

MINUTES FOR BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

JUNE 8, 2021

6:00 PM

The following elected officials were present: Mayor Coleman, Alderman Cearley, Alderwoman Morrow, Alderman Milton, Alderman Withers, and Alderman Huggins.

The following staff members were present: Maria Stroupe, Town Manager; Nolan Groce, Development Services Director; Earl Withers, III, Fire Chief; Shannon Whittle, Town Clerk; Jonathan Newton, Finance Director; Rob Walls, Police Chief; Bill Trudnak, Public Works Director; Doug Huffman, Electric Director; Brand Whitener, Recreation Director; and Tom Hunn, Town Attorney.

Mayor Coleman called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Mayor Coleman opened with the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Approval of Agenda:

Prior to setting the agenda, Mayor Coleman announced that all annexation and rezoning requests that were on previous agendas have been withdrawn by the property owners. Please see Exhibit 2A. He went on to request two further additions to the night's agenda, to be addressed as Items 8C and 8D. Alderwoman Morrow motioned to set the agenda with the additions, seconded by Alderman Withers, and carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Alderman Milton requested that the name "Starletta Harrison" be corrected to "Starletta Hairston" in the minutes from the May 11th Board of Aldermen Meeting. Alderman Milton motioned to approve the minutes from the May 11th Regular Board of Aldermen Meeting with this correction, as well as the minutes from the May 25th Work Session. Alderwoman Morrow seconded this motion and it was carried unanimously.

Recognition of Citizens:

At 6:04pm, the Mayor opened the floor to the Recognition of Citizens.

Starletta Hairston recognized the number of issues the Town has faced in the past year, as well as voiced her approval of the decisions to support the LYNX extension in Gaston County. She added that she is still opposed to the credit card surcharge enacted to alleviate fees charged to the town and is, otherwise, looking forward to all of the upcoming Town events.

Mike Fields also reminded everyone of the upcoming Town events and congratulated Chief Walls on receiving the Heart of a Leader Award.

Curtis Wilson requested to pray over the meeting.

Consent Agenda:

Item 5A Support for LYNX Silver Line in Gaston County Resolution

The key to supporting economic growth in the Charlotte MSA region is a rapid transit system. The Charlotte MSA region's population is over 2.6 million people and is expected to reach over 3 million by 2030. The US Census Bureau (2018) and other entities have projected that 36,364 Gaston County residents are traveling into Mecklenburg County each weekday for work. More transportation options are needed to provide greater mobility to the existing residents, as well as the future residents, of Gaston County. Gaston County will need to work directly with the City of Charlotte, CATS, and the Metropolitan Transit Commission to secure sufficient funds to complete the extension of the LYNX Silver Line in to Gaston County. Attached is a resolution (Exhibit 5A) supporting the LYNX Silver Line in Gaston County and encouraging Gaston County to seek federal, state, and local funding options for the Silver Line extension project.

Item 5B Uncollectable Accounts in the Amount of \$23,496.09 to be Submitted to NC Debt Setoff

For authorization are uncollectable accounts from the months of December 2020 – February 2021. These accounts have been notified of their outstanding status in writing that if not paid within the notified timeframe that they would be forwarded to the NC Debt Setoff Program and that this debt would be taken from any State Income Tax Refund they are due, until the debt is satisfied. The individual account listing that generates the total uncollectable amount due are considered by State statute to be confidential to be confidential information, and therefore are not public record.

Item 5C Interlocal Agreement for Collection of Taxes

Attached is an updated Interlocal Agreement for Collection of Taxes by Gaston County (Exhibit 5C) for taxes due to the Town of Dallas. The agreement outlines the collection duties, payment schedule, and fees charged by the County in the performance of this function on behalf of the Town.

Alderman Morrow motioned to collectively approve all items under the consent agenda, seconded by Alderman Cearley, and carried unanimously.

Public Hearings:

6A Proposed FY 2021-22 Budget Ordinance

At 6:10pm, Alderman Withers motioned to enter into a public hearing, seconded by Alderman Huggins, and carried unanimously.

Town Manager, Maria Stroupe, provided a presentation addressing the key points of this budget. Enclosed (Exhibit 6A) is the proposed Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, including the proposed fee schedules. Preparation for this Budget Ordinance included a Strategic Planning meeting that was held on March 1, 2021, and the first Budget Work Session that was held on March 23, 2021. An original draft proposal was submitted to the Board on May 21, 2021 for review at the second Budget Work Session held on May 25, 2021. No changes were proposed to

the draft budget by the Board at the May 25th Work Session. As proposed, the FY 2021-2022 budget for the Town of Dallas would total \$17,944,427 (an increase of 3.70% from the pre-COVID FY2019-2020 budget), and includes the fund breakdown shown below. * Note: the FY2019-2020 budget did not include the Economic Development Fund, which makes up 1.70% of FY2021-2022m budget.

General Fund:	\$4,484,154
Water & Sewer Fund:	\$4,000,202
Electric Fund:	\$8,948,206
Economic Development Fund:	\$307,964
Storm Water Fund:	\$203,901

This budget is based upon an Ad Valorem (property) tax rate of \$0.42 (which reflects a \$0.02 change/\$100 valuation). This budget also includes a \$1.00 per month increase in the Garbage Collection fee and 6.0% increase in Water/Sewer rates. NC G.S. §159-12 requires that the Board hold a public hearing before adopting the budget ordinance so that any persons who wish to be heard on the budget may voice their comments. Once Ms. Stroupe finished her presentation, the floor was open to public comment.

Starletta Hairston congratulated the Town Manager and Staff on the presented budget and commended the Town on raising the entry pay level to \$15. She also inquired if there were plans to add electric vehicle charging stations.

Mike Fields asked if the Town had access to the office space located in the Court House instead of renovating a building and was informed that the Town does not have access to that building for full-time use.

At 6:48pm, Alderman Huggins motioned to exit the Public Hearing, seconded by Alderwoman Morrow, and carried unanimously.

At this time, Alderman Huggins motion to approve the proposed FY2021-22 Budget and Fee Schedule as proposed, seconded by Alderman Withers, and carried by Alderman Milton. Alderman Cearley and Alderwoman Morrow were opposed and the Ordinance was passed with a 3-2 vote.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business to conduct.

New Business:

Item 8A American Rescue Plan Budget Amendment

On March 11, 2021, Congress approved the American Rescue Plan (ARP) in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. The plan included funds to be appropriated to local governments. Dallas is estimated to receive a total of \$1.4M, with half received by June 15, 2021, and the other

half received 12 months later. Attached is a budget amendment for the Town to receive the first of two allotments of ARP funds. Guidance on use of these funds is being distributed and there are still points that need to be clarified, as uses are limited. Funds cannot be co-mingled with regular revenues, so Staff has set up a separate fund within the accounting system to clearly track the receipt and use of ARP monies. All funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and expended by December 31, 2026. Allowable uses include: revenue replacement of losses due to pandemic, investments in drinking water and sewer infrastructure, and broadband infrastructure. Please see Exhibit 8A. Alderman Milton motioned to approve the budget amendment as presented, seconded by Alderman Cearley, and carried unanimously.

Item 8B Electric True-Up and Refunds Budget Amendment

As part of the contract with Duke Energy, Dallas operates peak shaving generators. Each year based on a pre-determined formula, there is a true-up component that is also part of the Duke Energy contract. This true-up component can result in the Town of Dallas paying additional funds to Duke Energy, or Duke Energy paying the Town of Dallas a refund of prior payments based upon criteria in the contract. There have also been several audit reviews that we anticipate receiving refunds for in conjunction with the true-up. While we are still waiting for a final number, attached is a budget amendment reflecting anticipated revenues and budgeting it to purposes that will return value to the Town of Dallas. There are future needs to upgrade the Warehouse facility and Staff recommends placing the entire amount in a Capital Reserve Fund for these future needs in order to reduce dependence on debt. See Exhibit 8B. Alderman Withers motioned to approve the budget amendment as presented, seconded by Alderman Cearley, and carried unanimously.

Item 8C Juneteenth Recognition

Alderman Milton spoke on the importance of June 19th, also known as Juneteenth, the day the Emancipation Proclamation finally freed all of the remaining slaves in the South. Alderman Milton also spoke not only on the day's historical significance, but also about its importance to the African American community. It is important to recognize this day for the holiday that it is. Alderman Milton motioned to approve a resolution declaring June 19, 2021 as Juneteenth in Dallas, North Carolina and encouraging all citizens to join in celebration. Please see Exhibit 8C. This motion was seconded by Alderman Withers and carried unanimously.

Item 8D Rescheduling the June Work Session

Due to several items needing to be presented to the Planning Board before coming to the Board of Aldermen, Mayor Coleman has requested that the June 22nd Work Session be moved to June 29th. This will give Staff the opportunity to move things through the proper channels. Alderman Cearley motioned to move the June Work session from June 22nd to June 29th. This motion was seconded by Alderwoman Morrow and carried unanimously.

Manager's Report:

At this time, Ms. Stroupe informed the Board that work has begun on the parking lot on 102 E. Trade St. and reminded them that the second Concert and Cruise-In will be held this Saturday.

She also announced that Town facilities will begin accepting rental requests again beginning on June 15th. She closed by informing the Board that the requested park benches to be placed around the Square have been ordered, but do take 16 weeks for delivery.

Before closing the Meeting, Mayor Coleman asked Chief Walls to tell a bit about his recent training program he attended. Chief Walls was very enthusiastic in his recount and said it was a very positive experience. He was awarded the Heart of a Leader Award by his peers. Once the final leg of training hours is completed, he and Captain Fleming will both be certified by the State.

Chief Withers reminded everyone about the upcoming Carolina Brotherhood event on June 14th, which will be honoring Travis Wells.

Alderman Huggins motioned to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Milton, and carried unanimously. 7:15 pm.

Rick Coleman, Mayor

Sarah Hamrick, Acting Town Clerk