

MINUTES FOR BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

March 11th, 2014

6:00 PM

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

The following staff members were present: Jim Palenick, Interim Town Manager; Maria Stroupe, Administrative Services Director; Gary Buckner, Police Chief; Bill Trudnak, Public Works Director; Earl Withers, Assistant Fire Chief; Doug Huffman, Electric Director; David Kahler, Community Services Director; and Town Attorney, Thomas Hunn. Anne Martin, Recreation Director, was absent.

The 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 that those in attendance remember the family of Joe Lay. Mr. Lay was a lifelong resident of Dallas and a long-time Town of Dallas employee, who passed away the previous night.

Mayor Coleman asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Mayor Coleman stated that Item 10D needed to be added to agenda to discuss the Town's healthcare insurance. Mr. Withers made a motion to set the agenda, including the addition; seconded by Mr. Huggins, and carried unanimously.

Ms. Duff made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2014 called meeting and the February 11, 2014 regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Cearley, and carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

Item 5A was a request to approve a debt offset agreement with Spencer Mountain Road VFD. With the recent voluntary annexations completed the Town of Dallas (the lots on Lower Dallas Highway annexed in April 2013 and the lots annexed in January of this year), Dallas is required by State Statute to pay Spencer Mountain Road VFD a portion of their total debt to offset the loss of the property tax revenue that occurred upon the annexation. The total amount that the Town is required to pay (in lump sum), under the terms of this agreement is \$1,002.57. The payment will be remitted following approval and execution by both parties.

Item 5B was a request to approve the uncollectable accounts for March 2014.

Mr. Withers made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Ms. Morrow, and carried unanimously.

Recognition of Citizens:

Mr. James Burgess, Gaston Youth Connected Leadership Team, had requested time to make a presentation on a county-wide initiative to reduce teen pregnancy. Mr. Burgess discussed the group's origin and purpose. The team was formed with a grant in 2010 with the goal of reducing teen pregnancies in the Gaston County. Over the past two years, the teen pregnancy rate has been reduced by 29%.

Mr. Dean Lambert, 214 Summey Barker Dr., stated that he had been in contact with Chief Lambert concerning the Town's rules for operating a personal fire pit on personal property and wanted clarification to what he had been told. Mayor Coleman stated that Chief Lambert would be in touch with Mr. Lambert the next day to go over the guidelines with him again and answer his questions.

Recognition of Employees:

None

Public Hearing:

Mr. Withers made a motion to enter into a public hearing to consider an ordinance to amend Title VII: Traffic Code; Chapter 75, "Traffic Schedules"; Schedule VI, Speed Limits of the Compiled Town Code in order to set speed limits on portions of NC 275 and NC279 within the Town of Dallas, seconded by Ms. Duff, and carried unanimously. A request was received from Mr. Brenton Barnette, Regional Traffic Safety Engineer with NCDOT Traffic Safety: High Country and Foothills Region, requesting that the Town take action on the attached certifications for sections of NC 275 and NC 279. (Exhibit A)

For the section of NC275, this is an existing speed limit of 45 mph. The current ordinance in place for this section is a Rural Speed Zone. Since this ordinance was enacted in 1994, the corporate limits of Dallas have expanded, causing this section of NC 275 to be within the corporate limits of Dallas. NCDOT is in the process of correcting any ordinances that are not up to date with current data by repealing the old ordinances and replacing them with the new Municipal Speed Zone ordinance. Basically, nothing will change, as the speed limit is currently posted at 45 mph. They are only updating their database and making corrections as necessary.

For the section of NC279, this is an existing speed limit of 45 mph. . The current ordinance in place for this section is a Rural Speed Zone. Since this ordinance was enacted in 1994, the corporate limits of Dallas have expanded, causing this section of NC 279 to be within the corporate limits of Dallas. NCDOT is in the process of correcting any ordinances that are not up to date with current data by repealing the old ordinances and replacing them with the new Municipal Speed Zone ordinance. Basically, nothing will change, as the speed limit is currently posted at 45 mph. They are only updating their database and making corrections as necessary.

Mr. Huggins made a motion to exit the public hearing, seconded by Ms. Morrow, and carried unanimously. Mr. Withers made a motion to approve the ordinance amendment as presented, seconded by Ms. Morrow, and carried unanimously.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Item 10A was a request to approve two budget amendments to the FY2013-2014 budget.

Fire Department Budget Amendment: Provides for the complete replacement and change-out of the 13 exterior security light wall sconces at the Fire Department building with high-efficiency, LED "WST Architectural Wall Sconces" at a combined total installed cost of not-to-exceed \$9,100. This expenditure will be added to the Capital Outlay: Land, Building, & Construction budget line item in the Fire Department budget and an equal amount of Fund Balance Appropriated in the General Fund revenue budget will be added to offset the expenditure. The replacement of these security lights is necessitated by a design flaw in the current lighting that allows rainwater/moisture into the light casings causing the bulbs to shatter and require frequent/costly replacement. (Exhibit B) Mr. Withers made a motion to approve the amendment as presented, seconded by Ms. Duff, and carried unanimously.

Electric Department Amendment: provides for the complete replacement and change out (using steel poles) of the exterior field lighting at Cudd Field and Watson Field at Carr Elementary School, and at the Jagger Park Field. The combined total installed cost will be not-to-exceed \$125,900. This amendment consists of adding

\$61,650 to the existing budget for lighting improvements of \$64,250, included within the Capital Outlay: Light Fixtures and an equal amount of Fund Balance Appropriated in the Electric Fund revenue budget will be added to offset the expenditure. (Exhibit C) Ms. Duff made a motion to approve the amendment as presented, seconded by Mr. Withers, and carried unanimously.

Item 10B, was a request from Mr. Kahler to appoint two alternate members to the Planning Board. The Planning Board meetings for January and February had to be cancelled due to a lack of a quorum. The Planning Board currently consists of 7 members, with no alternates. For rezoning requests and other related matters, there is a requirement that a least 5 members be present to constitute a quorum. In an effort to prevent future meeting cancellations due to absences, Mr. Kahler is requesting to appoint two alternates to the Board. Mr. John Beaty, Mr. Scott Martin, and Mr. Glenn Bratton have expressed an interest in serving as alternates. The Planning Board is appointed by, and serves at the pleasure of the Board of Aldermen. The Planning Board also doubles as the Board of Adjustment (acting on Zoning Variances and Special Exemptions) for the Town. The term of office would be for two years from the date of the appointment for both alternates. Ms. Duff made a motion to appoint Mr. Glenn Bratton as an Alternate Planning Board Member, stating that he is a lifelong resident of Dallas and retired from the Gaston County Police Department. Mr. Huggins seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Mr. Cearley made a motion to appoint Mr. John Beaty as an Alternate Planning Board Member, seconded by Ms. Morrow, and carried by the following vote: Yays – Mr. Cearley, Mr. Huggins, Ms. Morrow, and Mr. Withers. Nays – Ms. Duff.

Item 10C, was a request to declare as surplus a 2003 Chevy S10 assigned to the Water/Sewer Department. The Town took delivery of this vehicle on February 2, 2003. The first 8 years it was used as a meter reading vehicle. For the past 3 years, as it aged into poor condition, it has been used as a warehouse truck. Recently, the engine as fallen apart and it is no longer worth repairing. The Kelly Blue Book value is \$2150, however, to replace the engine would cost approximately \$4000. The vehicle will be placed on GovDeals with no reserve and will we sold to the highest bidder. Proceeds will be returned to the Water/Sewer Fund. Mr. Huggins made a motion to surplus the 2003 Chevy S10 for sale on GovDeals, seconded by Ms. Duff, and carried unanimously.

Item 10D, was the added item of Town healthcare insurance. The Town's healthcare insurance runs on a year of April 1st through March 31st. For the past year, Dallas has had its healthcare policy through Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC. BCBS presented the Town with a renewal rate of 32% on the current plan, which would result in a cost increase of approximately \$100,000 for the premiums. In order to provide the best coverage for employees and the best value for the Town and the citizens for this expense, quotes from other companies were entertained. Two brokerage firms were working on the Town's behalf to obtain quotes. Lake Norman Benefits presented the Town with a quote from United Healthcare for a plan that mirrors the current plan serviced by BCBS at no cost increase for the premiums. Lake Norman Benefits would service the Town's account, provide resources for Town employees for insurance questions or problems, and assist in developing programs of interest and benefit to employees concerning healthy lifestyles. Ms. Duff made a motion to award the contract for insurance to Lake Norman Benefits for the plan presented from United Healthcare, seconded by Mr. Withers, and carried by the following vote: Yays – Ms. Duff, Ms. Morrow, and Mr. Withers. Nays – Mr. Cearley and Mr. Huggins.

Mr. Palenick gave a Manager's Report, noting current projects.

Mayor Coleman suggested that the monthly work sessions, held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, be held at 5:00 pm instead of 6:00 pm. The Board agreed by consensus. This time change will take effect at the March 25th schedule work session.

Mr. Withers made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Huggins, and carried unanimously. (6:55)

Rick Coleman, Mayor

Maria Stroupe, Town Clerk

An Ordinance to Amend Title VII: Traffic Code; Chapter 75, "Traffic Schedules"; Schedule VI, Speed Limits; of the Compiled Code of Ordinances of the Town of Dallas, North Carolina

Whereas; Following a properly-noticed public hearing before the Board of Aldermen, held on March 11, 2014, and in consideration of the information and research materials received and reviewed,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, By the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Dallas, North Carolina, that the Compiled Code of Town Ordinances is Hereby Amended as follows:

That, Title VII: Traffic Code; Chapter 75, "Traffic Schedules"; Schedule VI, Speed Limits, be amended by the addition of the two North Carolina State Highway-designated road segments as follows:

<u>Street</u>	<u>From or To:</u>	<u>To or From:</u>	<u>Speed</u>
NC275	The Western intersection of NC279	Eastward to a point 0.359 miles West of US 321 Business/SR 1343	45 MPH
NC279	The Western intersection of NC275	Westward to the corpor- ate limits of Dallas; 0.574 Mile West of NC275	45 MPH

And That, Said Speed Limits shall take full force and effect immediately following ratification and approval of a concurring Ordinance by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, and upon the erection of signs giving notice of the authorized speed limit.

Ayes:

Nays:

Attest:

Signed:

**Certification of Municipal Declaration
To Enact Speed Limits and Request for Concurrence**

Concurring State Ordinance Number: 1067495

Division: 12 **County:** GASTON

Municipality: DALLAS

Type: Municipal Speed Zones

Road: NC 279

Car: 45 MPH

Truck: 45 MPH

Description: From the western intersection of NC 275 westward to the corporate limit of Dallas, a point 0.574 mile west of NC 275.

Municipal Certification

I, _____, Clerk of _____, do hereby certify that the municipal governing body, pursuant to the authority granted by G.S. 20-141(f), determined upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation and duly declared, on the _____ day of _____, 20____, the speed limits as set forth above on the designated portion of the State Highway System, which shall become effective when the Department of Transportation has passed a concurring ordinance and signs are erected giving notice of the authorized speed limit.

The said municipal declaration is recorded as follows:

Minute Book: _____ Page: _____ Ordinance/Resolution Number: _____

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my

hand and the municipal seal this _____ day

of _____, 20_____.

(signature)

(municipal seal)

Department of Transportation Approval

Division: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____

Region: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____

**Certification of Municipal Declaration
To Enact Speed Limits and Request for Concurrence**

Concurring State Ordinance Number: 1067497

Division: 12 **County:** GASTON

Municipality: DALLAS

Type: Municipal Speed Zones

Road: NC 275

Car: 45 MPH

Truck: 45 MPH

Description: From the western intersection of NC 279 eastward to a point 0.359 mile west of US 321 Business/SR 1343.

Municipal Certification

I, _____, Clerk of _____, do hereby certify that the municipal governing body, pursuant to the authority granted by G.S. 20-141(f), determined upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation and duly declared, on the _____ day of _____, 20____, the speed limits as set forth above on the designated portion of the State Highway System, which shall become effective when the Department of Transportation has passed a concurring ordinance and signs are erected giving notice of the authorized speed limit.

The said municipal declaration is recorded as follows:

Minute Book: _____ Page: _____ Ordinance/Resolution Number: _____

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the municipal seal this _____ day of _____, 20____.

(signature)

(municipal seal)

Department of Transportation Approval

Division: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____

Region: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____

**Town of Dallas
Budget Amendment**

Date: March 11, 2014

Action: Fire Department Amendment

Purpose: Replace Outside Security Lighting

Number: GF - 005

Fund	Dept	Line Item	Item Description	Original Amount	Amended Amount	Difference
10	5200	7500	Capital Outlay: Land/Building	\$0	\$9,100	\$9,100
10	3999	0000	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$12,980	\$22,080	\$9,100

Totals	\$12,980	\$31,180	\$18,200
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Approval Signature
(Town Manager or Administrative Services Director)

**Town of Dallas
Budget Amendment**

Date: March 11, 2014

Action: Field Lighting Improvements

Purpose: Additional Costs Above Budgeted Amount

Number: EL - 002

Fund	Dept	Line Item	Item Description	Original Amount	Amended Amount	Difference
30	8500	7304	Capital Outlay: Light Fixtures	\$75,250	\$136,900	\$61,650
30	3999	0000	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$1,004,189	\$1,065,839	\$61,650

Totals	\$1,079,439	\$1,202,739	\$123,300
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Approval Signature
(Town Manager or Administrative Services Director)

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