

January 6th, 2014

At 7:00pm, on Monday, January 6th, 2014, in the Board Room of the Landis Municipal Building, Mayor James Furr called to order the Town of Landis Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting. Those present along with the Mayor were Aldermen Roger Safrit, Dennis Brown, Tony Hilton, and Dorland Abernathy, Town Manager Reed Linn, Public Works Director Steve Rowland, Police Chief Bob Wood, Deputy Town Administrator Debbie Goodman, Recreation Director Andrew Morgan, Administrative Assistant Heather Wood and Town Attorney Rick Locklear.

A quorum was met.

Mayor James Furr opened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor James Furr.

Alderman Safrit motioned, seconded by Alderman Brown, to adopt the agenda as written. All voted aye.

Alderman Brown motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to adopt the minutes from the December 2nd, 2013 Regular Meeting as written. All voted aye.

The first orders of business were two proclamations. The first was a proclamation declaring January 20th, 2014 as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; the second proclamation was to recognize February 2014 as Black History Month. Mayor Furr read both proclamations. There was no action by the Board.

The next order of business concerned a re-zoning request for property located at 319 North Main Street in Landis. The public hearing for this request had been held during the December Regular Meeting and the Board had tabled the matter at that time. Manager Linn stated that the Board had requested more detailed information at the last meeting concerning what was allowed in the O & I (Office and Institutional) district, which is the zoning the owners were seeking. The Board had been provided with this information by staff.

Mayor Furr inquired as to the square footage of the property. Manager Linn said that it was approximately 150x200 square feet.

Alderman Abernathy stated that his only objection would be if a mini-mall would be put onto the property but he didn't feel there was enough space for that to be feasible. He felt any other use would have to come back before the Board. He stated that there were only four residences between the property and the next type of zoning district and he didn't feel that was much of a transition.

Alderman Safrit stated that the surrounding area was all zoned R-8 and nothing else. This would put the property in the middle of a residential area if the change was made. He did not feel it would benefit the area with a business zoning and that it should be kept as it was currently zoned (R-8).

Alderman Hilton stated that he objected to spot zoning and that opinion had not changed since the last meeting. He stated that if there was a particular reason for the zoning and it fit the character of the

community, he might agree to it, but he did not feel this was the case for this particular piece of property.

Alderman Brown stated that since he lived next to the property in question, he felt it proper to recuse himself from both the discussion and the vote. Mayor Furr stated that he understood and respected that.

Alderman Abernathy motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to deny the rezoning request for property located at 319 North Main Street in Landis, North Carolina. Aldermen Abernathy, Safrit and Hilton all voted aye. Alderman Brown did not participate in the vote. The motion passed.

The next order of business concerned changing certain Regular Meeting dates due to holidays. The two dates in question were the July 7th, 2014 Regular Meeting and the September 1st, 2014 Regular Meeting. The July meeting was the Monday directly following the July 4th Holiday (a Friday this year) and Manager Linn wanted to make sure that date was convenient for the Board. The Board agreed that the July date was fine. The September Regular Meeting would actually take place on Labor Day, so it was proposed that it be moved to the following Monday, September 8th, 2014.

Alderman Brown motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to move the September 2014 Regular Meeting from Monday, September 1st, 2014 to Monday, September 8th, 2014. All voted aye.

Department Head Comments

Recreation Director Andrew Morgan: stated that the 2014 Urban Archery season would go into effect in February. Any property wishing to allow Urban Archery must be a minimum of two acres with the proper documentation. The Town had completed all necessary paperwork to allow Urban Archery during the season within Town limits.

Billing Clerk Debbie Goodman: stated that budget billing registrations had started once again. They currently had 137 people participating, with another dozen having signed up already. There was a lot of interest in the program and customers had another month to register.

Town Manager Reed Linn: stated that last week all deeds had been received from the DC Linn family for property that had been donated to the Town. This concerned property that would be used for the planned passive park, as well as six other parcels that were in the East Landis water service district, outside of city limits. Manager Linn stated that he was seeking permission from the Board to start the process of bringing those parcels into city limits via satellite annexation. Manager Linn would pull together a resolution of intent with the Board's permission. The Board concurred and the resolution would be presented at the next Regular Meeting in February.

Manager Linn also asked the Board to start considering possible dates for the Board's annual budget retreat as well as anyone they would like present to speak.

The Fire Department would be holding its annual award party Saturday night at 6:00pm at the American Legion Building.

Manager Linn then went over the activities of the Fire Department for 2013. The FD had answered 625 calls. 102 calls had been for fire, 310 medical calls, 27 traffic accidents, 12 hazmat calls and 78 fire alarm activation calls. They were averaging 12 firefighters per all, with an average call time lasting 48 minutes. There were 52 training classes, for a total of 3,582 man hours. The FD had responded to 196 calls for mutual aid.

Public Works Director Steve Rowland: stated that in the morning, from 7:00am until 9:00am the generator would be in operation for expected load.

Police Chief Bob Wood: went over the calls received by the Police Department during the month of December:

- 4 accidents
- 19 calls for assistance
- 22 disturbances
- 14 property crimes
- 1 violent crime (between students at Corriher-Lipe Middle School resulting in minor injuries)
- 18 arrests from warrants
- 23 citations issued out of 79 stops

There were 163 general calls.

Chief Wood stated that Christmas Cops had once again been a huge success, and thanks to the support of the community they had been able to help ten families with a total of 24 children.

Board Comments

Alderman Dorland Abernathy: stated that a Town citizen, Annie Williams, had just passed away. She had been a long time resident and widowed since 1983. She had lived on West Ryder Avenue and Alderman Abernathy said it had been a privilege to know such a sweet lady and that she would be missed.

Alderman Tony Hilton: stated that he was proud of the Christmas project the Police Department does every year. He stated that he had seen firsthand how they help people and made a very big difference in some children's lives. He stated that this was not a small thing and he had personally known some of the families. Alderman Brown agreed whole heartedly, stating that he had also known one of the families that were helped. Alderman Safrit also concurred.

Mayor James Furr: stated that he also appreciated the annual Christmas program, stating that some children have very bad experiences in their early childhood where police officers were concerned and that this allows those children to have a positive interaction with them. Chief Wood stated that there were a lot of poverty stricken families in this area and that it was unbelievable what was happening in this country at this time. He stated that whatever small part the PD could do to help they were willing to do it. There was some discussion.

Citizens Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

Alderman Brown motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to go into Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters. All voted aye.

The Board went into Executive Session.

Alderman Brown motioned, seconded by Alderman Hilton, to come out of Executive Session. All voted aye.

The Board came out of Executive Session.

Alderman Brown motioned, seconded by Alderman Hilton, to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm on Monday, January 6th, 2014.

Heather Wood
Administrative Assistant