

**TOWN OF GRIFTON**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
October 9, 2018

**Present:** Mayor B.R. Jackson; Commissioners Will Barnes, Mary Grace Bright, Johnny Craft, 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 Kennedy made a motion to approve September Workshop and Regular Meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bright. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Recognition of Persons to Be Heard**

1. Mary Newton Moore of 6931 Pitt Street came before the Board to ask what is being done about the abandoned properties on Water Street. Ms. Moore stated that she understood that the County bought the properties and the Town is somehow responsible for the upkeep.
2. Betty Jean Rouse of 6924 Smith Street came before the Board to complain about her bill being high and about the overgrown grass on the lot across the street from her.

**Discussion/Action Items**

None

**Manager's Report**

Manager Warren gave the following Manager's Report:

- (a) We will begin cleaning out the primary canal which begins at McCrae Street, follows behind Church Street and out to Fairway Drive. We hope to begin the first of next week depending on the storm.
- (b) The new phone system that was budgeted is being installed by Wallace Telecommunications. When completed the Town Hall, Library and Police Department will have new phones.
- (c) He attended a FEMA meeting in Greenville and he has now connected the Town to the FEMA portal. The portal is necessary for reimbursements.

- (d) He commented that there was some discussion about an Emergency Operations Plan at the last meeting. He will provide the Board with a copy of Pitt County's operation manual as a guide.
- (e) He stated that the damage to the Town properties from Florence are as follows;
  - \*Leakage inside Town Hall
  - \*Awning damage from a leak at the Police Department
  - \*Museum – Roof damage
  - \*Library Façade collapsedManager Warren stated that he met with a roofer and they would be providing estimates in a few days. He has given a rough guess to FEMA and will secure those figures as soon as estimates are received.
- (f) We are trying hard to pick up debris before this week's storm and we may use contractors to do so.
- (g) Mosquito spraying will continue until cold weather is here.
- (h) Winterville has approved the Jet Vac truck purchase. We have not received the truck yet because Winterville is waiting on their new truck to arrive. Manager Warren stated that he has asked for Winterville to train our employees on the truck when possession is taken. He also commented that this truck would have multiple uses.
- (i) He met with Alan Everette and FEMA officials about setting up a mobile unit here in Town. They will be setting the unit up at the Fire Department in an area that will not interfere with emergency vehicles.
- (j) In 2012 the Wooten Company did a storm drain study for the Town of Grifton. Manager Warren will be meeting with someone from the Wooten Company to discuss options and possible funding. He feels drainage should be a focus.

### **Guest Speaker**

1. Mario Perez – Pitt County District Court Judge  
Judge Perez came before the Board to introduce himself and ask for their support in the upcoming election. He stated that he has 34 years of experience and has been in Pitt County for 29 years. He also commented that 114 Attorneys are endorsing him. He feels party affiliation should have no bearing because it has no role in the Judicial System when deciding cases.  
Judge Perez thanked the Board.

### **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Barnes asked that when Ms. Rouse's meter is checked to have someone check the grass she is speaking about as well to see if it is in violation.

Commissioner Oakes thanked the VFW Ladies Auxiliary for the 1<sup>st</sup> responder's event. He commented that the Chorus did great and it was a very nice event.

Commissioner Oakes stated that we should stay on Duke Energy's back concerning the substation.

Commissioner Oakes asked about the trees obstructing the view at the Speedway.

Manager Warren said this will be taken care of very soon.  
Commissioner Oakes stated that it was good to hear the canal work has begun.

Commissioner Bright asked if anyone from Pitt County has been out to inspect the damaged awning at the business on the corner.

Manager Warren stated that Pitt County has sent out a building inspector and he is waiting to hear what they have determined.

Commissioner Bright asked if we have heard anything from CSX concerning the Depot and property.

Manager Warren commented that our Attorney is still looking into this matter.

Commissioner Bright stated that as she recalls the Police Department used to monitor code enforcement violations. She stated that tall grass and junked vehicles are not only atheistically unpleasing but also not fair to the neighbors who keep their property clean.

Manager Warren stated that Officer Venable is supposed to be handling these issues.

Mayor Jackson stated that when patrolling you should report anything you see and that Officer Venable should not wait for us to tell him but for him to tell us.

Commissioner Oakes reminded everyone to come out and support Grifton Firemen's Day this Saturday.

Commissioner Bright reminded everyone of the CTV meeting this Thursday night at 7:00pm.

Mayor Jackson stated that it was reported to him that the Ladies auxiliary had to clean up the Depot before they used it. He also stated there were no paper products in the bathroom. He stressed that the Deposit should not be returned until the Depot is inspected.

Clerk Angel Hudson presented the Board with a Budget Revenue & Expense Report ending September 30, 2018 and stated if there were any questions to let her know.

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

Respectfully Submitted  
Angel Hudson  
Town of Grifton