

Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
Aberdeen Town Board

May 26, 2015 Robert N. Page Municipal Building
Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. Aberdeen, North Carolina

The Aberdeen Town Board met Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. for the Regular Board Meeting. Members present were Mayor Robert A. Farrell, Mayor Pro-tem Jim Thomas, and Commissioners Elise Goodwin and Pat Ann McMurray. Commissioners Buck Mims and Joe Dannelley were not in attendance for the meeting. Staff members in attendance were Planner Daniel Martin, Planning Director Pam Graham, Town Manager Bill Zell, and Town Clerk Regina Rosy. Reporter for The Pilot Ted Natt, Grant Roper, Tim Marcham, Alicia Greenwalt, Dale Streicker, and Kenneth Byrd were also in attendance for the meeting.

1. Call to Order

- a. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Farrell asked everyone to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Setting of the Agenda

Manager Zell requested Items 7d and 8b be removed from the agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner McMurray, seconded by Commissioner Goodwin, to approve the setting of the agenda as amended. Motion unanimously carried 3-0.

3. Consent Agenda

All items listed below are considered routine or have been discussed at length in previous meetings and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will be held except on request by a member of the Board of Commissioners.

- a. Minutes of Board Meeting on April 27, 2015, Closed Session on April 27, 2015, and Work Session on May 11, 2015.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Goodwin, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion unanimously carried 3-0.

4. Informal Discussion and Public Comment

a. A Stroke of Patriotism – Grant Roper.

Mr. Roper stated an event will be held on July 18, 2015 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Railhouse Brewery to raise money in support of Sandhills area disabled veterans and their families. Mr. Roper stated the event is organized by the Artists League of the Sandhills and the Railhouse Brewery, and 100% of the funds raised go to the veterans and their families as directed and managed by the organizing committee. Mr. Roper stated the Mayors from Pinehurst and Southern Pines have agreed to paint a canvas to be used for the event, and he would like to request the Mayor of Aberdeen to also paint a canvas for the event. Mr. Roper stated he is also planning to request the closure of a small portion of Main Street on the afternoon of July 18, 2015 due to the projected traffic.

b. Ally Research 5k – Alicia Greenwalt.

Ms. Greenwalt stated she would really like to bring the Ally Research 5k to Aberdeen to raise money for mental health for veterans and soldiers. Ms. Greenwalt stated the website is www.AllyResearch.org. Ms. Greenwalt stated she is requesting to have the 5k in Aberdeen on October 10, 2015. Ms. Greenwalt stated the intent is to “shine the light” on mental health awareness, and have the 5k in the evening hours.

Financial Report

Manager Zell stated at the end of April, the General Fund is at \$372,234. Manager Zell stated we are still looking positive for year-end. For the Water and Sewer Fund, Manager Zell stated there were mostly expenses, and we are in the red \$175,878.65 for the end of April.

6. Old Business

None

7. Public Hearings and New Business

Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget.

Mayor Farrell opened the Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget.

Manager Zell stated the Town is mandated by General Statute to provide a budget message for the upcoming budget year. Manager Zell stated he is recommending a \$0.02 tax rate hike. Manager Zell stated revenue neutral came in at \$0.425, and a penny of tax would raise \$74,480 at a 98% collection rate. Manager Zell stated the budget includes a 1% cost of living increase for all full-time and part-time employees. Manager Zell stated there are no new employee positions for the upcoming budget year, and he is also implementing a hiring freeze. Manager Zell stated medical benefits costs will remain the same for the upcoming year, with no increase. Manager Zell stated the new valuation is \$760,000,000. Manager Zell provided a breakdown of Aberdeen's property valuation:

- Residential \$384,169,936
- Commercial \$285,786,600
- Motor Vehicles \$49,906,160
- Industrial \$26,109,224
- Utilities \$14,028,080
- Total \$760,000,000

Manager Zell stated budgeted employee benefits for the upcoming year include medical insurance, dental insurance, life insurance, health reimbursement account, 1% cost of living increase, 5% 401-k contribution, longevity, and Safety & Health Day.

Manager Zell stated General Fund Capital Expenditures include police software/hardware, two police vehicles, two in-car cameras, fire staff vehicle, wayfinding signs, playground equipment replacement, bobcat mower, and a salt spreader.

Manager Zell stated ad valorem taxes are 48.09% of the revenues, and intergovernmental/state taxes are 32.89% of the revenues. Manager Zell provided a breakdown of the departmental revenue percentages.

Manager Zell stated the Water and Sewer System budget highlights include the bulk water contract with Moore County, Well #23 and #24 in process, automated metering infrastructure, elevated tank maintenance, and water and sewer line repairs and expansion. The water and sewer rates will increase by 5% this upcoming year to maintain the system.

Manager Zell thanked his staff and the Board for their assistance and support during this budget process. Mayor Pro-tem Thomas asked if the two cars for the Police Department will work towards the take home vehicles for the Police staff. Manager Zell stated there is not enough money available for take home vehicles, but 2 police cars will be included in the budget.

Mayor Farrell stated unfortunately with the budget the way it is, there is no choice but to raise taxes in order to maintain services.

With no further discussion, Mayor Farrell closed the Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget.

b. Public Hearing on a Contiguous Annexation Request by Columbus Midtown Properties II, LLC.

Mayor Farrell opened the Public Hearing on a Contiguous Annexation Request by Columbus Midtown Properties II, LLC.

Director Graham stated the proposed annexation is for a 3.82 acre portion of a parcel located at the corner of Columbus Drive and South Hill Road. Director Graham stated all legal notices have been taken care of. Mr. Ray asked how long it will take to complete the Marriott Towne Place Suites project. Director Graham stated the projection she has heard is spring of 2016.

With no further discussion, Mayor Farrell closed the Public Hearing on a Contiguous Annexation Request by Columbus Midtown Properties II, LLC.

c. Consider action on an Ordinance to Extend the Corporate Limits of the Town of Aberdeen, NC.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Goodwin to approve an Ordinance to Extend the Corporate Limits of the Town of Aberdeen, NC. Motion unanimously carried 3-0.

d. Schedule a Public Hearing related to the Local Incentive Agreement with Reliance Packaging, LLC for June 8, 2015.

Item removed from agenda.

8. Other Business

- a. Update on PARTF Grant for Ray's Mill Pond.

Manager Zell stated this will be his final update on the PARTF Grant for Ray's Mill Park. Manager Zell stated last Thursday, May 21st the final construction meeting was held, and other than some minor final issues, the project is complete.

Manager Zell stated the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting will be held on Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. Manager Zell stated he is disappointed that the Park Sign will not be installed prior to the Grand Opening.

Mayor Farrell stated Ray's Mill Park is a wonderful site, and is a testimony to the Town staff for their hard work on this project.

- b. Aberdeen Parks & Recreation / Lake Park Sign Pricing.

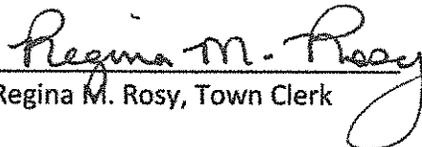
Item removed from agenda.

- c. Dale Streicker – citizen concern.

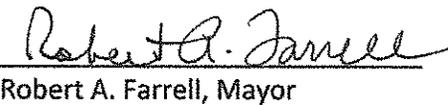
Dale Streicker stated he was concerned about the 10% cuts across the board. Manager Zell recapped for Mr. Streicker that 10% was just too deep for the cuts, and now the cuts have been decreased to 5%. Mr. Streicker stated he is also concerned that no cost of living increase is included for the employees. Manager Zell stated a 1% cost of living increase has now been put in for the employees.

9. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Goodwin, to adjourn the Board Meeting. Motion unanimously carried 3-0.


Regina M. Rosy, Town Clerk

Minutes were completed in
Draft form on May 26, 2015


Robert A. Farrell, Mayor

Minutes were approved
on June 22, 2015

