

TOWN OF GRIFTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
December 12, 2017

Present: Mayor B.R. Jackson; Commissioners Will Barnes, Mary Grace Bright, Johnny Craft, Raymond Oakes; Manager Joe Johnson, Clerk Angel Hudson

Absent: Commissioner Mike Coles

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.

Commissioner Craft made a motion to accept November Workshop & Regular Meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bright. The motion was carried unanimously.

Recognition of Persons to Be Heard

Linwood Dixon of 6917 Smith Street came before the Board to ask what happens to the water deposits.

Mayor Jackson asked that this question be answered.

Clerk Angel Hudson informed Mr. Dixon that the deposit stays on file until you move and then it is applied to your last bill.

Mr. Dixon then asked that the Board do power point presentations so the audience could follow along easier and have a better understanding of the issues that are being discussed.

Discussion/Action Items

1. *Rezoning Tom Albritton property Parcel #77136*

Commissioner Craft made a motion to approve the rezoning request for Parcel #77136 that would change the zoning from R14 to RA-20MH. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. *Water Rate*

Manager Johnson presented examples 10 and 13 as requested at last week's meeting. Commissioner Barnes stated that he is still having trouble doing a rate increase.

Mayor Jackson reiterated that the State has mandated that we increase our rates.

Commissioner Oakes commented that he understands that something needs to be done but we also need to be good stewards and fix the water leaks. He commented that he would have a hard time voting until we get maintenance under control.

Commissioner Bright shares the concerns about the leaks not being fixed. However, she feels the Board needs to go ahead a vote. She commented that she prefers example 13 because of the possibility of getting grants but she will vote for either example.

After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Bright made a motion to pass example #13 water rate changes. After a lack of a second the motion failed.

Commissioner Barnes made a motion to pass example #10 rate change. After a lack of a second the motion failed.

After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Bright commented that, as an elected Board, it is their responsibility to make decisions to move Grifton forward and the longer it is postponed the longer they are shirking their duty.

Commissioner Bright made a motion to approve the water rates as outlined in example 13. Commissioner Oakes seconded the motion. Commissioners Barnes and Craft opposed the motion. Mayor Jackson broke the tie by voting in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Oakes reiterated that he seconded the motion only in the event that the water leaks were fixed promptly.

Manager Johnson stated that the leak by Commissioner Oakes house would be fixed the next day and the one by the Mayor's house would require that a contractor be called in but would be fixed as soon as possible.

Swearing in Ceremony – Mayor Billy Ray Jackson, Commissioner Claude Kennedy and Commissioner Raymond Oakes.

Clerk Angel Hudson performed the swearing in ceremony for Mayor Jackson and Commissioners Kennedy and Oakes.

Recognition of Service – Mike Coles

Mayor Jackson noted that Mr. Coles is not present at this meeting.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Barnes commented that the water leaks need to be fixed and he feels that will make a lot of people happy.

Commissioner Oakes asked Manager Johnson if he had checked into the cat monitors.

Manager Johnson stated that he has spoken with Pitt County and there is no charge.

Commissioner Oakes stated that with the cold weather he has received several complaints about cats looking for warmth in people's garages and such. He asked what a resident has to do to get a monitor.

Manager Johnson stated that as soon as the paperwork is signed between Pitt County and the Town of Grifton then they could request one from the County and the County would bring it out for them.

Commissioner Oakes asked if we are going to look into having something in place for people who have an excessive number of cats.

Manager Johnson stated that he would be looking into this further.

Commissioner Oakes will relay all information to Mr. Davis and others.

Commissioner Bright welcomed Commissioner Kennedy to the Board.

Commissioner Bright stated that Grifton Mission Ministries needs sponsors for families this Christmas. You can pick out a family and shop for them or you can make a donation and they will shop for you. Grifton Mission Ministries does great work all year around, but needs some extra help at Christmas to provide for these families.

Commissioner Bright wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Bright asked for a closed session to be added to the agenda.

Commissioner Kennedy stated that he would like to say to the Board that it is a humbling experience to be on this side of the table versus the other side and he will try to do his very best for this Board and the citizens of Grifton with the best interest of the Town. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New and commented that he hopes to move forward with some positive things happening in Grifton.

Mayor Jackson read a Christmas card to the Board from employee Benny Cox.

Clerk Angel Hudson presented to the Board the November Budgetary Status Report and stated that if they had any questions to please let her know.

Commissioner Bright made a motion to enter into closed session to discuss a personnel matter as authorized by G.S. 143-318.1(a)(6). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Craft. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bright made a motion to exit the closed session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Craft. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jackson wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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

Respectfully Submitted

Angel Hudson

Town of Grifton