

MINUTES – NOVEMBER 6, 2017

The Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gibsonville met at 7:00 pm for a regular meeting in the Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Williams. Alderpersons Shepherd, Owen, Dean, Revels, and Pleasants were present. Ben Baxley, Town Manager, and Laurie Yarbrough, Town Clerk, were present. Recreation Director Mike Dupree, Police Chief Ron Parrish, Town Attorney Doug Hoy, Planning Director Brandon Parker, Steve Harrison, Asst. Public Works Director Ricky Wade, Rev. Baker, and several citizens were in attendance. The Invocation was given by Rev. Baker with the Gibsonville Christian Church.

Public Comments

Earl Washington, Smith St. resident, stated he recently had a neighbor to pass away that he thought a lot of. He reminded everyone that they were neighbors.

Faye Spoon stated she represented the Concerned Citizens of Gibsonville. She stated they requested censorship from Alderman Owen after his statements at the last meeting. She stated such behavior should not be allowed. She stated the majority of the Concerned Citizens were in favor of leaving the new community center the Gibsonville Community Center. She stated the minority were in favor of naming the community center after Mayor Williams. She recommended honoring Mayor Williams in some other way. She stated other names mentioned were Kay Yow and the Holt brothers.

Jean Hedrick with the Concerned Citizens of Gibsonville; and the leader and founder of the group; stated she supported the minority to name the community center after Mayor Williams. She stated she had asked if there was a Code of Ethics for the Board of Aldermen and was told no there was not; today she was told there was a Code of Ethics for the Board of Aldermen and she stated she would give the board a copy. She stated the most important issue is they should enforce the Code of Ethics and monitor Alderman Dean's behavior with citizens, merchants, and conflicts of interest; such as when he sat on the board and his daughter was an employee of the town. She stated there was spending of the town's money because of Alderman Dean's accusations towards the Police Chief. She stated Mrs. Loy, a resident, came to the board about abusive behavior from Alderman Dean. She stated she also received abusive behavior from Alderman Dean on the telephone and threats. She asked what was the procedure for removal of an Alderman for aggressive behavior; if there was not one, she stated one should be developed. Mrs. Hedrick stated she would seek a restraining order from Alderman Dean to protect her and her family.

Connie Bishop, Driftwood Dr. resident, stated she was following up on an email she sent to each Alderman, she received two responses, asking each of them to ask for an apology from Alderman Owen. She asked the board what were they going to do to condemn this behavior.

Alderman Owen stated there were things said about him that were hear say. He apologized to the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen and to anyone that heard was he said; he was sorry.

Approval of Agenda

Alderman Shepherd, seconded by Alderman Pleasants, made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Alderwoman Revels, seconded by Alderman Pleasants, made a motion to approve the minutes of October 2, 2017 and October 16, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

Recognition of Fire Chief Tony Roof

Mayor Williams stated the Town would like to recognize Fire Chief Tony Roof, who is retiring effective November 17, 2017, for his eleven years of service to the Town of Gibsonville. He stated Mr. Roof had left so they would do this at a later date

Introduce New Fire Chief, James Todd

Ben Baxley, Town Manager, introduced the new Fire Chief, James Todd. He stated Mr. Todd had begun work two weeks ago. He stated he had over twenty two years of fire/safety experience; he retired as Fire Captain of the Virginia Newport News Fire Department and had worked with Envirosafe on safety; he lived less than two miles from town.

Fire Chief James Todd thanked the Board for this opportunity and invited them to the fire department.

Board Update - Paul Koonts, ABC Board Chairman

Paul Koonts, Travis Ln., resident and ABC Board Chairman, updated the board on the construction at the ABC store and their 2016-2017 Audit. He stated the past year had been good with a profit, sales were up by 5.6%, totaling 1.2 million for the year; of which \$270,000 went to tax to North Carolina. He stated it cost \$281,000 a year to run the store. He stated \$2,400 would go to the DARE Program, \$3,400 to treatment (mandatory) and \$10,000 to the Town. He stated this would leave \$53,000 to go in the Capital account. He stated they bought the building in January of 2017 and were in the process of renovating the building. He stated Ethel Anne Younger was on her last year; she had served nine years on the ABC Board and her term would expire in December. He stated next year would be his ninth year and he planned to leave the store in good shape with little debt. He stated he appreciated the Police Department for their help and service.

Mayor Williams asked when would the construction be complete.

Mr. Koonts stated he was not sure, at some point they would be demoing the retail area also. He stated they need more space because sometimes they could buy at cheaper prices and now they would have storage.

Alderman Shepherd stated the Board appreciated Mr. Koonts and his staff.

Mayor Williams stated they had not received any complaints

Appointment to the Guilford County Historic Preservation Committee

Ben Baxley stated the Town had been searching for a resident to serve on the Guilford County Historic Preservation Committee. He stated Sean Dowell of 223 Burlington Ave. had agreed to serve on the committee. He stated Mr. Dowell was familiar with historic rehabilitation and had been a part of the redevelopment efforts of numerous local projects. Some of these efforts included Onieda Mill in Graham (128,000 SF), Scott Mebane Mill in Graham (24,000 SF), Revolution Millhouse in Greensboro (180,000 SF), Lambeth Mill in Thomasville (150,000 SF), Printworks Mill in Greensboro (420,000 SF), Granite Mill in Haw River (260,000 SF), among others." Staff recommended appointment of Sean Dowell to the Guilford County Historic Preservation Committee.

Alderman Owen, seconded by Alderman Pleasants, made a motion to appoint Sean Dowell to the Guilford County Historic Preservation Committee.

Reports

a. Manager

Ben Baxley, Town Manager, stated the Lighting of the Green would be November 17th. He stated election day was tomorrow and poles opened at 6:30 am and closed at 7:30 pm.

b. Mayor

Mayor Williams stated there was no doubt the Board of Aldermen would work together. He stated they needed to find ways to get grants; the town depended on revenues from residential but needed commercial. He stated the town needed to get water and sewer out to Hwy. 70. He stated the board would work together to get things done.

c. Board Members

Alderman Dean stated he was tired of hearing he spent \$18,000 of town's money; it was not so he did not spend this money. He stated he talked with the Police Chief and Town Manager about something and then he got a call from the Town Attorney and another Attorney. He stated there was an investigation and he never called for an investigation; he never had anything against the police department.

Alderman Shepherd stated it was time to evaluate the Town Manager; this would be at the next meeting.

Alderman Pleasants asked about follow-up on the renting out rooms in Lindley Park Estates.

Ben Baxley, Town Manager, stated he understood it had stopped.

Brandon Parker, Planning Director, stated he had looked into this and mailed out notices. He stated the operations had seized and he would continue to monitor.

Alderwoman Revels stated she was glad to see the citizens out and asked that they continue to show up at the meetings. She stated whether she was re-elected or not she had enjoyed serving the citizens of Gibsonville and sitting on the Board of Aldermen.

Mayor Williams stated he never had a meeting with Alderman Dean; it took 3 or more board members to have a meeting.

Shannon O'Toole, Hazelwood Dr. and Candidate for Alderman, stated he only asked if anyone on the board had an ill will against the police department; he participated in the Meet the Candidate Forum. He stated they could watch the video; he never blasted anyone.

Alderman Dean stated it was all on Mr. O'Toole's Facebook page.

Mr. O'Toole stated he did not have a Facebook page.

Alderman Shepherd, seconded by Alderman Owen, made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Mayor

Attest:

Town Clerk