

MINUTES FOR BOARD OF ALDERMEN WORK SESSION

FEBRUARY 23, 2021

5:00 PM

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

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

Mayor Coleman called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

At this time, Alderman Milton prayed over the meeting in remembrance of Christie Huffstetler.

Following the prayer, Mayor Coleman asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Alderman Milton indicated that he had something he wished to discuss, to be addressed as Item #3D. Alderman Withers motioned to approve the agenda with this addition, seconded by Alderwoman Morrow, and carried unanimously.

Item 3A: Presentation from Donny Hicks, EDC. Donny Hicks, Executive Director of the Gaston County Economic Development Commission, will be presenting information concerning possible economic development projects along the Highway 321 corridor. This presentation was for information that could impact Dallas. The Board would like to receive more information on this and discuss it further at a later date.

Item 3B: K-9 Program Presentation. Police Officer JonMark Smith has been researching funding and set up a K-9 program for the Police Department. He will be presenting the information he has gathered in order to determine interest in pursuing a K-9 program in Dallas. The Board has agreed to continue to pursue this goal.

Item 3C: No Parking Schedule. At the February 9th Board of Aldermen meeting, staff was directed to meet and make a recommendation on a minimum street width that would automatically qualify as “No Parking”. Following further discussions, staff recommends a phased approach, starting with street 18 feet or less in width, with the following provisions:

- No Street Signs
- Generate and post list of affected streets on website

- No Parking includes Town right-of-way
- Complaint driven enforcement
- Holiday Exemption – Town recognized holidays

Two other parking related topics were discussed during the meeting: fire hydrants and trash cans. Staff is recommending the addition of the following provisions:

- *No person shall park a vehicle within 15 ft. in either direction of a fire hydrant.*
- *Trash cans must be located a minimum of 5 ft. from parked vehicle. If not, trash will not be collected.*

The Board will consider the presented information (Exhibit #3C) and bring this topic back for discussion with some amendments, to be voted on on March 9th.

Item 3D: Comments from Alderman Milton. Alderman Milton has expressed interest in setting up a COVID-19 vaccination clinic within the Town, particularly to help those with accessibility or transportation issues. This could possibly take the form of a mobile or drive-thru unit and would help encourage more people to get the vaccine.

Maria Stroupe, Town Manager, reminded everyone about the Strategic Planning meeting to be held on March 1st at the Civic Building. She concluded by asked everyone to keep Christie's family in their hearts and prayers.

Alderman Withers motioned to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Cearley, and carried unanimously. (6:37 pm).

Rick Coleman, Mayor

Shannon Whittle, Town Clerk