

**MINUTES FOR BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING**  
**AUGUST 9, 2016**  
**6:00 PM**

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

The following staff members were present: Maria Stroupe, Town Manager; Da'Sha Leach, Town Clerk; Town Attorney, Tom Hunn; Allen Scott, Police Chief; Doug Huffman, Electric Director; Steve Lambert, Fire Chief; Anne Martin, Recreation Director; Martine Vaca, Development Services Director; and Bill Trudnak, Public Works Director.

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

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

Mayor Coleman welcomed two "old/new" employees. Da'Sha Leach has been working for the Town 10 years is now the Town Clerk and Maria Stroupe has been working for the Town 15 years is now the Town Manager.

Mayor Coleman asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Mayor Coleman asked that Item 10B under the new business section be moved to Consent Agenda Item 5E. He also asked that item 5C move to New Business as 10B. Alderwoman Thomas asked that the Health Fair for The Save Our Children's Movement, Inc. be added to the agenda under new business as 10C. Alderman Withers made a motion to approve the agenda, including the changes, seconded by Alderwoman Thomas, and carried unanimously.

Alderman Huggins made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting and the July 26<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting, seconded by Alderwoman Morrow, and carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

Item 5A was a request to approve a budget amendment for Labor Component of Electric Circuit Rebuild Project. The Town solicited bids for this project in early December for the rebuilding of two electric line circuits. For this project, a bid for labor was accepted from T& D Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$336,121.20 and a bid for materials was accepted from Wesco Distribution with the cost amount being \$131,325.55. A budget amendment was presented in the 2015/2016 budget year for materials but the labor component was not due to the time frame of the commencement of the project. A budget amendment is needed to account for labor expenditures associated with this project. (Exhibit A)

Item 5B was a request to approve of Agreement with Gaston County Department of Building Inspections for the Inspection of Unsafe Buildings. The Town contracted with Centralina Council of Government (CCOG) for work related enforcement of the Town's minimum housing code last year, costs were \$5224. The contract to renew will be \$5971 but the Town has an option of \$250 per occurrence with Gaston County Department of Building Inspection obtained by Martine Vaca, Development Services Director. The option with Gaston County will give Dallas more control and oversight of the violation process as well as documentation. (Exhibit B)

Item 5C was a request for approval of use of the Dennis Franklin Gym by Local Law Enforcement Entities-moved to the New Business section as 10 B.

Item 5D was a request to approve of a Proclamation Honoring Larry Penley's Induction into the Gaston County Sports Hall of Fame. Larry Penley, a native of Dallas, is being honored by the Gaston County Sports Hall of Fame. A proclamation from Dallas will be presented to Larry at a dinner and reception being held on August 12<sup>th</sup>. (Exhibit C)

Item 5E rescheduling August 23, 2016 Meeting to August 25, 2016.

Alderman Withers made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Alderwoman Thomas, and carried unanimously.

### **Recognition of Citizens:**

Dale Porter- Director over Adult Nutrition for Gaston County, 330 S. Marietta St., She is requesting volunteers from the Dallas Citizens to deliver meals for the Meals on Wheels program. As a volunteer, you will only deliver once a month to an elderly or disabled person. There may be times where she may call to ask in the absence of another volunteer but she expects this to be rare circumstances. They have a Dallas site location of the Lutheran Church on Philadelphia Church Rd. She handed out flyers and business cards. Any help is greatly appreciated! (Exhibit D)

Mr. Curtis Wilson, 438 S. Gaston St., He prayed for our country, Town Leaders, Town Staff, the agenda, and the meeting.

Pastor Sherman Branch of Emmanuel Church, 208 N. Spargo., He was inquiring where he could get more information regarding the widening of the road? He was concerned about how that would affect his church and/or any future plans they may have. Mayor Coleman stated that he would give him some information if he would see him after the meeting.

### **Special Events & Requests for In-Kind Services: None**

### **Public Hearings:**

Item 8A was a Public Hearing and Possible Action on the Request for Voluntary, Non-Contiguous Annexation into the Town Limits of Dallas for a property at 1108 East Main Street: Michael L. Cloninger, Applicant. Alderwoman Thomas made a motion to enter into the public hearing, seconded by Alderman Cearley, and carried unanimously. Development Services Director Martine Vaca has proposed to move this item to the September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting due to a zoning matter. There has to be a public notice advertised to address the re-zoning of this property since it is listed as Residential under Gaston County zoning and it would need to be listed as Business Zoning under the Town since it will be operated as a restaurant. The Planning Board will meet on August 18<sup>th</sup> to address the zoning matter since it is currently zoned under Gaston County as Residential. On the September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, both hearings can be held. The property owner Mr. Michael L. Cloninger has been notified. (Exhibit E) Alderwoman Thomas made a motion to continue on September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, seconded by Alderman Cearley, and carried unanimously.

Item 8B was a Public Hearing for consideration of Designating the 100 Block of N. Davis St. as One-Way Traveling North. Alderman Cearley made a motion to enter into the public hearing, seconded by Alderwoman Thomas, and carried unanimously. Mayor Coleman stated that he had been in contact with the Department of Transportation and he expects to have an answer from them by September. The changes in this intersection could be a fully funded project due to 3 million in grant money being available. The work will start by the fall of the next year once approved. Alderman Huggins stated that two years ago, they approved the project. Byron from NCDOT may respond soon. Mayor Coleman recommends a delay on a decision on this hearing because a response from DOT hasn't come in yet. Mayor Coleman asks if anyone in the audience would like to comment on the hearing or if they had any questions. Audience member Mary Boyce of 518 E. Peachtree St. said she was glad the State is thinking about re-structuring the roads. She explained that she uses this particular road several times a week going south and she would like to keep the street a two way street. She said she has gathered a signed petition to keep Davis Street a two-way street. (Exhibit F) Audience member Pearl Burris Floyd of 518 E. Main St. said she was against making Davis St. a one-way street because it would cause more safety concerns. She spoke with DOT and they reported that E. Main Street has 15,000 cars per day. With a one-way street, that would drive even more traffic onto E. Main St. and that would be bad. She also spoke to Rep. John Torbin regarding her concerns on this matter. She is against making N. Davis St. a one-way street. Audience member Leon Lay of 110 N. Davis St. stated that N. Davis Street is not wide enough for two cars and especially anything with six wheels. There is already a sign posted that says No Trucks Allowed but they travel it frequently. He stated that he has never seen any trucks pulled over by the police for this violation of coming onto the street they aren't allowed on. He stated that the sign has been posted a long time. He has sat in his shop many days and

counted the number of cars and trucks coming up N. Davis Street. Even the Spencer Mountain Fire Department Trucks will come onto this street, clearly ignoring the sign posted No Trucks Allowed. He is supporting it as a one-way street. He thanked Ms. Boyce and Ms. Burris-Floyd for their statements. Alderman Withers made a motion to continue the hearing until September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, seconded by Alderman Cearley, and carried unanimously.

#### **Old Business: None**

#### **New Business:**

Item 10A was a request to approve a Part-Time Project Coordinator Position. The position will be planning, managing and executing projects as needed. This item was previously discussed but there wasn't an official job description written at the time of the discussion. (Exhibit G) Alderman Huggins made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderwoman Thomas, and carried unanimously.

Item 10B (Original) was re-scheduled August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting to the August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting, regarding the Coal Ash and other matters of interest the would be of concern to Dallas.

Item 10B (New but formerly Item 5C) was a request for approval of Use of the Dennis Franklin Gym by Local Law Enforcement Entities. Local law enforcement groups request to use the Dennis Franklin Gym for training or physical fitness. Currently, there is no policy in place to use for non-Town sponsored events so each request is brought before the Board of Aldermen for approval. Chief Scott has presented a request that would allow the Gaston County Sheriff's Office, Gaston County Police, and Basic Law Enforcement Training cadets from Gaston College to request use of the gym through the Parks & Recreation Director Anne Martin. Ms. Martin could authorize these groups to use the gym upon request, as long as the Town was not using the facility for a Town-sponsored function. By allowing Ms. Martin the ability to schedule the requests, the process would be more streamlined for the requesting entity, as well as the Town. Alderman Withers requested that Dallas Fire and Rescue personnel also be included. Alderwoman Morrow made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Cearley, and carried unanimously. (Exhibit H)

Item 10C was the added item to discuss use of the Fire Department on September 17<sup>th</sup> for a Health Fair by Save Our Children's Movement, Inc. This organization is a non-profit that has a mission to provide some of the basic and practical needs of the children in the low-income areas of the United States. They assist with food, clothing, mentorship, academics, family support, recreation, behavioral skills, and other areas of youth development. The representative for organization explained the various projects they have completed in the past. CEO of the organization Martha Bratton proposed to be able to have a first-time event in Dallas. They would like to have a Blood Drive, a Nutritionist come out, possible HIV screenings, possible mammogram screenings, the kefa program, other food programs, and much more in the community. They presented a brochure as well as contact information. (Exhibit) Alderwoman Thomas made a motion to approve the use of the Fire Department for a Health Fair, seconded by Alderman Withers, and carried unanimously. (Exhibit I)

#### **Manager's Report**

Maria Stroupe updates:

- The parking lot project is ready to start. They vendor had some delays due to permitting as well as the survey. They are setting up equipment now so the work will resume soon. Administration employees will be parking on the street or at the bank parking lot behind Town Hall's parking lot.
- The Milling project will start next week. It will be stamped asphalt, not brick (brick appearance). There will be a possible option to elect a color change after the paving has taken place per Public Works Director Bill Trudnak
- There was an official job offer made to fill the Finance Director position and she will be coming on board on August 29<sup>th</sup>. The name will not officially be released at this time to ensure she has had the opportunity to inform her current employer of the job acceptance.

-Alderwoman Thomas, Doug, and Maria will be attending the 2016 Electricities Annual Conference from the 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> in Concord, NC.

**Closed Session:**

Alderman Withers made a motion to enter into a closed session as provided for in GS §143.318.1, seconded by Alderwoman Morrow, and carried unanimously. (6:48)

Alderman Withers made a motion to exit the public hearing, seconded by Alderwoman Morrow, and carried unanimously. (7:28) No action was taken.

Alderwoman Thomas made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Cearley, and carried unanimously. (8:00)

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Rick Coleman, Mayor

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Da'Sha Leach, Town Clerk