

**TOWN OF GRIFTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
January 9, 2017**

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

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.

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

Recognition of Persons to Be Heard

1. Mr. Earl Davis of 303 Harvey Circle came before the Board to express his sincere appreciation to Manager Johnson for visiting his home to evaluate the roaming cat issue. He also thanked Mayor Jackson and all Board members that are receptive to recognizing, addressing and resolving this issue.
2. Mary Nemeth of 6834 North Highland Blvd came before the Board to complain about the following issues;
 - (a) The condition of Highland Blvd during the snow storm.
 - (b) Recycling keeps being missed.
 - (c) No kerosene in Grifton.
 - (d) Empty homes in Grifton.
 - (e) Grifton grocery store prices are high.She added that she would be available to help with any and all issues. She would like to help make Grifton a better place.

Recognition of Eagle Scout – Aaron Van Dyck

Mayor Jackson presented a Public Service Award to Eagle Scout Aaron Van Dyck in recognition of his efforts in having built and donated 3 picnic tables to the Town of Grifton. Mayor Jackson wished him good luck and thanked him for his hard work.

Discussion/Action Items

1. *Relocation of Police Department*

Manager Johnson stated that he has talked with the Chief of Police concerning sharing the Harvey Building with the exercise class. After their discussion, it was decided that this would not be a good idea due to making arrests, conversations, language, safety and such. They feel it would be better to relocate the exercise group to a different location.

Manager Johnson then gave the reasons the Police Department should be relocated to the Harvey Building.

After further discussion it was decided that the exercise class could use the Board room or back meeting room in the Town Hall.

Commissioner Kennedy made mention that the current police department is a depressing environment in which to work.

Commissioner Kennedy made a motion to relocate the Police Department to the Harvey Building. Commissioner Craft seconded the motion. Commissioner Bright added to the motion that there be an understanding that we are going to offer the exercise class a space for their activities. Commissioner Oakes also clarified that the police department would not relocate until the exercise class is relocated. The motion carried unanimously.

2. *Animal Control*

Mayor Jackson introduced Michele Whaley of Pitt County Animal Control to the Board and stated that she is here to answer any questions the Board might have concerning cats. Manager Johnson presented the Board with an Animal Control Ordinance from Cary. He commented that he would like the Board to take this home and take a look at it and give him some likes and dislikes so he would have a starting point. He then stated that he felt the Board should ask Ms. Whaley any questions they may have at this point in the meeting.

After a lengthy discussion, question and answer session on how Animal Control can help Grifton with the cat population, Mayor Jackson instructed Manager Johnson to work with Ms. Whaley to come up with an ordinance to help curb the cat problem.

Mayor Jackson thanked Ms. Whaley for her time.

3. *Position Classification and Pay Plan*

Mayor Jackson asked the Board if they had looked over the plan and if they had any questions.

Commissioner Kennedy commented that he thought Manager Johnson had done a fine job on this plan he is just concerned about the money in the budget.

Manager Johnson replied that there would be no raises at this point because everybody falls within the salary range at this point.

Commissioner Bright asked what determines starting pay.

Manager Johnson stated that it would be determined by experience and credentials but nobody would start out at the maximum because that would limit their pay in the future.

Mayor Jackson stated that starting pay should be based on what they could bring to the table.

Commissioner Barnes made a motion to adopt the Position Classification and Pay Plan as a tool. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kennedy. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jackson asked for a volunteer to serve on the Mid-East Commission. Manager Johnson will serve on the Mid-East Commission and will attend the meetings as long as it does not interfere with the Planning Board meeting. Mayor Jackson appointed Manager Johnson to the Mid-East Commission on behalf of the Town of Grifton.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Barnes expressed his concerns with the utilities department not being able to locate the cutoff valves when the 6 inch main burst last Friday and he feels we should update the diagrams so the guys will have an easier time accessing the information.

Commissioner Barnes also stated that we need to look into getting things like gloves and such for them to use.

Manager Johnson stated that they were not sure if the valves didn't work or if they were not the right ones.

Mayor Jackson stated that if they are not working they need to be fixed.

Commissioner Barnes suggested putting the valves on a maintenance schedule.

Mayor Jackson suggested that they pinpoint what valve goes to what area.

Commissioner Barnes stated that if water is going to be cut off the businesses need to be notified.

Commissioner Barnes asked if the asphalt was going to be removed from the St. David Street tennis courts.

Manager Johnson replied that it would be removed as soon as the volunteer was available.

Commissioner Barnes asked about the snow on the sidewalks on Church Street and who is supposed to remove it.

Manager Johnson stated that he would have to look into that. However, we do not have anything that would remove the snow without damaging the sidewalks.

Mayor Jackson stated that people should just stay off the sidewalks in inclement weather.

Commissioner Oakes asked if the leak on Fairway Drive had returned.

Manager Johnson replied that the leak was fixed yesterday and explained the reason that it reoccurred.

Commissioner Oakes stated that he received a call about the water running in someone's back yard when the main broke.

Manager Johnson stated that we are very lucky it was not worse when it happened.

Commissioner Bright reminded all that are interested that the Catch the Vision Committee will meet at 7:00 on Thursday night at the Grifton Mission.

Commissioner Bright asked if there is a recorded message on the Town Hall line that lets people know to call the Police Department if they have an emergency.

The clerk responded yes there is a message.

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

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