

TOWN OF GRIFTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MEETING
November 7, 2017

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Will Barnes; Commissioners Mary Grace Bright, Mike Coles, Johnny Craft, Raymond Oakes; Manager Joe Johnson, Attorney Cliff Parsons

Absent: Mayor B.R. Jackson

Mayor Pro Tem Barnes called the meeting to order.

Mayor Pro Tem Barnes 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:

*Earl Davis of 303 Harvey Circle came before the Board to discuss his disappointment in the lack of communication between him and the Board concerning the cat situation in Grifton. He commented that in a prior meeting the Mayor directed the manager to get in contact with him and as of this date he has not heard from anyone. Mr. Davis stated that he understands the chain of command but has had no response. Therefore, he has forwarded all correspondence he has shared with the Board to the Daily Reflector, Channel 9 and the Pitt County Animal Control Department. He also stated that his next step would be to provide the information to Congressman Walter B. Jones. He feels his voice has not been heard and this situation is on a downward spiral.

*Scottie Clements of 6776 Dupont Street came before the Board to explain the organization called Peggy's Purrpose. She also commented that they have made great progress with the organization and that Forrest Acres would be the next area this group will be working on to get the cats spayed and neutered so the population would not grow.

Discussion/Action Items

1. Water Rate Study Results

Manager Johnson presented the examples he had prepared to the Board and explained each in detail. He explained the error that was presented in one of the examples from last month. Manager Johnson recommends example 12. He also suggested for the Board to set a rate and see what direction it is carrying us in 6 months.

Commissioner Bright asked that Manager Johnson double check every number on examples 10, 11 and 12. She also requested that he have someone else check his work. She commented that she would not vote until someone besides Manager Johnson has checked his work due to errors submitted in previous meetings.

Commissioner Barnes also asked to have a total bill that includes water, sewer, garbage, etc.

Commissioner Bright stated that the original rates the Board voted on were unfair and the Board did not ask enough questions and she wants to make sure all bases are covered and the Board is comfortable before another rate is adopted.

After a lengthy discussion between the Manager and Board members Manager Johnson was instructed to bring in the 3 examples next week corrected and double checked by himself and another pair of eyes.

2. *Set Public Hearing Date for Re-zoning Request of Parcel 77136*

Manager Johnson stated that Tom Albritton is the property owner of parcel # 77136 and would like to get this property rezoned for the purpose of putting a mobile home on the lot. The Planning Board has recommended approval and he recommends the public hearing to be set for December 5th, 2017 at the next workshop meeting. The Board instructed Manager Johnson to put this item on the consent agenda at the next regular meeting.

3. *Interlocal Agreement with Pitt County for the Provision of Animal Control Services*

Manager Johnson presented the Pitt County Animal Control Interlocal Agreement and their ordinances. He explained the agreement in detail and stated that it would begin on December 1, 2017 and go through June, 2018. Manager Johnson also commented that he has checked with other Towns to make sure this ordinance is the same as theirs. After a lengthy discussion the Board instructed Manager Johnson to get some clarifications on time charges and incidents before a decision was made.

4. *Budget Amendment: Fund 41 Transfer \$5606.00 from Fund Balance to Revenue 4139700000 (Fund Balance Appropriated) and Expenses 4163007400 (Capital Outlay)*

Manager Johnson explained that this amendment would be for purchasing new computers at the Library.

The Board instructed Manager Johnson to place this item on the consent agenda at the next regular Board meeting.

5. *Employee Christmas Gifts*

Manager Johnson stated that the funds are available and recommended approval.

The Board instructed Manager Johnson to place this item on the consent agenda at the next regular Board meeting.

Manager's Update

1. Well: Phase Two

Manager Johnson stated that the line has been videoed and the problem areas have been marked. The company will get back to him with the cost to repair. Manager Johnson explained the procedure that would be used to repair the problem areas.

2. FEMA

Manager Johnson informed the Board that we received \$55,502 from Fema and we are still waiting on the reimbursement for the bath house at the RV Park.

3. Manager Johnson also informed the Board that all fire hydrant repairs have been completed.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Bright commented that John Lawson Days went very well and a lot of good feedback was given and elaborated on how this event continues to grow each year. She asked if a light could be installed at the shelter at the overlook park in order to help during this event. Commissioner Bright stated that she would like to earmark the donations that the Town is getting from the sweepstakes donations for downtown improvements. Commissioner Bright asked Manager Johnson if he has checked with other communities concerning ordinances for animal control and if so what did he find out. Manager Johnson stated that the only ordinance he has looked at was Pitt County's ordinance. Commissioner Bright suggested having staff call other Towns to see what their ordinances state.

Commissioner Coles stated that he would like to earmark the sweepstakes donations for parks and recreation.

Commissioner Oakes stated that one of his questions was going to be if Manager Johnson had called Mr. Davis but his question was answered during public recognition. He also stated he was going to ask about the fire hydrants but Manager Johnson answered that during his updates.

Commissioner Oakes asked about an estimated time for the grocery store opening. Manager Johnson stated that they are shooting for the 16th but it is all determined on the vendor's availability.

Commissioner Oakes asked about the web page.

Manager Johnson stated that it is moving forward but it will be a slow process. However, when completed we would be able to add information ourselves versus having a third party do it for us. He commented that it would probably take 16 to 18 weeks.

Commissioner Oakes asked about the tree on Pitt Street.

Manager Johnson has contacted the contractor.

Commissioner Craft stated the Mrs. Wilson stated that she has given Manager Johnson a price and that this problem has been going on to long and needs to resolved now.

Closed Session

Commissioner Bright made a motion to enter into closed session to prevent disclosure of information not considered to be public information as authorized by G.S. 143-318.11(a) (4) Business locations and G.S. 143-318.11 (6) Personnel. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Coles. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Coles made a motion to exit the closed session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Craft. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully Submitted
Angel Hudson
Town Clerk