

**TOWN OF GRIFTON**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
July 10, 2018

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

**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 Kennedy made a motion to approve June Workshop and Regular Meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Craft. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Recognition of Persons to Be Heard**

Krystal Harper of 3675 Poplar Tree Drive (Owner of 6905 A Pitt Street) came before the Board concerning a high utility bill she received 2 months ago. Ms. Harper stated that she came before this Board 2 months ago concerning this bill and she then talked to Manager Johnson in his office days after the meeting. After her water was cut off she came in and paid the bill in full to get her water back on but had not heard anything from Manager Johnson at that point. She stated that Manager Johnson informed her that he mailed her a letter with the Board's decision. She stated that she did not get the letter until after her water was shut off and the letter did not have a date on it to verify when it was written. She also commented that this issue was not handled in a professional manner and there was a serious lack of communication.

Mayor Jackson stated that although there should be no comments he was going to switch the meeting up some.

Mayor Jackson asked to read the letter and verified there was no date on the letter.

Mayor Jackson asked Manager Johnson if he agreed with everything Ms. Harper was saying and he replied yes.

After questions and discussion from the Board, Commissioner Bright asked that this item be added to the agenda under (F) Discussion/Action items to avoid having a discussion during the public comment period.

The Board agreed to move this to the Discussion/Action part of the meeting.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

Mayor Jackson announced that we are now in a public hearing.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is hear public comment concerning the Annexation of Solar Farm known as Buckleberry Solar Farms and owned by Dogwood Creek Land Holdings, LLC.

Mayor Jackson asked for public comments.

There were no public comments or questions.

Mayor Jackson stated that we will now exit the Public Hearing.

## **Discussion/Action Items**

1. Mayor Jackson read the annexation ordinance for Buckleberry Solar Farm owned by Dogwood Creek Land Holdings, LLC.  
Commissioner Bright made a motion to adopt the ordinance as read. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kennedy. The motion carried unanimously.
2. Budget Amendment:  
-\$4012.50 from Fund 42 Revenues 3970.0200 (Matthew Reimbursement) FY 17-18  
+\$4012.50 to Fund 42 Expenses 6420.6000 (RV Park Trailer) FY 17-18  
Commissioner Barnes made a motion to accept the budget amendment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bright. The motion carried unanimously.
3. Harper Utility Bill (6905 A Pitt Street)  
Mayor Jackson asked for a motion to charge Ms. Harper a monthly average for the month in question and to reduce Ms. Harper's bill and credit her account for the amount she has paid over the average amount.  
Commissioner Barnes made a motion to reduce Ms. Harper's utility bill to the average usage for the month in question and to credit her account with the amount she paid over that amount for that month. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kennedy.  
Mayor Jackson asked for discussion.  
Commissioner Barnes asked Manager Johnson what the length of time was from when he mailed the letter until the water was cut off. Manager Johnson replied that he would have to look back to be able to answer that question. Commissioner Barnes feels the letter should have been sent certified before the water was cut off due to the nature of the situation.  
Commissioner Kennedy stated that common sense does prevail in some instances.  
Manager Johnson responded that is why policies are in place so everyone is treated the same.  
Commissioner Kennedy responded that with all that has happened with this issue it should be considered an unusual circumstance.  
Commissioner Bright stated that she feels there are 2 separate issues. The first issue is why she has a large water bill and what caused it and the second issue is the water being cut off and lack of communication/common sense. She commented that the motion on the table is to forgive the water bill and in the history of her tenure on the Board and even before her she is not aware of a water bill being written off no matter what the reasoning. She also stated that she feels that if the Board chooses to forgive this bill as the motion was stated then there is a precedence that is being set for how things are handled in the future and that is not the right precedence. Commissioner

Kennedy stated that the reasoning for his comments is due to the nature of the whole situation from beginning to end.

More discussion was made between the Board members and how the situation was dealt with and the things that were said in a Board meeting.

After discussion was finished the motion carried with Commissioner Bright voting against the motion.

Mayor Jackson stated that he would like to say that in the future more diligence needs to be done with things of this nature because he does not want to have to wrestle with things like this again.

### **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Barnes asked Manager Johnson if we have heard from anyone concerning the streets (paving). Manager Johnson responded that he has not heard from Barnhill or Derrick Smith.

Commissioner Barnes asked if a stormwater fee would be charged on the solar farm.

The Board responded that there is only grass with no pavement under the solar panels so there would not be a charge.

Commissioner Barnes stated that vandalism and graffiti at the parks needs to be addressed.

Billy Raynor stated that he would take care of this issue.

Commissioner Oakes asked if we could contact DOT about putting double yellow lines on N. Highland Blvd by the Mission Ministries in order to avoid any collisions that may happen. He commented on how careless people can be when they are in a hurry.

Chief Silva commented that they are being proactive on Highland Blvd.

Commissioner Oakes stated that he rode back behind the Dollar General and if it is not cleaned up back there we are going to have a problem with the drainage being clogged up and backing up if we get a lot of rain.

Mayor Jacksons stated that he had spoken with Chief Silva and Manager Johnson about talking with someone concerning the condition of the Dollar General property.

Chief Silva stated that there is a new manager and he or one of his officers will try and meet with her and talk to her concerning this issue.

Commissioner Oakes stated that the Board was told that nothing could be done on Tucker Street until July 1<sup>st</sup>. He asked if anything has been done.

Manager Johnson stated that we have not had a chance to get to it yet but it will be done. He explained about the water leaks and such that is taking up utilities time.

Commissioner Kennedy asked for a moment of silence in honor of former Commissioner Eugene Fleming and his wife who passed away last week.

The Board stood and bowed heads.

Commissioner Kennedy thanked Mr. Raynor and the utilities department for the cleanup of the signs at the North and South entrance of Town.

Commissioner Kennedy stated that the East entrance of Town sign looks good but the property around it needs attention.

Commissioner Kennedy asked Manager Johnson if he had been in touch with DOT concerning a lane by the school and where we stand.

Manager Johnson replied that DOT stated that a study was done and a decision was made that they would not put speedbumps in and there is a process that we need to go through with the Board. He commented that they sent him a file but he was unable to open it on his computer. Commissioner Kennedy was under the impression that a discussion was made about putting in a lane. Chief Silva and Manager Johnson only remember talking about the speed bump and lowering the speed.

Commissioner Bright reminded everyone that the Catch the Vision meeting will be at 7:00pm Thursday night at her office on Queen Street. She noted that everyone is welcomed to join. Commissioner Bright asked Chief Silva if it would be possible to step up patrol on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday by the Mission Ministries to try and curb some of the aggressive driving.

Chief Silva stated that his officers have already been advised to do so.

Commissioner Bright asked Manager Johnson where we are on the website.

Manager Johnson responded that he is in the process of editing and when finished he will let them know we are ready to go live.

Commissioner Bright asked who the host is.

Manager Johnson stated that the host is REVISE.

Commissioner Bright asked where we are on the proposals for the Depot roof.

Manager Johnson stated that he has received one this week and expecting another one as well.

Commissioner Bright commented that we have some flags around Town that look horrible and need to come down. She feels they are not a good representation of the Town.

Billy Raynor stated that he has instructed the crew to start putting up the new flags.

Commissioner Barnes asked that with all the water leaks we are having are they checking the valves and maps regularly.

Billy Raynor stated that we have maps of the valves but some of the valves are broken and in need of repair.

Commissioner Barnes asked if they are replacing the valves once they have been identified as broken.

Billy Raynor stated that he is waiting for it to cool off because he does not know how many more leaks we will have.

Commissioner Barnes thanked all involved with the Children's Bike Parade on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

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 Barnes. 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.

Clerk Angel Hudson presented the Board with a Budget Revenue & Expense Report ending June 30, 2018 and stated if there were any questions to let her know.

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 of Grifton