

MINUTES – May 20, 2019

The Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gibsonville met at 7:00 pm for an agenda meeting in the Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Williams. Aldermen, Owen, Shepherd, Pleasants, and O'Toole were present. Ben Baxley, Town Manager, and Laurie Yarbrough, Town Clerk, were present. Police Chief Ron Parrish, Public Works Director Rob Elliott, Asst. Public Works Director Ricky Wade, Troy King with AWCK, Sean Dowell, Chelsea Dickey, several firefighters, and several residents were in attendance.

Public Comments

Shirley Pearson, resident, recommend board approve the site plan for Stone Ridge. She stated the town needed the LINK buses; leave it in town.

Mayor Williams stated he was asked by two board members to announce that this was not a political meeting and public comments would not be used for politics.

Yvonne Maizeland, resident, stated she was a candidate for the Board of Aldermen and stated there was a staff shortage in the police department. She stated last week was National Police Week and the Gibsonville Police Department was overlooked by the town. She stated she would like to recognize the Gibsonville Police Department with a proclamation.

Mayor Williams stated Ms. Maizeland's three minutes was up and only he, the Mayor ProTem or two board members would add a proclamation to the agenda.

Paul Thompson, resident, stated concerns with crime and safety in town. He stated there was adequate fire setup for backup for the fire department but not the police department. He stated he frequently listened to the police scanner and recently there was a shortage with only two officers on duty. He stated they needed three officers on each shift at all times. He stated a concern with the old school condition; he felt this was a major safety concern.

Beverly Ross, resident, addressed town spending with no tax increase. She felt the town was not giving citizens attention they deserved. She stated a concern with the shortage of police officers in the police department. She recommended the following: look at contracted services and expenses, apply for State grant funds, discontinue LINK transit (they required a one year notice), use ACTA for transportation, and sell 1.5 million in town surplus property. She urged the Mayor and board to consider the citizens needs.

Marisa Schaffer, resident, stated at the last meeting Chapter 91. Animals was discussed and chickens were not included. She stated there were several citizens present asking to allow chickens in the town. She asked the board to make the town ordinance in line with bordering town. And allow backyard chickens.

Lauren Allen, resident of 125 Frissell Dr., stated she was pro chicken and asked the board to allow chickens in town.

Mayor Williams stated that earlier in the week Ms. Maizeland had contacted the Town Manager about no proclamation being presented for the police department. He stated this board was proud of the police department. He stated the agenda was set by the Mayor, Mayor ProTem or any board member; they could add an item to the agenda. He stated that no one that was not a board member could add something to the agenda.

Approval of Agenda

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

Discussion of FY 2020 Budget and FY 2020-2024 Capital Improvement Plan

Ben Baxley, Town Manager, stated the recommended FY 2020 Budget and FY 2020-2024 Capital Improvement Plan was presented at the May 6, 2019 meeting. He stated Town staff was seeking input from the Board of Aldermen concerning the recommended budget. He recommended the board set the public hearing for the adoption of the FY 2020 Budget for June 3, 2019.

Mayor Williams stated the Town Manager and staff worked hard on this budget. He stated the department heads made their requests to the Town Manager and he put the budget together; it was up to the board now.

Alderman Owen stated this was a good budget and they were holding the tax rate the same.

Alderman Shepherd stated this was a tough budget, growth was not enough to change services and departments had to sacrifice.

Alderman O'Toole stated he thought the police department was under staffed; he thought they should address this in the future. He recommended look at compensating police for their years of experience. He stated maybe it was time to evaluate all of the town services and in the future address a modern facility for the fire and police; a public safety facility.

Mayor Williams stated he attended the League Meeting this week and he attended a session on public safety. He asked a Police Chief there about take home police vehicles and he was in favor of this. He stated he thought the town was in good shape. He stated Recreation was a big asset to the town; people looking at the housing market, look at recreation for their children. He stated the Gibsonville Community Center was open to everyone.

Alderman Shepherd, seconded by Alderman Owen, made a motion to set June 3, 2019 for the public hearing to consider the adoption of the FY 2020 Budget Ordinance and the FY 2020-2024 CIP. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Amending Chapter 91 – Animals in the Town of Gibsonville Code of Ordinances

Ben Baxley, Town Manager, stated, at the last meeting the Mayor asked the board to further discuss the ordinance on livestock as it pertains to chickens or fowl. He stated staff had prepared an Amendment to Chapter 91: Animals by adding Section 91.00 Animals Prohibited. If the board wishes to amend the ordinance, a public hearing will need to be set for the June 3, 2019 meeting.

Emily Palathorpe, resident, stated support for chickens. She stated she had backyard chickens and had them for several years.

Alderman O'Toole asked what did Whitsett require.

Marisa Schaffer, resident, stated they allow hens, no roosters. She stated Elon allowed hens only but they could not run at large.

Alderman Pleasants stated the town does not allow chickens no.

Shawn Dowell, resident, stated some subdivision covenants may not allow chickens.

Mayor Williams asked board members to get with the Town Manager this week and let him know if they wished to allow chickens in the town limits.

Alderman Shepherd, seconded by Alderman Owen, made a motion to set the public hearing for June 3, 2019 to consider an Amendment to Chapter 91. Animals. The motion passed unanimously.

Branding Project Update Presentation

Chelsea Dickey, Director of Economic Development with Motley, updated the board on the work they had completed, the status of the branding project, and the ways that the brand would be used as a tool by the business community and for economic development purposes. She stated this would encourage town pride.

Alderman O'Toole asked when would the new logo be launched.

Ms. Dickey stated they were working with a design with a tag line, like classic, creative, and connective. She stated Gibsonville has been known as the "City of Roses"; she asked if the board was tied to the roses.

Alderman Shepherd agreed and stated he would be open to her concept.

Mayor Williams stated he heard people using the "City of Roses".

Ms. Dickey stated she had talked with businesses, and the next phase after branding rolled out would be business recruitment.

Mural Project Presentation

Sean Dowell, Chairman of the Gibsonville Development Advisory Committee, stated GDAC was created over five years ago, they meet once a month, and their goal was to create a common voice and make the town better. He presented an idea of having murals in the downtown area. He stated the committee had discussed this idea and is in the process of developing guidelines and wanted to see if the board had an interest in pursuing this project.

Mayor Williams stated he would like more discussion.

Alderman O'Toole stated he liked the concept, along with the branding project.

Alderman Shepherd stated he would like more information.

Mr. Dowell stated he would update the board.

Consideration of Awarding Bid for Financing the 2019 Pierce Enforcer Pumper (Fire Apparatus)

Ben Baxley, Town Manager, stated proposals on financing of the 2019 Pierce Enforcer Pumper (Fire Apparatus) were received. BB&T provided the lowest interest rate at 2.69%. He stated staff recommended that the board award the financing bid to BB&T and recommended approval of the "Resolution Approving Financing Terms".

Alderman Shepherd, seconded by Alderman Pleasants, made a motion to award the financing on the 2019 Pierce Enforcer Pumper to BB&T and approve the Resolution Approving Financing Terms. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Awarding Bid for the Sewer Rehabilitation Project

Troy King with AWCK stated bids on the Sewer Rehabilitation Project were received on May 14, 2019; five bids were received. He stated the low bid was Insituform Technologies, LLC at \$1,482,780.90. He stated the bid came under budget.

Ben Baxley, Town Manager, stated staff recommended the bid be awarded to Insituform Technologies, LLC at \$1,482,780.90; contingent upon approval by USDA Rural Development.

Alderman Shepherd, seconded by Alderman Owen, made a motion to award the sewer rehab project bid to Insituform Technologies, LLC at \$1,482,780.90. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Williams asked the Town Manager to comment on the old school building.

Mr. Baxley stated he had talked with the old Gibsonville School owner and they had told him they were working on hiring a contractor. He stated this was a public safety issue.

Alderman O'Toole asked could the building be repaired.

Mr. Baxley stated yes they were going to repair the building.

Shawn Dowell stated to get tax credits they would have to rehab the building. He stated there were delays with the government and the contractor market.

Mayor Williams stated the town was told in 2018 there would be a ribbon cutting; it did not happen.

Alderman Pleasants stated it needed to be fenced off and grass mowed.

Alderman Shepherd stated they needed to know what the owner's time frame was.

Mr. Baxley stated he would contact the property owner to get a time frame before taking additional action; he will update the board.

Ben Baxley, Town Manager, stated the following Items would be on the June 3, 2019 Agenda:

- Recognition of Firefighter – Jerry Williamson
- Consideration of Approving the Preserve at Stone Ridge Site Plan
- Public Hearing and Consideration of Adopting the FY 2020 Budget Ordinance
- Consideration of Adopting the FY 2020-2024 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
- Public Hearing and Consideration of Amending Chapter 91 – Animals in the Town of Gibsonville Code of Ordinances

Reports

a. Manager

Ben Baxley, Town Manager, commended the Police Department and Fire Department on the Public Safety Day at the fire department; it was a good outreach. He stated Memorial Day was May 27th and town offices were closed. He stated June 1st was the kick off of Market Day and Groovin on the Greens Concert.

b. Mayor

Mayor Williams express his thoughts to Mike Dupree on the loss of his father. He commended the Recreation Department on their work with sports and programs.

Alderman Shepherd, seconded by Alderman Owen, made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Mayor

Attest:

Town Clerk