

## MINUTES FOR BOARD OF ALDERMEN WORK SESSION

MARCH 23, 2021

5:00 PM

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

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; Bill Trudnak, Public Works Director; Doug Huffman, Electric Director; and Earl Withers, III, Fire Chief.

Mayor Coleman called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Mayor Coleman opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, followed by the Invocation.

At this time, Mayor Coleman asked if there any changes to be made to the agenda. Maria Stroupe requested to add a discussion about the upcoming Gastonia Taskforce to combat homelessness, which was added to agenda item 3D under New Business.

Item 3A: Public Hearings for April. At the March 9, 2021 Board of Aldermen regular meeting, the Board set April 13<sup>th</sup> as the public hearing date for the following four items:

- Routszong annexation of 3 contiguous parcels
- Rhyne annexation of 1 non-contiguous parcel
- Summey rezoning of 1 parcel
- Wilson rezoning of 1 parcel

The aforementioned properties are part of potential future single-family residential development. Each property, through annexation and rezoning, is seeking R-5 Zoning Classification. This zoning classification allows the following:

- Single family attached and detached housing
- Min. Lot area of 5,500 sq ft
- Min Lot area per DU of 5,500 sq ft; -500 SF per attached side
- Min lot width of 50 ft
- Min front/rear depth of 25 ft
- Side yard of 6 ft
- Height of 35 ft

Please note that attached housing shall be exempt from side yard setback requirements and may reduce lot width by 5 feet for each attached side. Further reduction may be permitted through conditional zoning. Attached buildings to include 3 or more units are only allowed with conditional approval regardless of zoning designation. Additionally, rear setback may be reduced by 5 feet at the discretion of Town Staff if requested to accommodate a larger front setback for

parking purposes only. Further reduction may be permitted through conditional zoning. Please see Exhibit 3A for accompanying documentation.

Item 3B: Law Enforcement Salary Review. At the March 9, 2021 Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting, the Board discussed changes to law enforcement salary minimums in surrounding jurisdictions. From this discussion, it was requested that salaries at the Dallas Police Department be reviewed based on a minimum salary of \$43,000 per year and this information was brought back for the March 23<sup>rd</sup> Work Session. See Exhibit 3B for a graph indicating current versus projected salaries beginning with a \$43,000 minimum salary for new officers with no experience. This change would result in a budgetary increase of approximately \$59,000 annually in salaries, with a total impact of approximately \$90,000 annually, including overtime and fringe benefits. This will be voted on at the April Board Meeting.

Item 3C: Budget Discussion. This discussion centered around priorities for consideration in the development of the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Budget. Please see Exhibit 3C for all relevant budgetary information. A brief break was taken at 6:23 pm and discussions resumed at 6:32 pm. A special Board of Alderman Work Session will be called for Tuesday, March 30, 2021 to further review the budget information.

Item 3D: Homelessness Taskforce. Ms. Stroupe was recently approached by the City of Gastonia inquiring whether the Board of Aldermen would have any availability to serve on the upcoming taskforce to combat homelessness. After some debate, it was decided that Ms. Stroupe would be the most effective candidate for the role.

At this time, Ms. Stroupe informed everyone that a vendor out of Lexington has been found to conduct the Town's July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks celebration this year. The show will be 20 minutes long and will require no volunteers from the Town itself.

Alderman Cearley motioned to adjourn, seconded by Alderwoman Morrow, and carried unanimously. (7:20 pm).

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Rick Coleman, Mayor

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Shannon Whittle, Town Clerk