

TOWN OF GRIFTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MEETING
January 2, 2018

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

Absent: Commissioner Will Barnes

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:

1. Mr. Ervin Gray of 6247 Brassie Drive came before the Board to let the Board know the type of issues he is having with cats around his properties. He commented that vents are being pulled out as well as foundation doors have been let down. He stated that it is not cheap to fix some of the things the cats are destroying.

Mr. Gray also stated that we are in a new year and he feels Grifton has a tremendous potential for growth. He urged the Board to reach out and help Grifton grow.

2. Mr. Earl Davis of 303 Harvey Circle came before the Board with his issues of the lack of concern for roaming cat management. He stated that he has addressed this Board on numerous occasions and he has not received any updates as promised. He complained of cats on his pool cover, his classic car top, and one also sprayed in his garage. He feels the Board and the people feeding these cats should be held responsible for anything that is damaged.

Mayor Jackson commented that Mr. Davis has had this complaint for several months now and he asked Manager Johnson about a cat ordinance.

Manager Johnson stated that he is still working on that ordinance.

Commissioner Kennedy asked what Pitt County does for Grifton. He commented that if we are not going to do anything then we need to tell people we are not going to do anything. Commissioner Kennedy also stated his concerns about a rabid cat biting someone.

Manager Johnson replied that we are in a contract agreement with Pitt County and all the citizens have to do is call Pitt County Animal Control.

Commissioner Bright stated that she thought the Board asked Manager Johnson to contact Mr. Davis.

Commissioner Craft explained, from his own experience, that the County comes and picks the cats up, spays or neuters, clips the ears and then brings them back.

Commissioner Bright commented that this is the process for feral cats. She also commented that there is a great group in Town working on the feral cat problem but

there are also irresponsible cat owners. She feels Mr. Davis' problem is with irresponsible cat owners.

Commissioner Kennedy stated that if it causing damage it does not matter what type of cat it is.

Mayor Jackson stated that irresponsible cat owners should not have a choice of whether their animals are spayed/neutered/clipped and should be taken from these types of people. He wants something done now.

Commissioner Bright asked that Michelle Whaley be asked to come to next week's meeting to explain their process and ask for solutions.

Mayor Jackson stated that he wants Mr. Davis and Mr. Gray to understand that the Board wants to help with their dilemma.

Discussion/Action Items

1. Police Department Relocation

Manager Johnson asked the Board their opinion of the Police Department relocating to the Harvey Building.

Commissioner Bright asked about the exercise class at the Harvey Building.

Manager Johnson suggested the class use a building by the old Police Department. It has ample space with heating and air but no bathrooms.

Commissioner Bright stated that they need somewhere with a bathroom and a building that is easily accessible.

After multiple suggestions of where the ladies could do the exercise class Mayor Jackson advised Manager Johnson to talk with the Chief and see if there is a way the class could stay there and all could work in unison.

2. Position Classification and Pay Range

Manager Johnson presented each Board member a binder with position classifications and pay ranges for all employees. He briefly went through each department. He stated that this is to primarily set maximum and minimum pay ranges and the duties of each job. He stated that all current employees would be exempt as far as qualifications.

Commissioner Oakes stated that Billy Raynor should not be exempt because he was hired on the premise that he obtains any certifications that he did not have 1 year after employed. Manager Johnson stated that the blame falls on him for that because he did not know when he hired Mr. Raynor that a C-Distribution was needed.

Mayor Jackson stated that it was not the Board's intention to hire someone and still have to pay Dana Hill for his license.

Commissioner Bright asked if the budget could withstand the allowance for salaries that may increase due to training and such. She also asked how a supervisor could supervise people if they are not qualified themselves.

Commissioner Craft commented that, where the police department is concerned, there are changes every year as far as certifications.

Manager's Update

1. RV Park

Manager Johnson stated that there has been a lot of back filling taking place and gravel needs to be hauled in but he is hoping to have the park open by the end of February.

Commissioner Kennedy asked about expenses to the Town.

Manager Johnson stated that after the park is back up and running he will be doing a cost analysis that includes water used, electricity, manpower, etc.

Mayor Jackson stated that he feels all parks and buildings rented by the Town should be self-sustaining.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Bright asked where we are on the façade's.

Manager Johnson went through several properties that have been contacted and the ones that have improved the looks of their buildings.

Commissioner Kennedy asked if the property owners have been talked to face to face.

Manager Johnson stated that some have come in to talk to him and others have not responded at all. He also commented that U.S. mail is the only way he knows how to correspond with some of the property owners.

Commissioner Bright stated that garbage cans and recycling bins need to be rolled back up after being emptied or the police department needs to start writing tickets. She asked that Manager Johnson make up a flyer for the police department to put on cans not rolled back in to let them know that the ordinance would be enforced if it happens again and they will be fined.

Commissioner Bright asked for a closed session after Commissioner Comments.

Commissioner Oakes asked what is going on in the trailer park on Pitt Street.

Manager Johnson stated that David Conway has purchased the property and is cleaning it up.

He plans to renovate the property and put more mobile homes in the area.

Commissioner Oakes stated that Pitt County Animal needs to come and talk to Earl Davis, Connie Carson and Ervin Gray concerning their cat complaints. He commented that they need to do it all at one time so we are not charged for more than one visit.

Commissioner Craft stated that he is having a problem with recycling pickup.

Commissioner Oakes asked that Waste Industries be contacted about the ruts they are making in the yard at the Methodist Church. He commented that if he needs to put the cans in another area he will be happy to do so.

Commissioner Kennedy asked about the tennis court fence coming down at the St. David Street Park.

Manager Johnson stated that the fence is being dropped and Mr. Conway will get to it as soon as possible.

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 Oakes. The motion carried unanimously.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted
Angel Hudson
Town Clerk