

**TOWN OF GRIFTON**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**WORKSHOP MEETING**  
October 3, 2017

**Present:** Mayor B.R. Jackson; Commissioners Will Barnes, Mary Grace Bright, Mike Coles, Johnny Craft, Raymond Oakes; Manager Joe Johnson

**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.

**Recognition of Persons to be Heard:**

Patricia Riggs of 452 Pitt County Line Road Grifton, NC came before the Board on behalf of the Christmas Parade Committee. The committee came to request permission to do a community Yard/Bake Sale as a fundraiser to help fund the event. They would like to have it on the sidewalk on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Riggs stated that the cost of the parade was larger than the funds allotted so they felt a fundraiser would help them meet the goal.

**Discussion/Action Items**

1. *Proposed Text Amendments – Electronic Gaming/Bingo Facilities*

Manager Johnson presented the proposed text amendment stating that B1 and B6 were deleted so that it only reflects the CBD zoning district, there has to be 700' between like businesses and they shall not operate between 1:00am and 1:00pm on Sunday. He commented that these businesses would only be allowed as long as the requirements set forth in the ordinance are met.

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

2. *Water Rate Study Results*

Manager Johnson presented rate examples and impacts for the Board's review.

After a lengthy discussion Mayor Jackson asked the Board to pick an example and have the Manager figure a 10% increase.

Commissioner Bright asked that example #7 be used with the 10% increase as well as adding the sewer so they would know how much the total bill would be for water and sewer.

The Board agreed that example #7 should be used for this estimate.

Mayor Jackson informed Manager Johnson that the Board appreciates his diligence with this rate study but asked for 1 more workup before a decision is made.

Manager Johnson informed the Board that a decision needs to be made soon so our revenue goal can be met.

3. *NRWASA – Appointment of Alternate*

Manager Johnson stated that he has been informed that an alternate needs to be appointed to the NRWASA Board in his absence.

Mayor Jackson stated that he would be happy to serve as an alternate.

The Board agreed that Mayor Jackson would be appointed as the alternate.

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

### **Manager's Update**

1. RV Park

Manager Johnson informed the Board that the pipe has been repaired, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> holes have been backfilled and hopefully we will be looking at opening the RV Park back up sometime the middle of November.

2. Lawson Trail

Manager Johnson asked the Board about possibly having a ribbon cutting on October 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. He feels this would be a good timing because of the Lawson Days Event.

3. Well: Phase Two

Manager Johnson informed the Board that he has talked with the company and they are on schedule to start the second phase.

### **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Oakes thanked Manager Johnson for the fire hydrant repairs.

Commissioner Oakes expressed his appreciation for having the dirt removed on Brassie Drive.

Commissioner Oakes asked if there has been a study done on the duck weed in the pond.

Manager Johnson stated that there has been no study done.

Commissioner Oakes asked for an update on the Grocery Store.

Manager Johnson stated that he has been told they hope to open before Thanksgiving but are not committing until January.

Commissioner Craft stated that he has received complaints about the homemade no parking sign in front of Unique Furniture.

Commissioner Craft stated that the area around the welcome sign on Hwy 118 needs to be mowed.

Commissioner Craft stated that the shoulder of the road on Dawson Road by the school needs to be cleaned up and trash removed.

Commissioner Craft stated that the tree that has fallen on Town property on Pitt Street still has not been removed.

Commissioner Craft stated that the Pitt Street area where the mobile home park was needs to be cleaned.

Commissioner Craft stated that the shrubbery around the car wash needs attention.

Commissioner Craft stated that he has received complaints about the "Register" house on Church Street.

Commissioner Craft stated that he has received complaints about the undergrowth on Casey Drive.

Commissioner Coles stated that he has received complaints about the “Register” house and the “Worthington” house on Church Street.

Commissioner Coles stated that he hoped the acting Chief would be present to address the rumors about Grifton having a drug problem versus what the police officers are saying. He commented that we do not need negative publicity.

Commissioner Bright commented that every community has some sort of drug problem. She also commented that if the police department knows where the hot spots are then they can sure make people uncomfortable with their presence. She also feels this issue needs to be emphasized when looking for a new Chief.

Commissioner Bright reminded all Board members of John Lawson Days on October 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. She advised Manager Johnson to seek advice on the time of the ribbon cutting to make sure it is convenient for the benefactors.

Commissioner Bright informed the Board that the Ladies Auxiliary with the Fire Department will be having a Holiday Show on November 11<sup>th</sup> at the Fire Department.

Commissioner Bright feels it is important that we are promoting the rental of the St. David street park.

Commissioner Bright asked Manager Johnson if he had a chance to look at the limb in the ditch behind her building. She feels the owner should be contacted and required to have it removed. Commissioner Bright stated that if something is said to Unique Furniture about their no parking signs then the cones across the street need to be removed as well.

Manager Johnson stated that an email has been sent to DOT concerning the cones.

Commissioner Coles commented that if signs are going to be put up then we should have standards for the signs.

Mayor Jackson stated that the Board had instructed Manager Johnson to have the tree removed on Pitt Street a while back and it needs to be done as soon as possible.

### **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) (1). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Craft. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bright 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 Bright made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnes. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted  
Angel Hudson  
Town Clerk