

February 3rd, 2014

At 7:00pm, on Monday, February 3rd, 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, 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 with the addition of item 10-A – Consider Going into Executive Session to Discuss Legal Matters. All voted aye.

Alderman Brown motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to adopt the minutes from the January 6th, 2014 Regular Meeting and the January 15th, 2014 Special Called Meeting as amended. All voted aye.

The first order of business concerned a Resolution Stating the Intent of the Town of Landis to Annex Property Owned by the Town Which is not Contiguous to the Existing Municipal Boundaries. There were six properties in question identified as:

1. Tax parcel 133A-103 (Dial Street)
2. Tax parcel 133A-105 (Coldwater Street)
3. Tax parcel 133A-112 (Dial Street)
4. Tax parcel 133A-204 (Coldwater Street)
5. Tax parcel 133A-205 (Coldwater Street)
6. Tax parcel 133A-226 (Dial Street)

Alderman Hilton motioned, seconded by Alderman Brown, to adopt the Resolution Stating the Intent of the Town of Landis to Annex Property Owned by the Town Which is not Contiguous to the Existing Municipal Boundaries and to call for a Public Hearing at the Regular Meeting on Monday, March 3rd, 2014 at 7:00pm. All voted aye.

The next order of business concerned a request from the North Carolina Department of Transportation for a permanent utility easement. Town Manager Reed Linn explained that the traffic signals at South Main Street and West Rice Street were being reworked and the poles would be moved outside of the current right of way. The NC-DOT was requesting this permanent utility easement to cover the new placement of the poles. They were requesting that this be a donation, though they were offering to pay the Town \$450.00 if the Town was not willing for the easement to be donated.

Mayor Furr inquired about how close the new guide wires would be to the foundation at City Hall. Manager Linn stated that they had met with everyone involved and the guide wires would be outside of the landscaped area. There was a brief discussion of the matter. This only concerned the traffic signal at the corner at City Hall, the other signal involved private property and the easement there had already been worked out. Manager Linn stated that they had another meeting with the DOT, Signal Division this week concerning the crossing at Ryder and Main to discuss a mast arm crossing. There would be some cost to the Town for this, but it would likely be shared with the DOT. There was some discussion and Mayor Furr stated that he had no issue with the easement but he would like to find out the DOT's intent when it came to the funding of the mast crossing.

Alderman Hilton motioned, seconded by Alderman Abernathy, to allow staff to negotiate with the North Carolina Department of Transportation for the utility easement and to allow staff to determine if the easement should be donated or not. All voted aye.

Department Head Comments

Town Manager Reed Linn: stated that Recreation Director Andrew Morgan was in Raleigh tonight meeting with the PARTF Committee Head and Fred Steen. The new park office would open on March 1st, 2014 which was the same day that RCCC was having their Polar Plunge, which the Town would assist with. On April 5th there would be an egg hunt; one hunt would be held on the soccer field for children, the wilderness side would host an egg hunt for adults. On April 19th Catawba would be holding a 4k Race on the Town's 5k course that was used for the Breast Cancer Walk/Run, they were raising funds for needy children. On April 26th there would be a 5k Trail Run and on May 10th the Annual Mud Run would take place at the Wilderness Area. Director Morgan had stated that the meeting was going well and they should hear something definitive by June 1st. Manager Linn also explained that there had been a software issue with billing this month, which had been fixed at the time of the meeting and bills would go out tomorrow morning.

Public Works Director Steve Rowland: stated that things at Public Works were going well and the tree trimming and 12kv conversion was in full swing. For the water project, there were some work order changes being taken care of now with the USDA and next month the sewer project would go out to bid. There was some discussion of the bidding process and the hope was that the project could begin sometime in April.

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

- 10 accidents
- 9 calls for assistance
- 16 disturbances
- 15 property crimes
- 0 violent crimes
- 13 arrests from warrants
- 43 citations issued out of 86 stops

There were 153 general calls.

Chief Wood stated that they had purchased six more bullet proof vests and now all of their vests were up to date. All of the vests in circulation now met the new standards. The total cost was \$4,071.00 and so far they had a grant for \$1,000.00 and were anticipating another grant for \$1,500.00 to help offset the cost. There was some discussion of the new vests and Chief Wood clarified that the new vests do protect against bladed weapons.

Board Comments

Alderman Roger Safrit: stated that everything was going well and that everyone was doing a fine job and he greatly appreciated it.

Alderman Dennis Brown: stated that he sees crews working on electrical lines and that it was satisfying to see. He also appreciated that Chief Wood and the PD took the time to look for grants and apply for them in an effort to save the Town and taxpayers money. Chief Wood stated that there were a lot of grants available to law enforcement agencies, but the Police Department only applied for grants for things the department actually needed, not simply because grants were available.

Alderman Tony Hilton: stated that he appreciated Chief Wood's discernment because he had heard of people in the past applying for things they did not need simply because it was "free", but nothing is free. He stated that he would like to look into installing flashing lights for school zones and that they had solar powered lights now. He would like to see those installed so there was better warning as drivers entered school zones. Chief Wood stated they could get in touch with their contact at the DOT.

Alderman Dorland Abernathy: spoke briefly about a group on Facebook that had information about Landis. He also mentioned that Willie Beaver's daughter had passed away and the funeral would be Wednesday at 2:00pm at Whitley's Funeral Home. He stated that Mr. Beaver's wife was in the hospital and that they still had been unable to tell her of her daughter's passing. Alderman Hilton stated that Mr. Beaver meant a lot to this town, he was a "center of influence" and that he used to be a part of the Fire Department. It was Alderman Hilton's feeling that the only reason Mr. Beaver had never served on the Board was because he had declined to run. He was an asset to the Town.

Mayor James Furr: stated that flashing lights at the school zones was a great idea. He also stated that he was grateful that the PD only applied for "useful" grants and that he was always happy to see grants coming back to the Town, it kept Landis from being a "tax vacuum" and any time the taxpayers' money was brought back into Town was a good thing.

Citizens Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

Alderman Hilton motioned, seconded by Alderman Brown, to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters and to adjourn the meeting after the Executive Session had concluded. All voted aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm on Monday, February 3rd, 2014.

Heather Wood
Administrative Assistant