

TOWN OF GRIFTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
March 12, 2019

Present: Mayor B.R. Jackson; Commissioners Will Barnes Johnny Craft, Angela Gay, Claude Kennedy, Raymond Oakes; Interim Manager Mark Warren, 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 approve February Workshop, Regular Meeting and Budget Workshop Meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kennedy. The motion carried unanimously.

Recognition of Persons to Be Heard

*Lee Vasquez of 6262 Brassie Drive came before the Board on behalf of the Garden Club. Ms. Vasquez informed the Board of their beautification plans for the planters and the north entrance sign.

After questions from the Mayor and the Manager the Board gave permission to the Garden Club to replant the planters and clean up the entrance sign.

Mayor Jackson and the Board commended the Garden Club for their efforts.

Discussion/Action Items

1. *Request from Linwood Thorbs of Little Bud Thorbs Economic Development to use Farmer's Market beginning the first weekend in April, 2019 and a request of a letter of support for Vidant Medical Center Grant.*
Due to Mr. Thorbs' absence Commissioner Barnes made a motion to table this request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gay. The motion carried unanimously.
2. *Consideration to approve write off of 2009 Unpaid W/S accounts totaling \$7,554.00*
Commissioner Barnes made a motion to approve the write off of the unpaid W/S accounts for accounting purposes in the amount of \$7554.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Craft. Motion carried unanimously.
It was noted that although these accounts have been deleted from the system they are still liable for the amount due if they return to Grifton for services.
3. *Consideration to approve new water/sewer billing policy effective July 1, 2019.*

Commissioner Craft made a motion to approve the new water/sewer billing policy effective July 1, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kennedy. The motion carried unanimously.

4. *Request from Grifton Museum to reserve the Overlook Park for May 11th for the 3rd annual Trail of Craft show.*

Commissioner Kennedy made a motion to approve the request from the Museum. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnes. Motion carried unanimously.

Manager's Report

*Manager Warren presented an ordinance for the Town to adopt to close certain DOT streets during the Shad Festival. He noted that DOT stated that this needs to be done before permission is given.

Commissioner Kennedy made a motion to approve "An Ordinance Approving of the Annual Shad Festival in Grifton and Road Closure". The motion was seconded by Commissioner Craft. The motion carried unanimously.

*The speed bumps on Tucker Street have been installed.

*The National Emergency Grant for workforce has been submitted and approved. We are now waiting on the agency to hire people. He noted that this will not cost the Town anything.

*Tractor has been purchased from Winterville in the amount of \$450.00 and a bush hog in the amount of \$800.00.

* Met with Pitt County Ranger regarding FEMA lots and discussed some potential Urban Forestry Projects. More information will be provided at a later date.

*Vidant Medical Center Grant has been submitted for recreation equipment and improvements at St. David Street Park and Mattie's mini park.

*Budget requests are being reviewed for the upcoming budget.

*We are continuing to submit FEMA reports for reimbursements.

*The N Highland storm drain reported by Commissioner Oakes has been reported and NCDOT stated that this will be done within the next 3 months.

*After clarification of Commissioner Barnes' issue on Highland Blvd. by the lift station. Mayor Jackson asked Billy Raynor to scrape the berm so the water could flow and not pool in the road.

*3 bids have been received to remove dead trees from the cemetery.

* 24 inch pipe has been purchased and will be installed on Lewis Drive at Dogwood Lane to help with the water flow.

*Economic Development Director that was mentioned at the Budget workshop will be here the first of April. He has a great background and should be here some time the 1st of April.

Mayor Jackson asked for a motion to amend the agenda to allow Mr. Thorbs to answer questions on item #1 that was previously tabled due to his absence.

Commissioner Kennedy made a motion to amend the agenda to allow Mr. Thorbs to speak on item #1. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Craft. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jackson informed Mr. Thorbs that the item was tabled due to tardiness but they have amended the agenda to allow him to answer questions from the Board before a decision is made.

Mayor Jackson informed Mr. Thorbs that the Board does not mind him using the farmers market but does not want to give him exclusive rights to the area. He stated that they want to make sure other people are also allowed to use it while he is there.

Mr. Thorbs was in agreement with this statement.

Mayor Jackson asked about the mobile playstreet equipment.

Mr. Thorbs stated that he has liability insurance and will provide the Town with a copy.

Manager Warren asked if the street would need to be closed.

Mr. Thorbs replied no. Mr. Thorbs then explained the health benefits and reasoning behind the mobile playstreet and the farmers market.

After further discussion, Commissioner Kennedy made a motion to approve the request from Linwood Thorbs of Little Bud Throbs Economic Development to use Farmer's market beginning the first weekend in April, 2019 and a letter of support for Vidant Medical Center Grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Craft. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Kennedy feels the 10 minute parking signs give out a negative vibe to anyone coming into Town.

Mayor Jackson explained that the signs were put there originally because complaints were being received from Town Hall customers that the sweepstakes customers were taking up all the places and staying there for hours at the time. Customers did not have convenient access to Town Hall.

Commissioner Kennedy made a motion to remove the 10 minute parking signs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Craft. Commissioner Barnes asked for discussion saying that he remembers that the businesses were asked if they wanted the signs. Commissioner Oakes stated that he feels the ones in front of Town Hall should remain in place.

Commissioner Kennedy made a motion to amend his motion to state that (1) 10 minute parking sign remain in front of Town Hall. Commissioner Craft seconded the motion.

Mayor Jackson asked to vote according to amendment. Commissioner Craft made a motion to vote according to the amendment. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Angel Hudson presented the Board with a Budget Revenue & Expense Report ending February 28, 2019 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 Barnes. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Angel Hudson

Town of Grifton