

October 4th, 2010

At 7:00pm., on Monday, October 4th, 2010, in the Board Room of the Landis Municipal Building, Mayor Dennis Brown called to order the Town of Landis Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting. Those present along with the Mayor were Aldermen James Furr, Tony Hilton, Roger Safrit and Craig Sloop, Town Manager Reed Linn, Public Works Director Steve Rowland, Police Chief Brian McCoy, Deputy Town Administrator Debbie Goodman, Administrative Assistant Heather Wood and Town Attorney Rick Locklear.

A quorum was met.

Mayor Dennis Brown opened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance.

The invocation was led by Pastor Richard L. Myers of First Reformed.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor Dennis Brown.

Alderman Sloop motioned, seconded by Alderman Furr, to adopt the agenda as is. All voted aye.

Alderman Furr motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to adopt the minutes from the September 13th, 2010 Regular Meeting as presented. All voted aye.

The first order of business concerned establishing a recycling fee for commercial customers. Town Manager Reed Linn recommended establishing a fee of \$4.00 per month, per customer for recycling only. This matter had been discussed the month before. Residential (and commercial upon request) customers currently pay \$15.00 per month for sanitation services, which include garbage/trash collection, recycling, leaf collection, etc. However, Manger Linn had been approached by businesses wishing to participate in the recycling portion only. If the business is already a part of the monthly sanitation services, no additional charge would be attached. It was staff's recommendation that this fee go into effect sometime during November.

If the business were to require more than one bin, they would be instructed to contact Sharks Recycling and deal directly with the company. The \$4.00 fee would cover only one bin with the normal recycling schedule of every other Tuesday. Some churches were already participating in the recycling program as they had the Town's sanitation service, so they would pay no additional fees per month, and would maintain the \$15.00 monthly fee. Staff had been contacted by both smaller businesses downtown and larger businesses.

Alderman Hilton motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to establish a fee of \$4.00 per month, per commercial customer to participate in the Town's recycling program. All voted aye.

There was discussion of the proposed animal sanitation ordinance, as presented by Police Chief Brian McCoy. Alderman Furr requested that in Section C of the proposed ordinance that the wording be changed to "legally blind". The Board would need to call for a public hearing to move forward with the adoption of the new ordinance.

Alderman Furr motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to call for a Public Hearing on Monday, November 1st, 2010 at 7:00pm to discuss and hear comments from citizens concerning the proposed Animal Sanitation Ordinance for the Town of Landis. All voted aye.

The next order of business was a request from Rowan-Cabarrus Community College to support a resolution for Rowan County Bonds. Alderman Hilton commented that he was uncertain that the Town needed to "get

into” this matter. Alderman Furr expressed a similar opinion, inquiring what effect passing the resolution would have on the matter. Alderman Hilton recommended tabling the matter until they had further information. Mayor Brown confirmed this, and the matter was tabled until further notice.

Manager Linn then presented the Board with voluntary annexation requests. These requests were being done via petition, and Manager Linn had received or was in the process of receiving the petitions for the involved parcels of property. All parcels were adjacent to or abutted Town of Landis city limits. Manager Linn was seeking permission from the Board to conduct staff reports to verify the petitions. He would have them ready in November and the Board could call for a public hearing at that time if that was their desire. Manager Linn stated that the last parcel did belong to the Town of Landis and it was located on North Main Street at the new railroad crossing; he confirmed it was a small piece of property.

Alderman Hilton motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to allow Town Manager Reed Linn to continue with the sufficiency studies. All voted aye.

Department Head Comments

Town Manager Reed Linn: stated that the Town had applied for the Cleanwater State Revolving Fund but they had not scored high enough to qualify, and it had been deferred to next year’s round.

Manager Linn also reminded those present that Public Power Week was October 3rd, 2010 thru October 9th, 2010.

The Survivors 5k Walk/Run was being held on Saturday, October 9th, 2010 and registration would begin at 7:30am, with the race beginning at 9:00am. Several local businesses had sponsored the walk this year.

The Fall Festival would be held on Saturday, October 30th, 2010 between the hours of 5:30pm and 8:30pm. There would be a live band, trunk or treating, hay rides, hot dogs, popcorn and other activities for both adults and children.

Manager Linn requested permission to close a portion of North Central Avenue for the festival.

Alderman Safrit motioned, seconded by Alderman Furr, to close the 100 block of North Central Avenue between Ryder Avenue and Garden Street between the hours of 3:00pm and 10:00pm for the Fall Festival. All voted aye.

Manager Linn also updated the Board, stating that the 2009-2010 audit had began and was on schedule and should be completed by the October 31st, 2010 deadline.

Public Works Director Steve Rowland: stated that last Thursday they had completed the service/maintenance of the substation and that everything had been find and should be good for the next three years. There were also two weeks left on the clearing of power lines by the tree trimmers. He commented that the Town had not seen an ice storm in some time.

Police Chief Brian McCoy: stated that residents around the tennis courts at the park on Beaver Street had requested hours of operation to be posted because they were seeing a lot of vehicle traffic at night. He was also requesting a gate at the entrance to the parking to keep traffic down after hours of operation. If they had posted hours, it would make it easier for the police department to enforce. Alderman Furr inquired if the

Police Department would be handling the opening and closing of the gate, Chief McCoy confirmed that they would be. Mayor Brown instructed Manager Linn to check into the matter and for Director Rowland to look into the costs of gates at the Beaver Street park area. They would then discuss the matter further at the November meeting.

Chief McCoy stated that they had applied for the COPS grant again, but had been turned down and that this year no agency in Rowan County had been awarded the grant. The next round of funding would be in 2011.

Board Comments

Alderman Tony Hilton: commended the Police Department for all that they were doing. They had been doing good things and he had heard good things about them. He stated that they had made great progress and he was proud of the department. Alderman Hilton then asked Director Rowland about the recycling program. Director Rowland stated that there had only been four weeks in September and five weeks in August. They numbers for September had been slightly higher than those in August. So far they had saved eight truck loads from going to the landfill since the start of the program. Mayor Brown commented that people were ready to start recycling. Director Rowland stated that they would have an information booth at the fall festival. Alderman Furr stated that the real people to commend in this process were the citizens. Recycling would have become mandatory down the road, but the Town had jumped ahead. Director Rowland stated that everyone was doing really well with the program.

Alderman James Furr: stated that he would like to amend the agenda to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters.

Alderman Roger Safrit: stated that the recycling program was going great and he commended staff on the great job they had been doing. He stated that they had also done a good thing by putting the flier in the past month's bill concerning the REPS charges.

Citizens' Comments

Marshall Bickett: addressed the Board and spoke briefly. Mr. Bickett is currently a District Court Judge in Rowan County and is running for Superior Court Judge in Rowan County.

Joe Smith: then addressed the Board with several matters. He stated that he had lived in Landis for 36 years and this was only the third meeting he had attended. He stated that he enjoys the Town. One issue that he had was that around six months ago the Town had established an online bill pay program and now there was a \$3.00 fee to use this service. He stated that he could understand this if a customer was paying by check or by phone, but that it takes more time to come into the office than it does to pay from the computer.

The next matter he addressed was the Billy Ray Barnes signs that used to mark the Town limits. He stated that Mr. Barnes was All pro and All NFL and he wanted to know why the signs had been taken down.

Mr. Smith then addressed the REPS charges on the utility bills stating that it was \$.55 per month, which was \$6.10 per year. He had read the handout and still did not understand and commented that the Town had

stated it had been absorbing the costs for the last few years and he felt that it had been gotten from the taxpayers.

Mr. Smith stated that he loved the new recycling program and that his amount of garbage had definitely gone down, but who benefits from this? Mayor Brown stated that the citizens were not being charged extra for the recycling, that the Town was absorbing it to be able to utilize single stream recycling. Mr. Smith inquired if Sharks Recycling was making money off the recyclables. Alderman Furr stated that the valuable material gained after the cost of sorting was not enough for the company to even cover operating costs.

Mayor Brown stated that the Billy Ray Barnes signs had been taken down when the newly designed town limits signs had been installed. Alderman Hilton commented that the old ones had not blended in. Mr. Smith stated that there had been a ceremony when the signs went up, but no one had contacted Mr. Barnes when they were taken down. Alderman Furr assured Mr. Smith that no slight had been intended when the signs were taken down.

Alderman Furr motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit to go into Executive Session for Legal matters. All voted aye.

Alderman Furr motioned, seconded by Alderman Sloop, to come out of Executive Session and to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm on Monday, October 4th, 2010.

Heather Wood
Administrative Assistant