

MINUTES FOR BOARD OF ALDERMENT MEETING

MAY 11, 2021

6:00 PM

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

The following staff members were present: Maria Stroupe, Town Manager; Nolan Groce, Development Services Director; Shannon Whittle, Town Clerk; Jonathan Newton, Finance Director; Earl Withers, III, Fire Chief; Marcus Fleming, Police Captain; Bill Trudnak, Public Works Director; Doug Huffman, Electric 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 asked that Items 7A, 7B, 7C, and 7D under Old Business, as well as Item 8D under New Business, be continued until the June 8th Board of Alderman meeting. Alderwoman Morrow motioned to approve the agenda with the deletions and continuances, seconded by Alderman Withers, and carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

At this time, Alderman Milton motioned to approve the minutes from the April 13 Regular Meeting, as well as from the April 27th and May 4th Work Sessions. Alderwoman Morrow seconded this motion and it carried unanimously.

Recognition of Citizens:

At 6:05 pm, the Mayor opened the floor for the Recognition of Citizens.

Starletta Hairston expressed that it was great to be back at in-person meetings and congratulated the Police Department on their new K9 officers. She also thanked the town for the flyer that was sent out and voiced her concerns over the upcoming card usage fee. The Mayor and Town Manager explained that this was not a revenue generator for the town and informed her that there were several other options available to those wishing to avoid the usage fees. Before taking her seat, she also expressed appreciation for Alderman Withers' idea to keep American flags around the courthouse year-round.

Jack Wallace addressed the Board and voiced his continued opposition to the Summey property development.

Mike Fields echoed Ms. Hairston's appreciation of keeping the flags around the courthouse and said that at the very least they should be kept up from Memorial Day through Labor Day. He also thanked Sammy's and the 9/11 Foundation for their help with the K9 fundraiser and expressed

his gratitude to the Town employees for their hard work during the concert and cruise-in. He also requested that the Police Department be given their own Facebook page.

Consent Agenda:

Item 5A National Public Works Week Proclamation

National Public Works Week has been sponsored by the American Public Works Association and the Canadian Public Works Association since 1960. Public Works staff are critical to the maintenance and upkeep of facilities, infrastructure, and public thoroughfares. They provide vital service to the community and quality of life. Attached (Exhibit 5A) is a proclamation recognizing May 16-22, 2021 as National Public Works Week.

Item 5B National Police Week Proclamation

In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others. It is appropriate to proclaim the week of May 9-15, 2021 as National Police Week in Dallas and to recognize the service of the Dallas Police Department. Please see Exhibit 5B for official resolution.

Item 5C Audit Contract Approval for FY2020-21 Fiscal Year

Lowdermilk Church & Co. have conducted the past seven years' audits and have completed the work professionally and in a timely manner. It is the recommendation of Staff to contract with Lowdermilk Church & Co. for the FY2020-21 annual audit. The contract outlines that they will conduct the audit for \$19,500, prepare the annual financial statements for \$4,000, and assist with year-end bookkeeping for \$2,500; for a combined total of \$26,000 for all services. This reflects a \$400 increase from last year's cost. For comparison, the last audit conducted by Collis and Associates for FY2012-13 cost the Town \$26,500 for the same services. The NC Local Government Commission division of the State Treasurer's Office requires that the Town approve this contract first before submitting to their office for final approval. Please see Exhibit 5C for audit contract.

Item 5D Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement Renewal

On June 1, 2021, the current Regional Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement for 2018 will expire and the 2021 agreement will go into effect. This agreement allows the Dallas Police Department to request assistance from other police agencies, as well as to provide assistance. The attached agreement (Exhibit 5D) and resolution updates the Mutual Aid Agreement between the Dallas Police Department and other municipal and county law enforcement agencies.

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

Public Hearings:

There were no public hearings scheduled for this meeting.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business to conduct, as these items have been deleted from this meeting and tabled until the June Board meeting.

New Business:*Item 8A Budget Amendment for Fire Department Equipment Grant and Truck Purchase*

The Dallas Fire Department has been awarded a Firehouse Subs Grant to purchase a Hurst Cutter, Spreader, Ram, and Accessories. This grant is a 100% grant up to \$26,606.37. Also, the Department has found a pre-owned 105' Platform Ladder truck for purchase to replace the aged-out 1989 Ladder truck. The total projected cost of purchase, shipping, and needed modifications is \$127,200. Attached is a budget amendment (Exhibit 8A) to appropriate grant funds and accompanying equipment purchase, as well as the truck purchase. Alderman Cearley motioned to approve the Fire Department Budget Amendment as presented, seconded by Alderman Milton, and carried unanimously.

Item 8B Resolution Opposing HB401 and SB349

HB401 and SB349 are being reviewed in the North Carolina General Assembly. These are companion bills that would eliminate single-family housing zoning in North Carolina. These bills would be detrimental to local governments in North Carolina and take away local control of development and growth. The Planning Association and the North Carolina League of Municipalities are disseminating information on an ongoing basis. All of these agencies are in opposition to the proposals. Attached is a resolution (Exhibit 8B) opposing HB401 and SB349. Alderman Cearley motioned to approve the resolution as presented and direct the Town Clerk to send executed copies of the resolution to Senate and House representatives. Alderman Withers seconded this and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 8C Special Event Application

Ms. Shaina Clemmer has submitted a Special Event Application for "American Market Days" on Saturday, June 5, 2021. The event would showcase vendors with handmade crafts and products. Ms. Clemmer plans to charge a vendor fee that would be donated to the Katelyn Self Scholarship fund at North Gaston High School and the Town of Dallas Recreation Program. She is requesting that the 100 blocks of N. Holland W. Main Streets be closed between 7:30 am and 4:00 pm. The event would be held from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Vendors would use generators if they need a power source. She is requesting 5 trash cans and 5 recycle containers. Security would be provided by the Gaston County Sheriff's Department. Attached is the application for review (Exhibit 8C). Alderman Withers motioned to approve the "American Market Days" Special Event Request as presented, contingent upon the continued lifting of outdoor COVID-19 restrictions, and with the condition that she obtain the help of the Dallas Police Department to help close roads. Alderman Milton seconded this and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 8D was among those deleted from the agenda

Item 8E Reopening of Town Rental Facilities

Based on the current Executive Order No. 209, on April 30, 2021 at 5:00 pm, the mass gatherings restrictions were modified as follows to be in effect until June 1, 2021 at 5:00 pm:

Section 5 Mass Gatherings

5.1. **Prohibition.** Mass Gatherings are prohibited. “Mass Gathering” means an event or convening which is in a category not otherwise covered by this Executive Order, is not excepted by the following provisions of this Executive Order, and brings together more than one hundred (100) people indoors or more than two hundred (200) people outdoors at the same time in a single confined indoor or outdoor space. In publicly accessible indoor facilities, the Mass Gathering limit applies per room of the facility.

Governor Roy Cooper has publicly stated that if conditions continue to improve further easing and/or removal of restrictions will take place on June 1, 2021. In order to comply with Executive Orders and to protect the safety and well-being of the public, the Town is not renting out any indoor or outdoor facilities to the public. If the expected easing and/or removal of restrictions does occur on June 1st as anticipated, rental of Town facilities could be resumed. Staff is requesting the authority to make the determination to reopen rentals of Town indoor and outdoor facilities, based on further Executive Order guidance expected at the end of May and moving forward. Alderwoman Morrow motioned to direct Staff to resume rentals of indoor and outdoor Town facilities in accordance with forthcoming Executive Order guidance from the Governor’s Office. Alderman Cearley seconded this and the motion carried unanimously.

Manager’s Report:

Maria Stroupe, Town Manager, informed the Board that the contract for the public parking lot located on 102 E. Trade Street should be signed by the end of the week and work could possibly begin by the end of the month. She also stated that the Town is beginning to receive more information regarding the American Relief Plan. This will provide federal relief funds once more information and guidance are obtained.

Alderman Cearley motioned to adjourn, seconded by Alderwoman Morrow, and carried unanimously. 6:34 pm.

Rick Coleman, Mayor

Shannon Whittle, Town Clerk