

Minutes

Special Called Meeting

Aberdeen Town Board

June 29, 2015 Robert N. Page Municipal Building  
Monday, 6:00 p.m. Aberdeen, North Carolina

The Aberdeen Town Board met Monday, June 29, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. for a Special Called Meeting. Members present were Mayor Robert A. Farrell and Commissioners Elise Goodwin, Buck Mims, Joe Dannelley, and Pat Ann McMurray. Mayor Pro-tem Jim Thomas was not in attendance for the meeting. Staff members in attendance were Planner Daniel Martin, Planning Director Pam Graham, Town Manager Bill Zell, Parks & Recreation Director Adam Crocker, Police Chief Tim Wenzel, Fire Chief Phillip Richardson, Finance Officer Beth Wentland, Public Works Director Rickie Monroe, and Permit Technician Amy Fulp. Reporter for the Pilot Tom Embrey and Mike Ratkowski were also in attendance for the meeting.

Mayor Farrell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Consider action on Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget Ordinance.

Manager Zell stated that the Mayor and members of the Board have before them his recommended budget for the next fiscal year. Manager Zell stated after four months working with each of his department heads, several of the Board members, and the Finance Officer he has proposed the best budget with the dollars from which we have to work.

Manager Zell stated this budget does include the 2 cent tax increase on the General Fund side and the 5% increase on the water and sewer rates along with the increased base rates.

Manager Zell stated he believes that this budget as presented will allow us to accomplish the things we need to do this next year and to continue providing the best service that the Board and our citizens expect. Manager Zell stated he and his staff stand united behind this proposed budget, and requests your full support in adopting the budget as presented.

Mayor Farrell asked for any discussion. Commissioner McMurray suggested only increasing the taxes by one cent. Commissioner McMurray stated one of the reasons she feels strongly about this is because there have been increases on

different things, whether it be state or county, and one penny is better than nothing to help us move forward on the things that we need to do for Aberdeen.

Manager Zell stated there is a North Carolina law that would allow us to do an interim budget ordinance so we can delay voting on a budget tonight and have more discussion over the next month if the Board wishes to move in that direction.

Manager Zell stated legally we can do an interim budget.

Commissioner Mims stated he did get the adjusted numbers Friday afternoon from Bill Zell and Beth Wentland and he thanked them for doing that. Commissioner Mims stated he reworked the numbers that he did, which he can send to the Board, which does continue with a zero tax increase. Commissioner Mims went over some of the highlights of his 2015-2016 budget proposals.

Manager Zell had concerns with the budget proposal presented by Commissioner Mims. Manager Zell stated he would like to compare and see his proposed budget compared to what Commissioner Mims cuts are.

Manager Zell stated he appreciates how hard Commissioner Mims worked on these numbers but he still feels like after working four months with his staff they have presented the best budget going forward. Manager Zell stated he appreciates Commissioner Mims trying to save the tax increase but if we do eliminate the tax increase, at the end of next year we will end up spending that money and it will all be on the Town and that is something that he does not think is sustainable.

Commissioner Mims stated he presented his spreadsheet last week and asked for any questions, but no one has called him or asked any questions except for Commissioner Dannelley.

Commissioner Mims stated he put a lot of thought into this and it's not just a number on a spreadsheet; every vote we make or every dollar he takes off of this affects someone's life. Commissioner Mims stated this is not an attack or a second judgment, it is just another perspective on how we can do things.

Manager Zell stated he appreciates the hard work of Commissioner Mims. Manager Zell stated he feels like in the four months that he has been working with each of his department heads, talking about each of these line items and having them cut where they didn't want to cut, and making them go back and cut even

more - he believes that if we don't raise taxes this year we will lose next year; we will be in the hole at the end of next year.

Mayor Farrell asked for any more discussion. Commissioner Dannelley stated he is faced with an interesting decision. On one hand there is a proposed budget that does not raise taxes and on the other hand there is a Town Manager that is recommending a budget that proposes to raise taxes two pennies. Commissioner Dannelley stated we also have another Commissioner that would not like to raise taxes two pennies but would be open to looking at one penny. Commissioner Dannelley stated he personally does not want to raise taxes and raising taxes for this upcoming budget year still does not make sense to him simply based on the numbers that he sees.

Manager Zell passed out a copy of an ordinance adopting an interim budget for July and August of 2015. He went over the terms of the interim budget.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mims, seconded by Commissioner Dannelley, to adopt the proposed interim budget for July and August of 2015. Commissioner Dannelley and Commissioner Mims voted to approved the motion, Commissioner McMurray and Commissioner Goodwin voted against the motion. With a 2-2 vote, Mayor Farrell voted against adopting an interim budget for July and August of 2015 which gave a vote of 2-3 for approving the interim budget.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mims, seconded by Commissioner Dannelley, to adopt the budget proposed by Commissioner Mims which has no tax increase and a 2% cost of living increase for employees. Motion was approved by Commissioner Dannelley, Commissioner McMurray, and Commissioner Mims, but was opposed by Commissioner Goodwin. Motion carried by a vote of 3-1.

2. Continuation of Public Hearing on Amendment to Code of Ordinances Regarding Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages at Special Events.

Mayor Farrell opened the Public Hearing on Amendment to Code of Ordinances Regarding Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages at Special Events.

Planning Director Pam Graham gave a brief description of the amendment to the Code of Ordinances regarding consumption of alcoholic beverages at special events; she went over some of the highlights of the amendment.

Mike Ratkowski, Railhouse Brewery, asked to speak to the Town Board. He talked about events downtown and alcohol sales.

With no further discussion, Mayor Farrell closed the Public Hearing on Amendment to Code of Ordinances Regarding Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages at Special Events.

**3. Consider action on an Amendment to the Code of Ordinances Regarding Special Events.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Dannelley, seconded by Commissioner Mims, that the Board approve the following amendments to the Town of Aberdeen Code of Ordinances:

Amend Title IX, Article II "Special Events" as indicated in the proposed draft text amendment;

Amend Subsection 111.01 as indicated in the proposed draft text amendment.

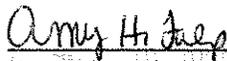
Motion unanimously carried 4-0.

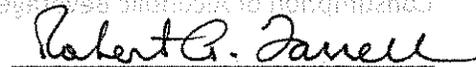
**4. Consider action on an Amendment to the Code of Ordinances Regarding Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages.**

Both motions were made together and approved with the previous item.

**5. Adjournment.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Dannelley, seconded by Commissioner Mims, to adjourn the Special Called Meeting. Motion unanimously carried 4-0.

  
Amy H. Fulp, Permit Technician

  
Robert A. Farrell, Mayor

Minutes were completed in  
Draft form on August 4, 2015

Minutes were approved  
on August 24, 2015