

**TOWN OF GRIFTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MEETING
March 6, 2018**

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

Absent: Commissioner Craft

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:

- Dave Anderson of 234 McCrae Street came before the Board to publicly thank the Mayor, Board of Commissioners, The Town Manager and the employees for their service. He commented that he has never received services such as ours in any other Town he has lived.
Mr. Anderson also asked for an update on the Town's website at some point.
- Mr. Earl Davis of 303 Harvey Circle (252-347-6865) came before the Board to express his appreciation for looking into a cat ordinance. He commented that he was told he would be contacted concerning this ordinance but has not received any callback or information. He did state that on a positive note he has received several visits and calls from Pitt county Animal Control concerning the cat problem. He reiterated that he feels nothing will change with the progressing cat population until a cat ordinance is enforced.
- Officer William Cruse of the Grifton Police Department came before the Board as the new Community Policing Officer. He invited the Board and Citizens to a public forum concerning Community Policing on Thursday, March 15th at 7:00pm at the Grifton Police Department. He commented that he would like to hear all comments and opinions of how to better police our Town.

Discussion/Action Items

1. 2008 Unpaid Water Accounts

Manager Johnson stated that this is an accounting procedure that is done each year for accounts that are 10 years old and considered uncollectable. He also commented that we are looking into new collection agencies due to the lack of collections by our current company.

After a lengthy discussion about collection remedies Manager Johnson informed the Board that he would look into what collections policies and procedures are most commonly used in other Towns.

1. Saint David's Tennis Court

Manager Johnson informed the Board that the tennis court has been removed and as soon as the poles are removed the area will be smoothed out and grass will be planted.

2. RV Park

Manager Johnson informed the Board that the base has been put down at the sections of the road that was washed out. He commented that the next step would be to get Duke Energy in to reset the pole for power and have the water tested to make sure it is usable. He hopes to have the park open by April.

3. Manager Johnson stated that the paving of all the areas previously talked about is on schedule and should be done soon.

Mayor Jackson asked about the gravel that is being strung up and down the road from the cut in the roads.

Manager Johnson responded that after the paving is done he will schedule a street sweeper to come in and sweep the streets.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Barnes commented that a couple of meetings ago he asked what we could do about checking on water shut off valves and their locations.

Manager Johnson commented that it is on our list of things to do. He also commented that it will be an item talked about at the retreat this Friday.

Commissioner Barnes asked for updates on the Well.

Manager Johnson replied that Phase 3 (Repair) will begin in July.

Commissioner Oakes asked about the use of the meter on the fire hydrant located on the corner of Lewis and Wall.

Manager Johnson stated that we are metering this water and it is being sold the solar farm for dust control and cement mixtures for the project.

Commissioner Oakes asked that something be done about the Church Street area until the pavers can get to this area. The Board informed Manager Johnson to have utilities check this area every day due to high traffic volume.

Mayor Jackson added that they need to put the checking of drainage ditches back on their weekly list of things to do as well.

Commissioner Oakes stated that on February 24th the lift station alarm kept going off by his home. He commented that he was out of Town but was informed by a neighbor. He commented that the response time was very long. He asked if something could be done about having a quicker response time.

Commissioner Kennedy asked how many lift stations we have and what mechanism is in place to correct any issues that may arise. He also asked where notices are generated for call outs. Manager Johnson explained the SCADA system and added that Billy Raynor is always called. Mr. Raynor makes sure the person on call is going on the call and if additional help is needed then he will call them in to help.

Commissioner Kennedy asked about the email that was generated about the lady who does not have sewer and is asking for a credit because she is unable to use her sewer.

Manager Johnson stated that the sewer problem is a problem with her line because it is filled with roots and debris. He presented the ordinance that states she still has to pay whether her sewer is working or not.

Commissioner Kennedy stated that the insulation under the Depot has been pulled out by cats and feels if there are funds available underpinning needs to be put in place to keep this from reoccurring. He rather put underpinning up instead of replacing the fence.

Commissioner Kennedy informed the rest of the Board that at next week's meeting he will be making a motion for the parks in Grifton to become smoke free.

Mayor Jackson asked the Chief of Police if he had any thoughts on this issue.

Chief Silva stated that they are enforcing the zero tolerance policy for alcohol in the parks and smoking needs to be addressed as well. He feels this would help keep the litter down.

Mayor Jackson encouraged Manager Johnson to contact the American Heart and Lung Association about signage.

Commissioner Bright informed the Board that the Catch the Vision Committee will meet Thursday, March 8th at 7:00p.m. at 560 Queen Street in Grifton. She also reminded the Board of the Town Wide Cleanup event will be held on April 7th with a rain date of April 14th.

Commissioner Bright asked if a letter could be sent to the Kangaroo and Speedway regarding their uncompetitive gas prices.

Commissioner Bright commented that some of the Town flags are down as well as faded and ragged.

Commissioner Bright stated that she feels cameras in the parks are needed.

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 Oakes. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bright made a motion to exit the closed session and return to the regular workshop meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnes. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully Submitted
Angel Hudson
Town Clerk