

TOWN OF GRIFTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MEETING
September 5, 2017

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

Absent: Commissioners Will Barnes, Mike Coles

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: None

Mayor Jackson introduced Mr. Charles Suggs

Mr. Charles Suggs came before the Board on behalf of the Grifton Fire Department.

He informed the Board that on October 14th they would be having their annual Fireman's Day.

He stated that they would be having a Fire Parade that would only consist of County Commissioners, Mayor Jackson and one police car to lead the parade. The rest would all be related to the Fire Department. They have invited other Fire Departments to join. Mr. Suggs is here to get the blessing of the Board to use the grassy lot by the railroad track. The Board informed Mr. Suggs that the Town does not own that lot. Mr. Bruce Clements, who is with the Grifton Shad Festival, stated that as long as the property is respected the railroad company does not have a problem with events being held there. Mr. Suggs stated that the Fire Department would like to set the trucks up there after the parade.

Commissioner Bright asked if they have asked Tropicanna if it would be possible to use their parking lot in the event the grassy area is wet.

Mayor Jackson asked Manager Johnson to help Mr. Suggs get in contact with the owners concerning this issue.

The Board gave their blessing.

Commissioner Oakes asked Mr. Suggs if the fire hydrants across the creek have been repaired.

Mr. Suggs stated that to his knowledge they have not been repaired.

Manager Johnson stated that this is on the list of the things to accomplish this year.

Mayor Jackson asked that this be moved to the top of the list for safety reasons.

Public Hearing

Mayor Jackson announced that we are now in a public hearing and gave instructions to the public.

The purpose of the public hearing is to hear public comment on the proposed incentive agreement for Gutierrez Holding LLC. (Tropicanna)

Mayor Jackson asked for public comment.
There was no public comment.
Mayor Jackson closed the public hearing.

Discussion/Action Items

1. Proposed Text Amendments – Electronic Gaming/Bingo Facilities

Manager Johnson presented the Board with a proposed zoning text amendment and asked for direction.

After a lengthy discussion on the text change concerning spacing between these types of businesses and parking issues, the Board instructed Manager Johnson to put something together for them to discuss at the next meeting.

2. Water Rate Study Results

Manager Johnson presented the water rate structures and explained the process of how Mr. Hill with NRWASA came up with the numbers.

Manager Johnson presented several different rate structures for the Board's review.

Mayor Jackson commented that he wants the public to understand that water rates only are being discussed and all other fees on the utility bill will remain the same.

Mayor Jackson stated that we need to know what we can do to accumulate the money we need in the fairest way possible.

The Board discussed this item in length and instructed Manager Johnson to come back with more figures next week.

Manager's Update

1. Manager Johnson informed the Board that we have received part of the FEMA reimbursement but we are still waiting on the rest. He was notified that all monies have been suspended at this point because of Hurricane Harvey.

2. Manager Johnson gave an update on the RV park stating that the asphalt has been cut and will be hauled off this week and they will start backfilling the holes. In short, he wanted the Board to know that progress is being made in order to open the park back up for rentals.

3. Manager Johnson stated that he met with the soil and water conservation group and they have turned in a grant request to do 16 miles of snagging in the Contentnea Creek.

4. Manager Johnson informed the Board that the sink hole on Church Street has been discussed with The Wooten Company. They are looking into grants to help with this issue.

Closed Session

Commissioner Bright made a motion to enter into closed session as allowed by G.S. 143-318.11(a) 3 Attorney Client Privilege. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Craft. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Craft mentioned that the broken fire hydrants need to be repaired as soon as possible.

Commissioner Craft asked where we are concerning Police Chief Applicants.

Manager Johnson informed the Board that the Screening Committee has met and they will start interviews in a couple of weeks.

Commissioner Oakes commented that he is in agreement with Commissioner Craft that the fire hydrants should be a main priority and should be put before the RV Park.

Commissioner Bright asked if the ditches have been checked in preparation for the upcoming storm to make sure there are no obstructions.

Manager Johnson stated that was done today and he informed the Board of how overgrown the Buckleberry Canal is at this point.

Commissioner Bright asked about the solar farm plans.

Manager Johnson stated that our attorney has been in contact with their attorney to try and get some answers.

Commissioner Craft also stated that all the storm drain grates need to be cleaned.

Commissioner Bright stated that there needs to be some cut through in the mounds of dirt behind the houses on Church Street to allow the water to flow and not backup in yards.

Commissioner Bright asked about the progress on Lawson Trail. She feels it should be completed as soon as possible so a ribbon cutting can be held.

Manager Johnson stated that the trail is complete except for the signage and the parking stops.

Mayor Jackson stated that the ditches need to be checked every week for blockages not just when there is an impending storm.

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

Respectfully Submitted

Angel Hudson

Town Clerk