

**TOWN OF GRIFTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

July 11, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor B.R. Jackson; Commissioners Will Barnes, Mary Grace Bright, Mike Coles, Johnny Craft, 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 Craft made a motion to accept June Workshop & Regular Meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bright. The motion was carried unanimously.

Recognition of Persons to Be Heard

*Patricia Murphy 717 Birch Road came before the Board to express her concerns about the unavailability of things for children to do in Grifton. She expressed her desire to help the community in any way possible with this matter.

Mayor Jackson suggested that Ms. Murphy meet with the Town Manager to see if a plan could be put together concerning this issue.

Commissioner Bright brought up the Catch the Vision Campaign and explained the things this committee is doing for Grifton. She informed Ms. Murphy that the next meeting would be held on August 10th at 7:00 p.m. at Grifton Mission Ministries. She commented that she feels Ms. Murphy would be a valuable asset to this group.

*Dorothy Miller of 255 Tucker Street came before the Board to complain about the property on Carrie Lane looking trashy and would like for this area to be cleaned up.

Public Hearing

Mayor Jackson asked for a motion to enter into a Public Hearing.

Commissioner Bright made a motion to enter into a Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnes. The motion carried unanimously.

The purpose of the public hearing is to hear public comment on the following items;

1. Town's application to the USDA, Rural Development for financial assistance for sewer system improvements.
2. Moratorium on gaming/bingo type businesses in CBD, B1 and B6 zoning districts.

Mayor Jackson explained the rules of the public hearing.

Mayor Jackson asked for public comment on the Town's application to USDA Rural Development for financial assistance for the sewer system improvements.

There was no public comment of this item.

Mayor Jackson asked for public comment on a Moratorium on gaming/bingo type businesses in CBD, B1 and B6 zoning districts.

There was no public comment on this item.

Mayor Jackson asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

Commissioner Barnes made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Craft. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items

1. Placement of a temporary moratorium on gaming/bingo type businesses in CBD, B1 and B6 zoning areas.

Commissioner Bright made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-01 placing a temporary moratorium on gaming/bingo type businesses in CBD, B1 and B6 zoning areas. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Craft. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Placement of Mixed Beverages on November 2017 Ballot

Commissioner Bright made a motion to place Mixed Beverages on the November 2017 Ballot. Mayor Jackson asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. Commissioner Coles Seconded the motion. The motion carried with Commissioners Craft and Oakes voting against the motion.

3. Harvey Building Rental

Commissioner Craft made a motion to rent the Harvey Building temporarily to Pitt County Group Homes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnes. The motion carried with Commissioner Bright abstaining.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Barnes thanked the committee for the 4th of July Kids Bicycle Parade.

Commissioner Barnes expressed his concerns about the utility bills doubling for commercial businesses. He would like to see something done on this issue as soon as possible.

Commissioner Bright feels an analysis should be done to see how much we are netting with the rate change and spread it a little better so the businesses that are using the minimum do not get hit so hard. She agrees that some changes need to be made in order to keep our Water Sewer fund in tact but feels adjustments should be made to the rates. She would also like explanations for why we are pulling from fund balance in the water sewer fund.

Commissioner Barnes thanked Chief Bryan Cauley for his service.

Commissioner Oakes commented how much he and all the kids enjoyed the parade and praised the ones that put it together.

Commissioner Oakes asked about the pavers.

Manager Johnson stated that the contractors have been back already and finished the warranty work.

The Board is not happy with the warranty work and expressed that areas that were listed on the warranty were not even touched.

Manager Johnson will touch base with the Wooten Company concerning this issue. Commissioner Oakes stated that Hurricane Season is upon us and asked if the ponds and the drainage tiles have been cleaned. There is one area on Country Club Drive in particular that is having trouble draining.

Mayor Jackson commented that the ditches are supposed to be checked every week and if there is a blockage it should be removed immediately.

Commissioner Bright commented that Ms. Moore has been to several meetings concerning the street lights in her area. Commissioner Bright asked that Duke Energy be called to look at that area and give us something in writing concerning the street lights and what they think should happen. If they think there is adequate street lighting already then it needs to be put in writing. Commissioner Bright feels we should do a better job of communicating with the public.

Closed Session

Commissioner Bright made a motion to go into closed session as allowed by G.S. 143-318-11(a)(6) to discuss a personnel matter and G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) Attorney Client Privilege. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnes. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bright made a motion to go back into open session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnes. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Michael Youells came before the Board to complain about the overgrown lot behind his house.

Manager Johnson will meet with Mr. Youelles at 1:00 on July 12th to discuss this matter.

Commissioner Bright made a motion to go into closed session as allowed by G.S. 143-318-11(a)(6) to discuss a personnel matter and G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) Attorney Client Privilege. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnes. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bright made a motion to go out of closed session and back into the regular meeting. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed repairing the RV Park and the St. David Street Park in order to bring in revenue.

Commissioner Bright stated that we have things that are broken and not being fixed and they look bad. She feels we should be utilizing all avenues to correct this issue.

Clerk Angel Hudson presented to the Board the June Financial Statement 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 Oakes. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted
Angel Hudson
Town of Grifton