

MINUTES
LOUISBURG TOWN COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

The Town Council met on Monday, September 21, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. at the Operations Center. Mayor Karl Pernell and Council Members Chris Neal, Emma Stewart, Boyd Sturges, Betty Wright and Mark Russell were present. Council Member Tom Clancy was absent.

Finance Director Sean Medlin gave the invocation.

Council Member Sturges moved that the minutes be approved. Council Member Neal seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Pernell opened the public hearing regarding the closure of Winston Alley. Adjacent property owner Bobby Cooper, 701 North Main Street, Louisburg, N. C., said he had no objections whatsoever to the closure. Mayor Pernell closed the public hearing.

Council Member Sturges moved to approve the Order Abandoning Winston Alley and to further direct the Mayor to sign the order. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Pernell opened the public hearing regarding the Asset Management Plan and Capital Improvement Plan. Town Administrator Jonathan Franklin reviewed the Plan as he did in the August meeting. He explained that the Town received AIA grants for water and sewer in the Spring of this year and part of the funding will be used to update the Town's GIS water and sewer infrastructure inventory and maps. He said that part of the AIA funds will be used to do CCTV assessments of critical gravity sewers and develop capital projects, and a water model will be built to help identify low flow, pressure and water quality issues and help identify potential capital projects to improve and fix those issues. Mr. Franklin said that several projects were added to the 2020 - 2030 CIP, with costs, and the work accomplished through the AIA funds will be used to identify and price potential capital projects for future AMP/CIP updates. He also stated that the current water and sewer system O & M plan is part of the AMP and the plan will be updated as necessary, on an ongoing basis. No one was present to speak in favor of or in opposition to the Plan. Mayor Pernell closed the public hearing. Council Member Sturges moved to approve Resolution 2020-9 updating the Asset Management Plan and Capital Improvement Plan. Council Member Wright seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Pernell opened the public hearing on modifying the minimum language on property postings. Planning and Zoning Administrator Philip Slayter explained the request. No one from the public was present to speak in favor of or in opposition to the amendment. Mayor Pernell closed the public hearing. Council Member Sturges moved to approve Ordinance 2020-3 to amend the Town of Louisburg's Zoning Ordinance, Section 23 to modify the minimum language on property postings. Council Member Neal seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Pernell opened the public hearing on assistance in redeveloping nonconforming structures and properties. Planning and Zoning Administrator Philip Slayter explained the request. No one was present to speak in favor of or in opposition to the amendment. Council Member Sturges moved to approve Ordinance 2020-4 to amend the Town of Louisburg's Zoning Ordinance, Section 16, to assist in redeveloping nonconforming structures and properties. Council Member Neal seconded the motion. Mayor Pernell and Council Members Neal, Stewart, Sturges, and Russell voted in favor of the amendment. Council Member Wright voted against the motion. Motion carried.

Town Administrator Jonathan Franklin presented recommendations for Police Department salary adjustments. Council Member Sturges moved to approve the following recommendations and to look at it again in 12 months to see if it is in line: Move Police Officer from Step 10 to Step 11 on the Salary Schedule. This would move the pay range for police officers from \$38,552 - \$58,662 to \$40,434 - \$61,525; provide each staff person in the Police Department a 2.5% salary adjustment to bring their pay closer in line with the averages of their peers in other organizations; offer starting pay increase for Bachelor's Degree in related fields, experience, and fluency in Spanish, and offer pay increase for achieving the NCALEC. Council Member Wright seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Council Member Sturges moved to approve budget amendments totaling \$322,534.00 for the 2020 - 2021 fiscal year (budget amendments attached). Council Member Neal seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Assistant Town Administrator Ray Patterson presented parking recommendations. Council Member Sturges moved to approve the following parking changes: No Parking on both sides of Ruffin Driveway a distance of 200 feet in an easterly direction from the eastern edge of South Main Street, and No Parking on the east side of South Church Street from the intersection of West Nash Street to the entrance of Riverbend Park. Council Member Wright seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Council Member Sturges moved to approve Resolution 2020-10 supporting the Greenhill Pump Station Project. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Council Member Sturges moved to select Calvin Ray Paving Contractor, Inc. for the street improvement project, priced at \$260,102.43. Council Member Wright seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Council Member Sturges moved to approve Resolution 2020-11 awarding the contract for the Comprehensive Plan Update to Benchmark Planning, Inc. Council Member Wright seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Council Member Sturges moved to approve the Personnel Policy update for Tuition Reimbursement (attached). Council Member Stewart seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Council Member Sturges moved that the Water and Sewer Tap Fees be increased to \$1,500 each, and also to allow staff to disconnect customers who have not set up payment plans. Council Member Wright seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Council Member Sturges moved to accept and adopt the CDBG Plans, Policies and Procedures (attached). Council Member Wright seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Assistant Town Administrator Ray Patterson announced that the Electric Department has once again received the Safety Award from ElectriCities for no loss time accidents.

During public comment, Bobby Cooper, 701 North Main Street, Louisburg, N. C. stated that he felt all Town properties should be open as Governor Cooper is unreliable in moving from one phase to another regarding the pandemic. He also said that he has an issue with masks as there is a provision that says some people can be exempt; therefore, they should not be turned away from a meeting.

Council Member Sturges moved that the meeting be adjourned. Council Member Wright seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Carolyn D. Patterson
Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk CMC