

**TOWN OF LONG VIEW  
TOWN ALDERMEN MEETING  
November 14, 2005**

The Town of Long View Board of Aldermen met on Monday, November 14, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers of the Government Center in Long View, North Carolina.

**BOARD PRESENT:** The following members of the Board were present: Mayor Norman Cook, Alderman Ken Bumgarner, Alderman Randall Mays, Alderman Vernon Moyer, Alderman John McDaris, and Alderman Jackie Bowman.

**STAFF PRESENT:** The following members of staff were present: Town Administrator David Epley, Town Clerk Frances Hildebran, Town Attorney Redmond Dill, Police Sgt. Mike Ford, Fire Risk Manager Ronnie Sigmon, Town Planner Charles Mullis, Public Works Director David Draughn, Water Plant Superintendent Rani Holland, and Finance Director Jamie Cozart.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** The following names represent other persons present at the meeting; Kay Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Jack White and others.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** Mayor Norman Cook called the meeting to order and the invocation was given by Alderman Randall Mays.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion was made by Alderman Mays seconded by Alderman Bumgarner to approve the October 10, 2005 regular and closed session minutes. The vote was unanimous.

**PERSONNEL POLICY AMENDMENT:** In reviewing the new Personnel Policy, the Administrator informed the Board that the last paragraph in Article III, Section 15 needed to be amended to change **non-exempt employees** to **non-exempt/non-public safety employees**. Mr. Epley explained that the purpose of this change was because the Police Department had a narcotics officer on standby 24 hours every weekend. This stand-by employee according to Section 785.7 of the On-Call Time of the Fair Labor Standards Act is not required to be paid over-time because an employee who is not required to remain on the employer's premise but is merely required to leave word at his home or with company officials where he may be reached is not working while on call. This applies also to the firemen who are considered to be on standby.

Following a brief discussion motion was made by Alderman Moyer, seconded by Alderman McDaris to amend the last paragraph of Article III, Section 15 of the Town's new personnel policy to read **non-exempt/non-public safety employees** instead of **non-exempt employees**. The vote was unanimous.

**WESTERN NC RAILWAY STUDY UPDATE:** This item was discussed in detail at the October meeting and the Administrator wanted the Board to see a copy of a letter he received from Robert Pressley of Gannett Fleming Engineers bringing the Board up to date on past discussions with the Long View Board and explaining the recommendations concerning the relocation of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Street rail crossing. They noted that removing Main Avenue from the intersection would result in fewer drivers making poor decisions and would not cause a hardship to the motoring public in general. It was their recommendation that the Board adopt the resolution and the recommended modifications to the roadway network.

It was still the consensus of the Board of Aldermen that the Town hold a public hearing to make the public aware of the proposed plans by the NCDOT Rail Division.

Motion was made by Alderman Mays, seconded by Alderman Bumgarner to set December 12, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. as the public hearing date for the proposed grade crossing modifications as noted above. The vote was unanimous.

**DISPOSITION OF TOWN OWNED HOMES ON AIRPORT ROAD:** Administrator Epley gave the Board an update on the two houses the Town owns on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, NW across from the airport. He noted that both houses had asbestos in them and staff was obtaining a cost estimate from a company that specializes in asbestos removal before any recommendations could be made.

A cost estimate to have the asbestos removed will be presented at the next meeting.

**CATAWBA COUNTY LITTER TASK FORCE APPOINTMENTS:** The Administrator informed the Board that the Catawba County Litter Task Force was working on the litter situation in Catawba County and wanted to become a part of the Keep America Beautiful program. To achieve this status the Task Force needed more citizen representation and they were requesting each municipality in Catawba County to submit the names of two citizen representatives from their community to serve a two year term on this task force.

Staff was instructed to see if they could come up with the names of two citizens for the Keep America Beautiful program of Catawba County. It was suggested that this be placed in the next town newsletter asking for volunteers.

**FINANCE REPORT:** Finance Director Jamie Cozart gave the monthly finance report. He noted that 25% of the year was complete and as of September 30, 2005 the total revenues in the General Fund were at \$691,379 and the expenditures were \$644,134. The Revenues exceed expenditures by \$47,245.

The Utility Fund revenues were at \$429,522 and the expenditures at \$396,269. It was reported that the revenues exceed the expenditures by \$33,253.

Mr. Cozart informed the Board that this statement did not reflect the expenses paid for repairs to the raw water pump station.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** Mr. Epley informed the Board that they had received a letter from Governor Mike Easley officially announcing that \$93,500 in financial assistance for the Long View Drainage Improvement Project had been approved by the State of North Carolina. The Town was congratulated by the Governor for efforts to improve the water management system in the Town of Long View.

At this time staff was asked by Alderman Mays if easements had been acquired on the drainage project and he was informed by the Town's engineer that the design plans were not finished. Attorney Dill informed the Board that after the design was complete and he received the survey map he would draft the easements.

The Board was assured by the Town Attorney that no work will begin on the project until the easements have been obtained. It was noted only three easements needed to be obtained.

**Long View Centennial:** The Administrator gave the Board a brief update on plans for the Town's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2007. He noted that staff was recommending a one day or a weekend celebration in July 2007. He was looking at possibly contracting with someone with experience to coordinate the event. He requested that the Board needs to meet for a special meeting in the near future to review the plans and set a budget so staff would have an idea on what to plan for the event. It was noted that a centennial committee needed to be appointed involving various segments of the community such as; industry, business, religious etc.

**24<sup>th</sup> Street Project:** Mr. Epley informed the Board that Ronnie Turner was ready to start work on the 24<sup>th</sup> Street Project and it would take 5 – 7 days of construction.

**Employee Christmas Dinner:** It was announced that the annual employee Christmas dinner was planned for Tuesday, December 6, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community House.

**Mike Scott Letter of Commendation:** The Administrator copied the Board on a letter he received commending officer Mike Scott for assisting a local citizen.

**CLOSED SESSION:** At this time motion was made by Alderman Moyer, seconded by Alderman Bowman to go into closed session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss potential litigation. The vote was unanimous.

Motion was made by Alderman Moyer, seconded by Alderman Mays to return to regular session at 8:25 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Alderman Moyer attended the NC League Convention in Hickory as a delegate. One of the workshops he attended talked about disaster plans and that every municipality needed a disaster plan and that copies of records needed to be located off premises. He asked staff to review the Town's disaster plan and advise the Board.

**2005 Election Results:** Mayor Norman Cook and Aldermen McDaris and Bumgarner were re-elected by the citizens to serve on the Board for another four years. They thanked the citizens for their support. The newly elected officials will be sworn in at the December meeting.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business motion was made by Alderman Mays, seconded by Alderman McDaris to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

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Town Clerk

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Mayor