

**TOWN OF GRIFTON  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
April 3, 2018**

**Present:** Mayor B.R. Jackson; Commissioners Will Barnes, Mary Grace Bright, Johnny Craft, Claude Kennedy, Raymond Oakes; Manager Joe Johnson

**Absent:** None

Mayor Jackson called the meeting to order.

Mayor Jackson led the Board of Commissioners in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Recognition of Persons to be Heard:**

- Vickie Kennedy of 6288 Brassie Drive came before the Board to urge them to consider the importance of maintaining the resources that the Town currently has to offer. She commented that we have 4 parks and 2 of the parks have large equipment that is not being maintained. She stated that active play is important for healthy children. She continued by saying that Grifton is an attractive community to offer outdoor play for our children. She is advocating for an approach that is less expensive, more environmentally friendly and way cooler. She presented the Board and Town Manager with a wish book she compiled from all over and stated that all the ideas are low cost, use natural materials, promote free imaginative and loose parks play. She also encouraged the Board to form a parks committee.
- Carl Ebron of 320 Olive Branch Blvd came before the Board with concerns about a hole in front of his house that has been there for more than a year. He commented that the only recognition the Town has given this concern is to put cones around it and he feels it should be repaired.  
Manager Johnson and Billy Raynor confirmed that it was a storm drain issue that has to be dug out to repair.  
Mayor Jackson gave direction to repair this issue as soon as possible.
- Chief Silva introduced Scott Venable as the newest officer with the Grifton Police Department. He also commented that this brings the Department to full staff.
- Chris Humphrey of 813 Greenbriar Road Kinston, NC came before the Board to introduce himself and to announce his candidacy for the NC House representing this area of Lenoir County.

**Discussion/Action Items**

1. *Resolution to Investigate Annexation Petition*

Manager Johnson explained that this is the beginning of the process in order to annex the property owned by Dogwood Creek Land Holdings, LLC. (Solar Farm Property on Brown Hodges)

The Board directed Manager Johnson to put this item on the consent agenda at the next regular meeting.

2. *No Smoking Ordinance for Parks*

Manager Johnson presented the Board with a draft no smoking ordinance for the parks. He asked for the Board's input.

Commissioner Bright stated that it needs to be proofed. She specifically stated that it should say Town and not County in several areas within the ordinance wording. She also stated that she is confused about where the ordinance pertains to. She asked if it was for parks only or all Town property. She feels this should be clarified.

Commissioner Kennedy stated that when discussion was began concerning this issue it was for the Town Commons area and then it grew. He understood it was supposed to be parks only. He also stated that he is hesitant to use this ordinance at the RV Park.

Mayor Jackson stated that he does not feel this ordinance should include the RV Park or the Depot.

Commissioner Barnes also feels areas should be specifically clarified.

After further discussion, the Board ask Manager Johnson to have the ordinance specifically for Mattie's Mini Park, St. David Park & Building, Town Commons, Overlook Park and Lawson Trail.

### **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Oakes asked Manager Johnson if he has received any word from DOT on the areas of North and South Highland Blvd that are in need of road repair.

Manager Johnson stated that DOT has notified him that crews would be out looking at those areas as soon as possible.

Commissioner Kennedy reminded everyone that Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup> is the Town cleanup day. He stated that Billy Tarlton has offered a truck which can be used for trash. He also stated that Manager Johnson and others will be at the Depot taking part of the fence down and spreading mulch.

Commissioner Kennedy stated that the Board should look at replacing the benches and working on the walking trail at St. David park in the upcoming budget.

Commissioner Kennedy asked the Board to wish the Mayor a Happy Birthday since they wouldn't see him on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Kennedy asked the Board if April 26<sup>th</sup> at noon would be a good time to have the employee appreciation luncheon. The Board agreed.

Mayor Jackson apologized in advance for not being able to make it to the Town cleanup day due to other obligations.

Commissioner Bright reiterated that the Town cleanup day would be Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am until 11:30am.

Commissioner Bright stated that she has had several complaints concerning junked cars and she feels the Police Department needs to start paying special attention to these vehicles.

Commissioner Bright made a motion to enter into closed session as authorized by G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6) to discuss a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Craft. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Craft made a motion to exit the closed session and return to the regular workshop meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnes. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business Commissioner Kennedy made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Craft. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted  
Angel Hudson  
Town Clerk