

MINUTES FOR BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

MAY 10, 2016

6:00 PM

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

The following staff members were present: Barry Webb, Interim Town Manager; Maria Stroupe, Administrative Services Director; Town Attorney, Tom Hunn; Allen Scott, Police Chief; Doug Huffman, Electric Director; Bill Trudnak, Public Works Director; Steve Lambert, Fire Chief; Anne Martin, Recreation Director; and Martine Vaca, Development Services 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 asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Mayor Coleman asked that an added item, 11C, be added to discuss Mayfair on the Square. Alderman Withers made a motion to approve the agenda, including the added item, seconded by Alderwoman Morrow, and carried unanimously.

Alderwoman Walker-Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 12th Regular Meeting and the April 26th Work Session, seconded by Alderman Cearley, and carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

None

Recognition of Citizens:

Ms. Laura Stroupe, 1503 Old Dallas Highway, owns a business at 116 W. Trade St. and is concerned that parking spaces for customers to access her business will be blocked by Tarpon Construction and the barrels used to control the traffic flow on Trade Street during the intersection project. She would like the traffic barrels to be moved each morning and evening. She said she was speaking on behalf of local businesses that would like the Town's help with this matter.

Mr. Bob Kendrick, 408 S. Groves St., stated that the intersection project was taking too much time.

Mayor Coleman and Mr. Trudnak both stated that they have been informed that there are DOT requirements on traffic patterns for this project, but will check again to see if there can be any relief.

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

Mayor Coleman introduced Ms. Kristen Watts, the new Director of the Gaston County Museum.

Employee Recognition:

Mayor Coleman officially swore in new Police Chief Robert Allen Scott. (Exhibit A) Chief Scott took office on May 1, 2016, replacing retiring Police Chief Gary W. Buckner.

Special Events & Requests for In-Kind Services:

Item 8A was a request from Promised Land Baptist Church to hold a 5K Race on October 29, 2016 and utilize the Certified Route used in the Annual Kelly Guffey Memorial Run. (Exhibit B) Set up for the proposed race would begin at 6:00 am on October 29th, with the race itself beginning at 8:00 a.m., and the event ending at 10:00 a.m. The application lists an

estimated attendance of 150-200 and states that the purpose of the race is to raise funds for the church's missions. This request first appeared on the agenda of the Board's April 12, 2016 meeting, but the only action taken at that point was to table this matter until the May 10th meeting. Since this was first presented, it has been determined that the approximate costs to the Town to host an event of this nature would be approximately \$600-650, consisting primarily of expenses for Public Works and Police staff that would have to be involved. That information has been forwarded to Pastor Blakenship at Promised Land Baptist Church with a note indicating that the Town would anticipate the church, as the event sponsor, to cover those costs should permission be given for the event to be held. As there would be impacts to Dallas' citizens (traffic, street closures, etc.), with no direct benefits to Dallas or any of its organizations, it is the recommendation of staff to require the event sponsor to cover all costs incurred by the Town in hosting the event, if the event is indeed approved. Alderman Huggins asked if Cloninger Park could be used for the event. Since the church is requesting use of the certified 5K race route, this alternative would not be suitable, as the track at Cloninger Park is not a certified route. Alderman Withers made a motion to approve the event and waive the fees proposed for the church, seconded by Alderwoman Morrow, and carried unanimously.

Item 8B was a request by Gaston Arts Council to use the Historic Dallas Courthouse for a Regional Arts Town Hall meeting on June 13, 2016 or June 17, 2016. (Exhibit C) The request submitted by Kim George, Executive Director of the Gaston Arts Council states the event would be held from 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The event is described as a town hall meeting for the Piedmont Region's arts councils. No services are requested for this event other than arranging the placement of 250 chairs and two (2) six-foot or eight-foot tables in the Courthouse to accommodate the estimated attendance. If approved, a determination of fees would be the responsibility of the Gaston County Museum, although it is believed that the Gaston Arts Council will request that no fee be applied for this usage. Staff recommends approval of this event pending availability of the building and the setting of fees by the Gaston County Museum. Alderwoman Thomas made a motion to approve the event pending the event sponsors contact the Gaston County Museum to determine availability and fees, seconded by Alderwoman Morrow, and carried unanimously.

Item 8C was a request by Gaston Arts Council to use the Civic Building for a Student Art Workshop on June 18, 2016. (Exhibit D) The request submitted by Kim George, Executive Director of the Gaston Arts Council states that the event would be held from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. The event is described as an art workshop focusing on team and self-esteem building. No Town staff services are requested for this event other than arranging the placement of 40 chairs in the Civic Building to accommodate the estimated attendance. Based on the current fee schedule, an amount of \$175 would be charged for a daily rental of the Civic Building, although it is believed that the Gaston Arts Council will request that no fee be applied for this usage. Staff recommends approval of this event pending agreement on the amount of fees to be charged. Alderwoman Thomas made a motion to approve the event and waive the fee for usage of the facility pending availability of the building, seconded by Alderman Cearley, and carried unanimously.

Public Hearings:

Item 9A was a Public Hearing that was continued from March 8, 2016 Board of Aldermen meeting to consider modifications to the section of the Town's Zoning Code related to political campaign signs within public rights-of-way, providing certain guidelines for the placement of campaign signs whereas, previously, they had been prohibited. At the March 8th meeting, the Board voted to continue the public hearing on this matter to the April 12, 2016 meeting due to questions regarding the compliance of the proposed ordinance modification with NC General Statute §136-32, which limits the enforcement of municipal sign ordinances to streets maintained by the municipality. On April 12th, the hearing was again continued to the May 10, 2016 meeting to allow time for the Development Services Director, Martine Vaca, to prepare revised modifications and take them back before the Planning Board for review. The Planning board met on April 21, 2016 to consider the modifications and is now recommending adoption of the text amendments as presented. (Exhibit E) Robert Kendrick asked what about regular signs? Ms. Vaca stated that this amendment specifically addresses political signs. She has plans to address the other signs. Mr. Kendrick stated he does not believe signs should be allowed at all. Alderman Cearley made a motion to exit the public hearing, seconded by Alderman Withers, and carried unanimously.

Alderman Withers made a motion to approve the amendment to the Town Sign Code regulating political and campaign signs as presented, seconded by Alderwoman Thomas, and carried unanimously.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Item 11A was a request to award a contract for the Town Hall Parking Lot Improvements Project. Bids for the project were opened on Thursday, April 14, 2016 and three (3) proposals were submitted for this project. The low bid was submitted by Cedar Hill Grading, Inc. of Dallas, NC in the amount of \$266,273. (Exhibit F) Following the bid opening, the proposals were reviewed by representatives of Alfred Benesch & company, the project design firm. This proposal has been found to be in order, so the awarding of the contract can be completed. At the March 8, 2016 Board of Aldermen meeting, a budget amendment was approved to establish a project fund for the Town Hall Parking Lot project in the amount of \$284,300, so the cost of this contract falls within the adopted budget. In Section 3.3 of the draft contract, a project timeline of 90 days is stated. In the final contract document, that timeline will state 120 days. Alderman Withers made a motion to approve the bid and award the contract as presented, seconded by Alderwoman Morrow, and carried unanimously.

Item 11B was the added item associated with Mayfair on the Square. It was determined to discuss this item before the listed Item 11B and move Item 11B to Item 11C. The Ole Dallas Brewery is seeking approval to sell alcohol at the Mayfair on the Square event on May 21, 2016. They possess all of the necessary licenses and permits, but need approval from the Town in order to sell their product. Alderwoman Thomas made a motion to allow Ole Dallas Brewery to sell alcohol at the Mayfair on the Square event, seconded by Alderman Cearley, and carried unanimously.

Item 11C was an overview of the proposed FY 2016-17 annual budget. This proposed budget was presented to the Board of Aldermen this evening in preparation for a Budget Work Session to be held on Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Fire Department. Mr. Webb gave an overview of some of the major features of the proposed budget. The overall budget proposed reflects a 0.94% increase over the current year approved budget. One item to note with the proposed budget, is there is no Fund Balance appropriated for any fund. Each fund has been balanced with anticipated revenues only, no fund balance.

Manager's Report

Mr. Webb gave an update on various Town projects.

Closed Session:

None

Alderwoman Thomas thanked Ms. Martin for opening the Franklin Gym each Tuesday for Senior Citizens to walk. Participation has been low, but she is trying to get the word out.

Alderman Withers made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Cearley, and carried unanimously. (6:45)

Rick Coleman, Mayor

Maria Stroupe, Town Clerk

**OATH OF OFFICE
FOR
POLICE CHIEF**

I, Robert Allen Scott, do solemnly swear that I will be alert and vigilant, to enforce the criminal laws of this State; that I will not be influenced in any matter, on account of personal issue or prejudice; that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States, the Constitution and laws of North Carolina, and the laws and ordinances of The Town of Dallas, not inconsistent therewith; and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge, and execute the duties of my office as **CHIEF OF POLICE**, according to the best of my skill, abilities, and judgment; so help me God.

Sealed by Chief

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this the 10th day of May, 2016.

Mayor

Attested: _____
Maria Stroupe, Town Clerk

Town Seal



Special Events/ Activities Application

Town of Dallas
210 North Holland Street
Dallas, NC 28034-1625
(704) 922-3176
Fax: (704) 922-4701

The purpose of this application is to provide information about your event or activity in order for the Town of Dallas to best assist you. Depending on the specific event, a permit application and/or fee(s) from other departments may be required.

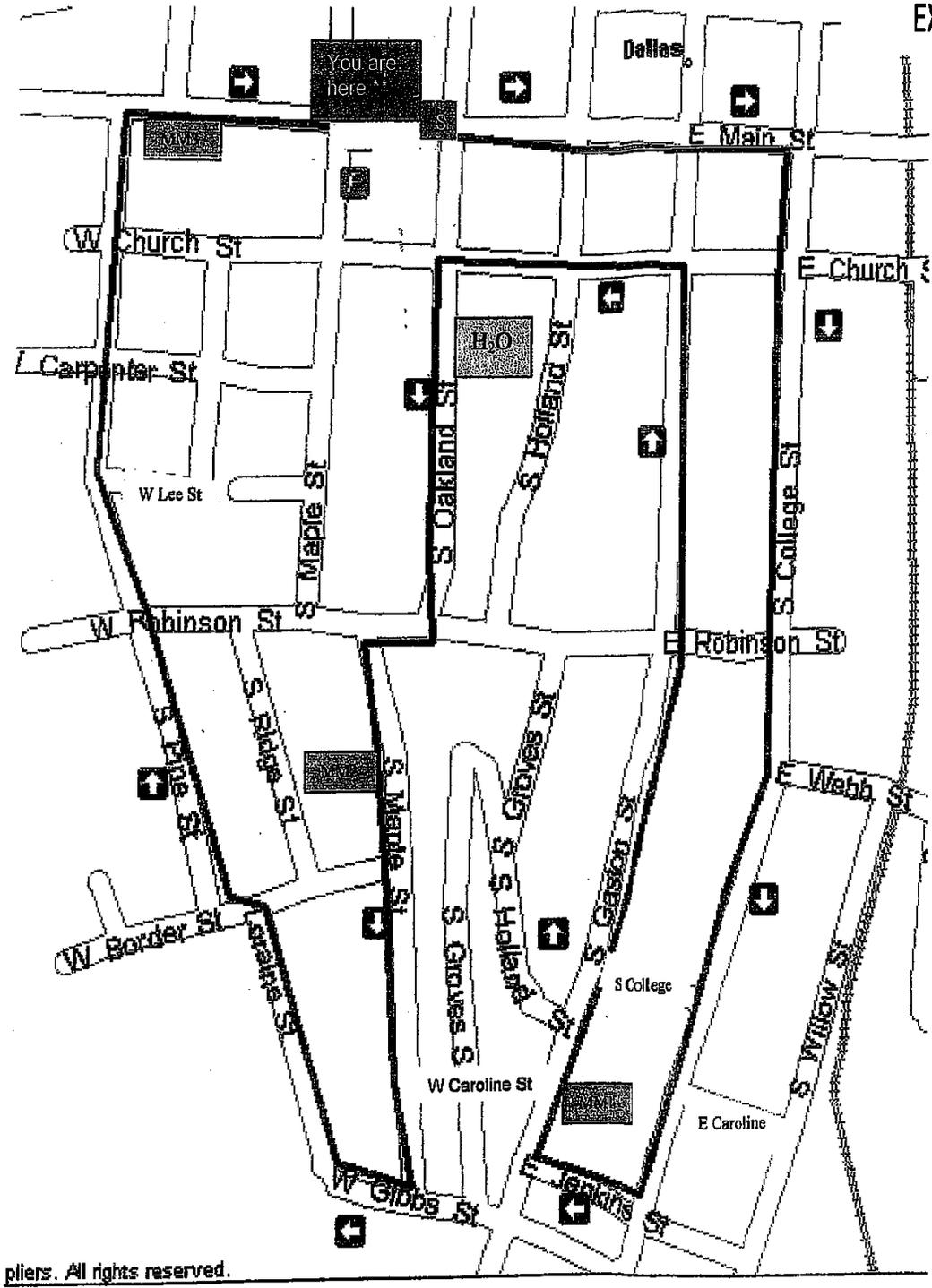
The applicant is responsible for providing complete and accurate information on the application, including an attached detailed site plan when applicable. The applicant is responsible for notifying the Town of Dallas of any changes after submittal of the application. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. A complete application must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the event.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

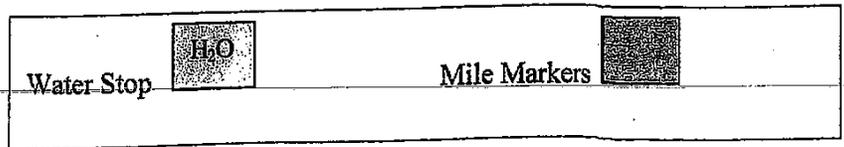
Name of Event:	Running with The Good News 5K		
Facility Requested:	3.1 mile Route to Run		
Applicant Name:	Harold Blankenship - Pastor		
Organization:	Promised Land Baptist Church		
Mailing Address:	1024 Old Modena St.		
City / State / Zip:	Gastonia, NC 28054		
Daytime Phone:	704-868-2364	Cell:	704-674-5034
		E-Mail:	Pastorhblankenship@gmail.com
Description of the Event:	It is a 5K Run/Walk Sponsored by Promised Land Baptist Church for Missions.		
Does the event have a Facebook, Twitter, or other social networking page:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		
If yes, please list URL(s):	PromisedLandBaptistChurch.com		
Date (s) Requested for Event:	Saturday, October 29, 2016		
Event Start Time:	8:00 AM	Event End Time:	10:00 AM
Road Closure Time Begins (if applicable):	8:00 AM	Road Closure Time Ends:	
Set Up Begins:	6:00 AM	Set Up Ends:	
Preferred Date & Time of Inspection (if required):			
Estimated Attendance:	150-200 People		
The Event is:	<input type="checkbox"/> Private (by invitation only)	or	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open to General Public
Describe the procedures to be used for selecting vendors and exhibitors for this event:			

Applicant's Signature: Harold Blankenship, Pastor Date: _____

A pre-event meeting may be required and will be scheduled to include appropriate staff. The event applicant must attend the meeting.



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APPLICATION INFORMATION

Name of Event:	Regional Arts Town Hall Meeting		
Facility Requested:	Dallas Historic Courthouse		
Applicant Name:	Kim George		
Organization:	Gaston Arts Council		
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 242		
City / State / Zip:	Gastonia, NC 28053		
Daytime Phone:	(704) 853-2787	Cell:	(704) 853-2787 E-Mail: director@gastonarts.org
Description of the Event:	Piedmont region arts councils town hall meeting		
Does the event have a Facebook, Twitter, or other social networking page:	Yes		
If yes, please list URL(s):	http://facebook.com/gastonartscouncil		
Date (s) Requested for Event:	Monday, June 13, 2016 or Friday, June 17, 2016		
Event Start Time:	11:30 AM	Event End Time:	2 PM
Road Closure Time Begins (if applicable):	n/a	Road Closure Time Ends:	n/a
Set Up Begins:	11 AM	Set Up Ends:	11:30 AM
Preferred Date & Time of Inspection (if required):	n/a		
Estimated Attendance:	250		
The Event is:	<input type="checkbox"/> Private (by invitation only)	or	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open to General Public
Describe the procedures to be used for selecting vendors and exhibitors for this event:			n/a

Applicant's Signature: Kim George Date: 4/29/16

A pre-event meeting may be required and will be scheduled to include appropriate staff. The event applicant must attend the meeting.



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The applicant is responsible for providing complete and accurate information on the application, including an attached detailed site plan when applicable. The applicant is responsible for notifying the Town of Dallas of any changes after submittal of the application. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. A complete application must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the event.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Name of Event:	Student Art Workshop		
Facility Requested:	Civic Building		
Applicant Name:	Kim George		
Organization:	Gaston Arts Council		
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 242		
City / State / Zip:	Gastonia NC 28053		
Daytime Phone:	(704) 853-2787	Cell:	(704) 853-2787
		E-Mail:	director@gastonarts.org
Description of the Event:	Art workshop focusing on team and self esteem building		
Does the event have a Facebook, Twitter, or other social networking page:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		
If yes, please list URL(s):	http://facebook.com/gastonartscouncil		
Date (s) Requested for Event:	Saturday, June 18, 2016		
Event Start Time:	9 AM	Event End Time:	6 PM
Road Closure Time Begins (if applicable):	n/a	Road Closure Time Ends:	n/a
Set Up Begins:	8:30 AM	Set Up Ends:	9 AM
Preferred Date & Time of Inspection (if required):	n/a		
Estimated Attendance:	40		
The Event is:	<input type="checkbox"/> Private (by invitation only)	or	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open to General Public
Describe the procedures to be used for selecting vendors and exhibitors for this event:			n/a

Applicant's Signature: Kim George Date: 4/28/16

A pre-event meeting may be required and will be scheduled to include appropriate staff. The event applicant must attend the meeting.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE V, "SIGN REGULATIONS", PROVISIONS FOR "CAMPAIGN, POLITICAL AND ELECTION SIGNS" PROVIDED FOR UNDER SECTION 1-V-1, "SIGNS NOT REQUIRING PERMITS".

Amendments recommended by Planning Board 04/21/16 are highlighted in red

Whereas, the Town of Dallas recognizes that political campaigns and the publicity of persons seeking election to public office are a necessary part of the democratic process of open and free elections; and

Whereas, it is typical for candidates to place campaign signs within their electoral boundaries prior to elections; and

Whereas, this amendment is in accordance with NCGS 136-32 (f), Application within Municipalities, pursuant to Article 8 of Chapter 160A, Regulation of Signs, and

Whereas, the Town of Dallas finds that the establishment of standards for the placement of campaign, political and election signs necessary for maintaining public safety and the aesthetic quality of the community while providing for fair, equitable and unbiased rules for the placement of such signs.

Now, therefore be it ordained, by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Dallas, North Carolina, that Title XV, Chapter 153, "Zoning Code", of the Compiled Code of Town Ordinances be amended as follows:

Section 1. Article V, "Sign Regulations", Section 1-V-1, "Signs Not Requiring a Permit", Paragraph eight (8), shall be amended as follows:

8) Campaign, Political and Election Signs provided that the following conditions are met:

1. If placed within the street right-of-way:

- a) Sign area shall not exceed five (5) square feet;
- b) Sign height shall not exceed thirty-six (36) inches above the street level nearest to the sign; provided however, if sign is located within twelve (12) feet of the point of intersection of the edges of pavement of two intersecting streets, no sign shall exceed thirty (30) inches above the height of said street level.
- c) Such sign shall not be put up more than thirty (30) days before the election and must be removed within five (5) days following the date of election. Signs for candidates in a runoff election may stay up until five (5) days following the runoff election day.
- d) No such sign shall be placed over any curb, street or highway median, street surface or sidewalk; or on any utility pole, government sign or signpost, bridge, tree, rock, fence, or guardrail; or within fifteen (15) feet of any fire hydrant.
- e) No such sign shall be placed within two (2) feet of any public street sign or highway sign.
- f) Such signs are prohibited within the right-of-way of any fully controlled access highway.
- g) The tenant or other person entitled to possession of the property fronting along the street right-of-way on which a sign is placed may remove such sign at any time.

- h) Such signs shall not be placed on right-of-way fronting public facilities (e.g. government office or operations center, post office, public cemetery, historic courthouse, public safety station, public library, public museum, public community center, public park, public school, etc.) except on election day where said public facility is a polling place and is placed in accordance with the rules of the Gaston County Board of Elections.
- i) Notwithstanding the forgoing, the Town of Dallas shall remove any such signs or group of signs the Zoning Administrator deems to be an obstruction to the safe vision of motorists or is deemed to be in violation of this Ordinance.

2. If placed on private property, outside the street right-of-way;

- a) Sign area shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet.
- b) No such sign may be placed on private property without permission of the owner. The property owner upon whose land the signs are placed will be responsible for any violations.
- c) Sign height shall not exceed ten (10) feet or two and one-half (2.5) times the vertical dimension of the sign face, whichever is less.
- ~~d) Signs shall not be put up more than thirty (30) days before the election and must be removed within five (5) days following the date of election. Signs for candidates in a runoff election may stay up until five (5) days following the runoff election day.~~
- e) No such sign shall obstruct the safe vision of motorists.

3. Irrespective of location, no campaign or election sign shall be lighted or luminous, nor shall it have any flashing lights, moving or windblown parts.

Section 2. All Ordinances or portions of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 3. Should any provision of this Ordinance be declared invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof which is not specifically declared to be invalid or unconstitutional.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the date of its adoption.

Adopted, this _____ day of _____, 2016.

ATTEST:

Rick Coleman, Mayor

Maria Stroupe, Town Clerk

