REAPPOINT JIM SAIN TO THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AS AN EXTRATERRITORIAL MEMBER. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. CONTRACT PROPOSAL – PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN WALTERS TO WORK WITH SITE SOLUTIONS ON THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN PURSUANT TO THE CONTRACT AS PRESENTED. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN GOBBEL AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. (Alderman Benfield's abstention counts as an affirmative vote.)

13. DISCUSSION – FACILITIES NEEDS STUDY

The Town received six responses back from the Request for Qualifications of design firms for the Facilities Needs Assessment and Master Plan.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN MORRIS TO DELEGATE TO STAFF WITH THE NOMINATION OF ALDERMAN BENFIELD AS BOARD LIAISON THE TASK OF INTERVIEWING THE SIX CANDIDATES AND MAKING A RECOMMENDATION. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN WALTERS AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. (Alderman Benfield's abstention counts as an affirmative vote.)

14. RESOLUTION – TRANSFER OF RADIOS

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN MORRIS TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE TRANSFER OF PORTABLE MOTOROLA MTS 2000 RADIOS TO ROWAN COUNTY IN EXCHANGE FOR PORTABLE DIGITAL RADIOS THAT SHALL BE PROPERTY OF THE TOWN OF SPENCER. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN GOBBEL AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. RESOLUTION – SURPLUS PROPERTY

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN MORRIS TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN PERSONAL PROPERTY BY ELECTRONIC AUCTION. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN WALTERS AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. RESOLUTION – THIRD STREET CONNECTOR

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD TO TABLE THE RESOLUTION UNTIL THE BOARD CAN GET MORE INFORMATION. Following discussion, Alderman Benfield withdrew his motion.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN WALTERS TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE THIRD STREET CONNECTOR. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN MORRIS AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

17. DISCUSSION – MAILBOXES IN HISTORIC DISTRICT

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN MORRIS TO ASK THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION TO DRAFT AN ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE MAILBOXES IN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT TO BE LOCATED ON THE HOUSES, NOT AT THE CURB. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

18. DISCUSSION – PLANNING RETREAT

Mayor Everhart explained that the upcoming retreat facilitator suggested the Town hold a separate “listening session” instead of inviting public comment at a planning retreat as has sometimes been done in the past. The date of February 27th is open on the town calendar.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN GOBBEL TO HOLD A TOWN HALL DIALOGUE SESSION ON FEBRUARY 27TH AT 6:30 PM, AND THE PLANNING RETREAT ON MARCH 15TH, WITH A STAFF UPDATE SESSION ON THE EVENING OF MARCH 14TH. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN MORRIS AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

19. CLOSED SESSION – COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BOARD & MANAGER

The Board went into a closed session under G.S. 143-318.11, Section A, Subsection 6, to discuss communication between the Town Manager and the Board of Aldermen.

Following the closed session, **MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN WALTERS TO RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION AND TAKE NO ACTION. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

With no further business, Mayor Everhart adjourned the meeting at 10:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa B. Perdue, CMC
Clerk to the Board