

BOARD OF ALDERMAN

October 02, 2023

The Board of Aldermen of the Town of Connelly Springs met at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall Board Room in Connelly Springs, North Carolina. The following board members were present: Alderman Steve Smart, Alderman Ramona Duncan, Alderman Carroll Turner, Alderman Kimberly Sigmon, Alderman Terry Childers and Alderman Jeffrey Beck. Mayor Dennis Seagle was absent, excused. Alderman Smart acted as Mayor Pro-Tem for the meeting. Also, in attendance were: Attorney Jared Amos, Town Administrator Tamara Brooks, Deputy Brian Sigmon, Planning Board Members Debbie Pelick, Joe Dempsey and Bobby Tomlinson; and residents Johnny and Cloise Berry, Sophia Greene, Chloe Ray, Scott Lowman, Carl Greene and Adam Greene. The Board meeting was recorded in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 160A-72, 171.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME: Mayor Pro-Tem Smart called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed all in attendance.

INVOCATION: An invocation was given by Alderman Beck. Mayor Pro-Tem Smart asked those in attendance to rise and give the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Alderman Duncan made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman Turner seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES: Alderman Childers made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Aldermen's regular meeting on September 11, 2023, as presented. Alderman Sigmon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Administrator Brooks attended the Local Government Commission's Unit Assistance List Training on Wednesday, September 27th from 8am – 4 pm at the Hickory Metro Center. Becky Garland, UAL Coach with the LGC, visited on Thursday, September 28th to review financial reports from fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. Administrator Brooks met with Ms. Garland and reviewed all of the financial reports and supporting documentation requested. Ms. Garland documented the findings for the water/sewer accounts and said she would recommend the town being removed from the UAL list going forward.

Administrator Brooks will begin the Municipal and County Administration Course at the UNC School of Government in Chapel Hill. The course is three (3) days each month from October 2023-May 2024.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Attorney Amos asked if the Board wished to proceed with legal action regarding complaints received about aggressive dogs and garbage at 7118 Wandering Place, owned by Howard Auton. Deputy Sigmon and Administrator Brooks have received numerous complaints from others on Wandering Place about the number of dogs running loose and being aggressive. Brooks said one of the more serious complaints was for a school-aged child being bitten by one of the dogs, which resulted in rabies treatments. Neighbors have reported the dogs to animal control but they say Mr. Auton puts the dogs indoors when animal control officers visit. Board members were shown pictures of the Auton property showing the many piles of trash that have accumulated over time. Deputy Sigmon has worked with Burke County Code Enforcement and notices of violation have been sent, with no resolution. After a brief discussion, Alderman Childers made a motion giving Attorney Amos authority to proceed with due diligence to resolve all complaints. Alderman Turner seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

MAYOR'S REPORT: None.

FINANCE: Alderman Duncan presented the financial reports and said they were available for review. She noted that a budget amendment would be made to adjust for Administrator Brooks' tuition for the Municipal and County Administration Course. The course cost four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500) and the current budget for education is one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500).

Alderman Duncan and Administrator Brooks attended the WPCOG Policy Board Meeting on September 26th at the Community House. WPCOG Director Anthony Starr gave a presentation for Placer Artificial Intelligence and the cost of subscription for each member of the WPCOG. Some of the larger municipalities and counties already subscribe to this service and will not share in the

cost of service. Several WPCOG members were not in favor and did not wish to participate. Alderman Duncan voted against the AI subscription service for the town. She felt the town would not use the service enough to justify the cost. The vote passed and the town will receive a pro-rated bill from WPCOG for the remainder of this fiscal year. Going forward, the subscription will be part of the annual dues to WPCOG.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Alderman Childers called on Deputy Sigmon to give his report for September.

Larceny – 2 Breaking and Entering – 2
Warrant for Arrest – 4 Order for Arrest – 1

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE: 94

WATER/SEWER: None.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Alderman Sigmon said the next concert is scheduled for October 14th with The Extraordinaires.

Alderman Sigmon has ordered additional Christmas decorations and will make arrangements to pick them up at Mosca’s warehouse.

PERSONNEL:

Alderman Turner asked if there were any questions regarding the proposed changes by WCI to the Employee Handbook. Hearing none, he made a motion to approve to Employee Handbook as presented with the changes suggested by WCI. Alderman Duncan seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PROPERTY:

Alderman Turner previously presented quotes from Jensen Lawn & Landscaping and Wade’s Tree Service for removal of the large sycamore tree. Jensen’s proposal included removal of the sycamore as well as trimming all of the trees on the Town Hall grounds. Wade’s proposal was for removal of the sycamore only. Administrator Brooks reached out to Wade’s asking for an updated proposal to include all work. She has not received an updated proposal. Alderman Turner asked to postpone making a decision until a comparative quote was received.

1170 TOMLINSON LOOP: Alderman Turner said the Tomlinson Loop property still has not been cleared. If Ironside Forestry is unable to complete the work by mid-October, he has instructed Administrator Brooks to find someone else.

TRANSPORTATION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business before the Board of Aldermen, Mayor Pro-Tem Smart called for a motion to adjourn. Alderman Turner made a motion to adjourn with Alderman Duncan seconding the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Steve Smart, Mayor Pro-Tem

Tamara Brooks, Town Administrator/Clerk