

**TOWN OF LONG VIEW
TOWN ALDERMEN MEETING
February 9, 2009**

The Town of Long View Board of Aldermen met on Monday, February 9, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers of the Government Center in Long View, North Carolina.

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

STAFF PRESENT: The following members of staff were present: Town Administrator David Epley, Town Clerk Stephanie Watson, Town Attorney Redmond Dill, Finance Director James Cozart, Town Planner Charles Mullis, Public Works Director David Draughn, Water Plant Superintendent Rani Holland, Fire Chief Eric Shepherd, Police Chief Cecil Rogers, and Police Officer Justin Roberts.

OTHERS PRESENT: Town residents Luther Rudisill, Doug Marlowe, and others were present.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Mayor Norman Cook called the meeting to order and Alderman Jackie Bowman gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Norman Cook asked for approval of the minutes. Motion was made by Alderman Randall Mays, seconded by Alderman Ken Bumgarner to approve the January 12, 2009 minutes. The vote was unanimous.

**PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS CLOSING OF AN UNOPENED PORTION OF
25TH STREET SOUTHWEST (LOCATED BETWEEN 6TH AVENUE
SOUTHWEST AND 26TH STREET PLACE SOUTHWEST)**

Mayor Norman Cook declared the public hearing open and welcomed comments from town residents.

Town Planner Charles Mullis briefly explained the details involved in the closing of the portion of 25th Street Southwest. He explained that the closing of the street would cause no problems for travel to and from the adjoining areas.

Mr. Mullis noted that upon the closure of the street, in accordance with the North Carolina General Statute 160A-299, all right, title, and interest in the right of way will conclusively be presumed to be vested to those owning lots of land adjacent to the street. The title to the adjoining land owners shall extend to the center line of the street. The two properties that will be affected belong to Mr. Jeff Jacomine and Mr. Jarold K. Fleming. Both owners were notified by mailing of the closing of the street.

After a brief discussion, the public hearing to discuss the closing of an unopened portion of 25th Street Southwest was declared closed.

RESOLUTION ORDERING THE CLOSING OF THE UNOPENED PORTION OF 25TH STREET SOUTHWEST (LOCATED BETWEEN 6TH AVENUE SOUTHWEST AND 26TH STREET PLACE SOUTHWEST)

Mayor Norman Cook called for a motion to adopt the resolution ordering the closing of the unopened portion of 25th Street Southwest.

Motion by Alderman Vernon Moyer, seconded by Alderman Ken Bumgarner to adopt the resolution ordering the closing of the unopened portion of 25th Street Southwest (located between 6th Avenue Southwest and 26th Street Place Southwest). The vote was unanimous.

BUDGET RETREAT DATE

Town Administrator David Epley informed the Board that a date needed to be set for the upcoming FY 2009-2010 Budget Retreat. After a brief discussion, three dates in March were chosen as possible candidates. Mr. Epley said that he would check to see which of those three dates were available.

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director James Cozart explained that in the General Fund with 50% of the budget year complete, revenues totaled \$1,754,333.04 at the end of December. Nearly 62% of the Town's budgeted revenues have been collected. Expenditures at December 31st totaled \$1,432,821.69. General Fund revenues exceeded expenditures by \$321,511.35.

In the Utility Fund with 50% of the budget year complete, revenues totaled \$959,320.65 at the end of December. Nearly 48% of the Town's budgeted revenues had been collected. Expenditures at December 31st totaled \$881,478.52. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$77,842.13.

Finance Director James Cozart informed the Board that the Town of Long View received its first deposit of the year from the League of Municipalities Debt Set-Off Program last week. The Town received \$1,765.27 which closed out 14 past due accounts. In the past two years the Town has collected \$21,000 in bad debts that the Town would not have been able to collect without this program. Mr. Cozart explained that Office Assistant Angela Waldeck is currently assisting the Town of Valdese in the implementation of Debt Set-Off Program in their town.

Mr. Cozart informed the Board that Assistant Finance Director Crystal Buchanan has been asked to serve on the NC Association of Business Licensing Officials Committee. She will be involved with the planning of the group's annual conference held in October of this year.

Finance Director James Cozart informed the Board that he is currently serving on the NC League of Municipalities member panel for District 11. The purpose of the panel is to discuss issues that are currently affecting Local Governments.

Finance Director James Cozart informed the Board that the Town will be issuing the check next week to BB&T Governmental Finance for \$135,762. This will be the Final Payment on the Town Hall Complex located at 2404 1st Avenue Southwest.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT

Public Works Director David Draughn informed the Board of the events of the Public Works Department for the past few months.

Mr. Draughn informed the Board that the Town has called the City of Hickory and DEHNR in to assist in dealing with odor problems on the Cape Hickory Road force main. The problem seems to have been found and the odor has not been present for the last two months.

Mr. Draughn said that the Public Works Department has performed weekly inspections of the 37th Street S.W. manholes behind Tailored Foam. Public Works has also replaced 100' of 24" outfall sewer line beside Seventh Day Advent Church on 23rd Street NW because of a cave in.

Mr. Draughn said that Public Works has also worked on cutting roots out of sewer line in the rear yards of 3rd Avenue NW. The Town has hired McGill & Associates to prepare a repair options report and explore funding opportunities for possible replacement or rehab of the line as it is significantly deteriorated and the right-of-way is not protected.

WATER PLANT REPORT

Water Plant Supervisor Rani Holland informed the Board of the events that have occurred in the last few months. She explained that the Town of Long View as of February has officially been welcomed into the Drought Management Awareness Group.

The Water Plant passed a plant inspection that took place in January.

A new employee was hired at the Water Plant.

Water Plant Supervisor Rani Holland informed the Board that the Town is still working on correcting the issues with the Raw Water Pump Station. Work continues on pump one and when it is completed, work will then begin on pump two.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Eric Shepherd informed Board of the events of the last few months in the Fire Department. The department had 77 runs during the months of October, November and December in 2008. Recorded property protected was \$4.68 million with a total loss of only \$105,000. The department recorded 1,349 training hours.

Mr. Shepherd informed the Board that Fire Education continues in the elementary schools and it has had a positive results.

Alderman Jackie Bowman and the rest of the Board wished to recognize the Fire Department for their work in containing the Penelope Baptist Church Fire.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Cecil Rogers informed the Board of the events of the last few months in the Police Department.

Total Street value of seized substances was \$57,803. There were 6 drug related search warrants issued.

Totaled taxes owed on the amount seized in Long View are \$54,183. If the Department of Revenue is able to seize that amount, the Town of Long View's share will be \$40,637.25.

The Town of Long View's Police Department received a certificate from the Governor's Highway Safety Program.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Projects Report

Raw Water Pump Station – Town Administrator David Epley informed the Board that Southern Solutions has installed some modules that will be used to monitor the pump station and has also installed a system that can remotely operate the pumps at the Raw Water Pump Station.

Sewer Plant Renovation – Town Administrator David Epley wished to extend a thank you to Alderman John McDaris and Alderman Ken Bumgarner from the Town for their assistance with the sewer plant renovation.

Penelope Baptist Church – Town Administrator David Epley informed the Board that the Town was planning to assist Penelope Baptist Church in any way that they can.

The Board asked that someone meet with the church and come back with some ideas.

Town Administrator David Epley wished to recognize the Long View Fire Department for their hard work when dealing with the Penelope Baptist Church fire that happened on Sunday, February 8, 2009.

OTHER BUSINESS

A resident of Long View addressed the Board to discuss the possible speeding issue on 6th Avenue NW. The Board asked Police Chief Cecil Rogers to continue to monitor the traveling speeds of cars down that road and report back to them.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Vernon Moyer explained that at last Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) meeting they discussed return on investments. He noted that during the last 40 years the Town of Long View had invested \$55,185 paid in dues to the WPCOG. The WPCOG has procured grants and private dollars received of \$8,535,410 for the Town. The return on investment was \$155 for each dollar the Town has spent.

Alderman Ken Bumgarner wished to extend his thanks to Fire Department for their hard work when dealing with the fire at Penelope Baptist Church. He also wished to extend his thanks to the staff at the Town of Long View.

Alderman John McDaris wished to thank the Town for the best wishes he received during his recovery from his surgery.

Mayor Norman Cook wished to extend his thanks to Town employees for the work they are doing.

There being no further business, motion was made by Alderman Ken Bumgarner, seconded by Alderman John McDaris to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Stephanie C. Watson
Town Clerk

Norman E. Cook
Mayor