

MINUTES FOR BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

November 15th, 2011

6:00 PM

The following elected officials were present: Mayor Coleman, Alderman Friday, Alderman Huggins, Alderman Martin, and Alderman Withers. Alderman Beaty was absent.

The following staff members were present: Ed Munn, Interim Town Manager; Maria Stroupe, Administrative Services Director; Pennie Thrower, Town Attorney; Doug Huffman, Electric Director; Allen Scott, Police Captain; Bill Trudnak, Public Works Director; David Kahler, Community Development Director; and Anne Martin, Recreation Director. Steve Lambert, Fire Chief, was absent.

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

Mayor Coleman opened with the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The Mayor asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were no additions or deletions to the agenda. Mr. Beaty made a motion to set the agenda, seconded by Mr. Martin, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 18, 2011, seconded by Mr. Beaty, and carried unanimously.

Recognition of Citizens:

Mr. Randall Jones made an additional presentation to the Shop With A Cop Program. He presented Sgt. Walls with a check for \$715. To date he has presented a total of \$1725 to the program. During the presentation, Mr. Jones showed a painting that he had for sale. Mr. Beaty purchased the painting and that addition brought the grand total so far to \$1875. He expects to be able to donate additional funds before the end of the year.

Ms. Carla Howell, 302 S. Oakland St., had requested time during citizen comments, but was not present. Mr. Withers spoke on her concerns, as he had spoken with her. During football practice at the field across from the Civic Building, cars are parking in front of her house and partially in the road. She would like to request that parking be restricted in that area between 5:00 and 9:00 pm. Mr. Martin made a motion that no parking be allowed on the west side of S. Oakland St. from Church St. southward and that the parking spaces on the east side of the street be designated as handicapped except for one space in front of the Rescue Squad that would be designated for Rescue Squad use, seconded by Mr. Beaty, and carried unanimously. Staff was directed to present an ordinance at the next meeting documenting this motion.

Mr. Curtis Wilson, 438 S. Gaston St., had two comments. Firstly, he asked if residents that live outside the city limits are permitted to attend the monthly Board meetings and voice opinions. Mayor Coleman stated that anyone can attend the meetings and address the Board during the open comment segment. Secondly, Mr. Wilson asked if the Board would reconsider moving the Nativity Scene to what he considers a more prominent spot on the Court Square. He understands the legal ramifications of the separation of church and state. The Board deferred to Ms. Thrower for advice. Ms. Thrower stated that while she was sympathetic to Mr. Wilson's opinion, she would advise leaving the Nativity Scene where it currently is placed. Government entities are not allowed to promote one religion over another. Currently, the Nativity Scene shares space with other representations of Christmas. Mr. Withers made a motion to move the Nativity Scene to the corner of Trade St. and Gaston St., seconded by Mr. Huggins. Mr. Martin made a motion to go into Closed Session for legal advice on the motion on the floor, as provided for in G.S. § 143-318.11, seconded by Mr. Beaty, and carried by the following vote: Yays – Mr. Beaty, Mr. Friday, Mr. Huggins, and Mr. Martin. Nays – Mr. Withers. (6:39) Mr. Martin made a motion to exit Closed Session, seconded by Mr. Beaty, and carried unanimously. Mayor

Coleman called for a vote on the motion on the floor. Mr. Withers stated that he wanted to amend his previous motion to include adding a Santa Claus or other Christmas items to corner of Trade St. and Gaston St. Mr. Huggins agreed to the additions and confirmed his seconding of the motion. The motion was passed by the following vote: Yays – Mr. Friday, Mr. Huggins, and Mr. Withers. Nays – Mr. Beaty and Mr. Martin.

Awards and Recognition of Employees:

Item 6-A recognized Robert Walls for 10 years of service to the Town. Mr. Walls was hired on October 18, 2001 as a Patrolman in the Police Department. In December 2004, he was promoted to Sergeant and continues to serve the Town in this position. Mayor Coleman presented Mr. Walls with a Certificate of Recognition for his service. (Exhibit A)

Public Hearing:

None

Old Business:

The first item, Item 7-A, was information concerning a special meeting to be held Thursday, November 17, 2011 at 6:00 pm to interview the four engineering firms that submitted proposals for the Water Distribution System project. The firms will be interviewed one at a time allowing each firm approximately 30 minutes for their presentation and to answer questions from the Board. Staff developed a list of questions that the Board may want to ask all of the firms. (Exhibit B) The Board asked that the questions be forwarded to each firm so they could be prepared with answers and could stay within their allotted timeframe.

The second item, Item 7-B, was appointment of a citizens’ advisory committee to assist with the renovation of the Courthouse. Each Alderman, and the Mayor, was to appoint one person from the community to this committee. The architect has begun preliminary work and the committee needs to be formed by December. The following appointments were made to the committee: Mary Anne Carpenter by Alderman Friday, Anna Pasour by Alderman Martin, Stacy Duff by Alderman Withers, Rebecca Rhyne by Alderman Huggins, Nick Vlaservich by Alderman Beaty, and Frank Milton by Mayor Coleman. Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the appointments as presented, seconded by Mr. Withers, and carried unanimously.

New Business:

Item 8-A, was information concerning application for the PART-F Recreation grant. Dallas has the opportunity to apply for these grant funds for next year. Application was made this past year, but Dallas was not awarded the grant. Our past grant application included a plan to use the land behind Carr Elementary School to begin construction on a park, beginning with a walking track and soccer field. The Town had designated \$40,000 for our share of this project, to be matched by the State. We can opt to submit the same project this year, or submit a different project. The deadline for application is December 23rd and at least one public hearing will have to be held. The grant is a 50/50 match grant. The estimated cost of the project as presented is \$91,961.50, which would be a cost of \$45,480.75 to the Town. Mr. Martin made a motion to set a public hearing for December 13, 2011 at 6:00 pm, seconded by Mr. Withers, and carried unanimously.

Item 8-B, was information concerning achievements at North Gaston High School. North Gaston has earned recognition as being one of the most improved high schools in the State. Mr. Munn distributed an article that was published in the Gaston Gazette outlining North Gaston’s achievements. (Exhibit C) At some point, the Town could publicly recognize the progress at North Gaston High School.

Item 9, was a manager's report from Mr. Ed Munn, Interim Town Manager, highlighting various projects currently underway in Dallas.

Mr. Withers made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Martin, and carried unanimously. (7:27)

Rick Coleman, Mayor

Maria Stroupe, Town Clerk

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

This certificate is awarded to

ROBERT WALLEN WALLS

in recognition of his 10th anniversary with the Town of Dallas on **October 18, 2011**
and in gratitude for his years of dedication and service

TOWN OF DALLAS



Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Dallas Water Distribution Line Improvement Program

Questions for Engineering Firms:

1. What would be a reasonable timetable for beginning the actual water line improvement work?
2. Explain the development and use of your model.
3. Describe the process you would use to determine which lines would be priorities.
4. What is your understanding of reasons for discoloration and sediment in water lines and what is the best way to remove it?
5. Are there operational practices that can help? (such as flushing, etc.)
6. What water line materials present the worst problems for water quality (asbestos? galvanized? etc.) What materials would you use for new water lines?
7. How would you determine the appropriate size for the replacement water lines?
8. Is there a need to consider installing new loops to improve water quality? If so, explain.
9. What problems do you foresee in the process of replacing older lines?
10. What are the issues associated with the tap to the meter section of the lines?
11. Should the old lines remain in place and be capped?
12. How can we minimize service disruptions during the process?
13. Are there process or material innovations that should be used?
14. Do we expect any issues with NCDNER? Do you have a way to facilitate the review?
15. What is a good "rule-of-thumb" for estimating engineering costs for our project?

A distinct turnaround

North Gaston High improves in state test score ranking

By Amanda Memrick
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North Gaston High School has transformed from one of the state's lowest performers to one of its most improved.

Five years ago, less than 60 percent of students earned passing marks on year-end state tests. After that happened two years in a row, the school became a "priority school" and joined the group of 66 low-performing high schools in a state turnaround initiative.

North Gaston recently received recognition again, but this time it was for its academic success of having more than 80 percent of students achieve proficient scores on the year-end state tests. Last year, North Gaston had 86.6 percent of students passing the End-of-Course tests, an increase of almost 31 points from its 2006-07 score of 55.8 percent of students earning passing marks.

Brent Boone served as principal of North Gaston from 2004 to 2011. He's now the executive director of high schools and said the school staff worked hard to make students believe they could be as successful as any other school.

Teachers began collaborating, sharing what and how they teach. Other staff worked to address students' social and emotional needs, Boone said.

"We were just willing to do whatever it took," Boone said.

The staff extended the school day by offering opportunities for students to regain credits in the morning, afternoon and on Saturdays. School leaders worked to get a community that had shown support for athletic success to cheer on academic success and get students on board, too.

"You have to convince them that it's important to them. The only way to convince that student is to build a relationship with that student where they trust you," Boone said. "Any success that you can find, you celebrate that and you build on that. You accentuate the positives that are going on in a school. And success breeds success."

Boone's no longer at the helm of the school, but he anticipates seeing the school's scores continue to rise. Judy Moore took over as principal this year. Moore served as an assistant principal at North Gaston before becoming principal at Mount Holly Middle for the last few years.

North Gaston earned a "School of Distinction" label for the last two years and would have been a "School of Excellence" if the state hadn't changed what subjects counted for state tests last year, Boone said.

Of the turnaround schools recognized by the state, North Gaston had the fifth highest score. Phillip O. Berry Academy of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools led the pack with 94.7-percent proficiency on test scores.

You can reach Amanda Memrick at 704-869-1839.

“ Any success that you can find, you celebrate that and you build on that. ”

Brent Boone
executive director of high schools

