

BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES
Thursday, February 21, 2019
Commissioners Room
5:55 p.m.

Board Members present: Mayor Johnson, Commissioners Johnston, Day, Ferguson, Goforth, and Hall.

Staff present: Interim Town Manager-Public Works Director Dale Shumate, Town Clerk Debra Pearson, NWPD Officer Brad Mathis, Finance Officer Connie Bauguess, Town Attorney Gary Vannoy, Fire Chief Jimmy Martin and Curt Hayes, Building Inspector.

Others Present: Marty McGee-reporter for Wilkes JP.

Absent: None.

- * Call to order – Mayor Robert Johnson.
- * Invocation – Mayor Robert Johnson
- * Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Robert Johnson

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:

There was one addition to the agenda added as under Item 7, named Item 7(a). Michael Parsons discussion to the board regarding enforcements.

Agenda Items:

1. Call for a Special Meeting for Personnel matters- *Board accepted the resignation of Town Manager Larry South. This was carried out in Special Meeting.*
2. Approval of Resolution to set Filing Fee for 2019 Election at \$10.00- *This item has been placed on the Consent Agenda for the March 5, 2019 regular board meeting.*
3. Approval of the 3rd Quarter Appropriation money for EDC for the 2018-2019 budget- *This item will be on the March 5, 2019 agenda for board action.*
4. Approve Resolution declaring Certain Property Surplus and Authorizing its Disposal- *This item has been placed on the consent agenda for the March 5, 2019 regular board meeting.*
5. Financial updates presented to board- *Finance Officer Connie Bauguess gave a brief report on the Town Budget, stating the Town is in good shape, budget packets sent out in January have been returned. It was asked that only “needed” items be requested with no capital funds to be used, “no wish lists”. Gibson & Company P.A., the Town’s auditing firm has asked to have the town contract again next year. The board was in agreement that since Gibson & Company is familiar with the Town’s budget and easy to communicate with, it may be in our best interest to keep them on as our auditors. Commissioner Johnston said when he understood the reasons for delay he had a change of thought towards the audit group, and Commissioner Hall said that if Finance Officer Connie Bauguess felt comfortable with the audit group that would be a good idea.*
6. Closed Session GS 143-318311 (C4)- *To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body (economic development). After returning from Closed Session, no action was taken.*

7. Call for Public Hearing on Economic Development- *Emily Miller, LeAnn Nixon and Robin Hamby were present at the work session. LeAnn and Emily presented to the board the option of asking for grant monies to help with economic development, to help business growth and expansion. A Public Hearing was requested to be held March 5, 2019 on this item, but no action was taken.*

(a). Addition to Agenda- *Michael Parsons, a member of the Zoning Board asked for permission to speak at the Work Session. It was the consensus of the board to allow Mr. Parsons to do so. Mr. Parsons wanted to inform the board of the good job our interim codes enforcement officer, Mr. John Ganus, is doing. Mr. Ganus is Vice-President of Code Enforcement with N-FOCUS. Mr. Parsons said he'd like to see Mr. Ganus stay on even after the position of Planning Director is filled. He said Mr. Ganus is very knowledgeable and experienced in his field and it is imperative that town residents feel there is an impartial person enforcing codes and answering "nuisance complaints", or complaint driven reports. The Planning board as a whole strongly urges the Town to keep Mr. Ganus on in the capacity as Codes Enforcement Officer. This is a part-time, (8) eight hour a week position.*

Other items for the March 5, 2019 meeting: (no discussion required)

- Oath of Office for Officer Zachary Adam Whitley, promoting to Sergeant
- Consideration of bids on 912 Main Street.

There being no further business, Commissioner Hall made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Johnson declared the work session adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

_____ TOWN CLERK _____ MAYOR

APPROVED: _____

