

**TOWN OF GRIFTON  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
March 5, 2019**

**Present:** Mayor B.R. Jackson; Commissioners Will Barnes, Johnny Craft, Angela Gay, Raymond Oakes; Interim Manager Mark Warren

**Absent:** Commissioner Claude Kennedy

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:**

Clifford Farris of 246 Chebistal Drive came before the Board concerning his water bill. He asked if the rates have been increased because his bill has increased.

Mayor Jackson explained the water use charges. He also explained about the fluctuation of the days of service and how to check for leaks.

Mr. Clifford thanked the Board.

**Discussion Items**

*(1.) Request from Linwood Thorbs of Little Bud Thorbs Economic Development to use Farmer's Market. (Wed., Friday and Saturday beginning April 1)*

Mayor Jackson stated that the area was built by the Citizens of Grifton and he does not feel it should be limited to individual use in that location. It should be for all to use.

Commissioner Gay also questioned individual use.

After further discussion and questions concerning electricity and such the Board directed Manager Warren to have further conversation with Mr. Thorbs.

*(2.) Request from Linwood Thorbs of Little Bud Thorbs Economic Development for letter of support to pursue grant with Viadent Medical Center.*

Manager Warren stated that the scope of the project was attached to the agenda for the Board to read. He asked for direction.

The Board directed Manager Warren to take a further look at this document and get more information from Mr. Thorbs.

*(3.) Consideration to approve 2009 Unpaid W/S accounts totaling \$7554.00.*

Mayor Jackson explained that this procedure is done every year for accounting purposes.

Commissioner Oakes asked if the landlord could be responsible for making sure bills are paid when a tenant vacates the premise.

Manager Warren stated that he did not believe this was a legal practice but that he would need to check with the attorney.

Commissioner Barnes stated that he does not feel the landlord should be responsible because the tenant is a customer of the Town.

Mayor Jackson stated that they would not be customers if the landlords had not rented to these people.

(4.) Consideration of new water/sewer billing policy effective July 1, 2019.

Manager Warren explained that putting this policy in place would help eliminate such a high write off debt.

### **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Barnes apologized for not being at the budget meeting.

Commissioner Barnes thanked the utilities department for fixing the issue on the corner of Queen St. and Dupont St.

Commissioner Oakes asked if DOT has been contacted concerning the issues on Highland Blvd.

Manager Warren stated that an email has been sent to DOT concerning the Pitt and Lenoir County side. He was notified that his emails were forwarded to the maintenance department.

Commissioner Oakes also made mention of a culvert in the road close the Mission Ministries.

Manager Warren will make DOT aware of this issue.

Commissioner Oakes asked about the progress of Duke Energy and the substation.

Manager Warren stated that he does not have any updates since he gave them last week.

Commissioner Gay brought stated that she is wondering about liability issues with the mobile play equipment that Mr. Thorbs is proposing to have at the area he has requested to use.

Commissioner Barnes added that there is an issue with standing water when it rains on Highland Blvd by the sewer station.

Mayor Jackson stated that there is a terrible bump in the area on Wall Street where the water line was repaired and asked Mr. Raynor to take care of this issue.

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 Clerk