

December 5th, 2011

At 7:00pm, on Monday, December 5th, 2011, 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, Roger Safrit, Tony Hilton and Craig Sloop, Public Works Director Steve Rowland, Police Chief Bob Wood, Town Manager Reed Linn, Deputy Town Administrator Debbie Goodman, Recreation Director Andrew Morgan, 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 Reverend David Franks.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor Dennis Brown.

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

Alderman Safrit motioned, seconded by Alderman Furr, to adopt the minutes from the November 7th, 2011 Regular Meeting as amended. All voted aye.

Before the oaths of office for the newly elected officials were administered, Alderman James Furr stated that he had a legal item that needed to be taken care of. He stated that he could not hold two elected offices and that he was tendering his resignation as an Aldermen of the Landis Board of Aldermen, effective immediately.

Alderman Sloop motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to accept Alderman James Furr's letter of resignation, effective immediately. All voted aye.

Judge Marshall Bickett then administered the oath of office to James Furr for the position of Mayor of the Town of Landis.

Judge Marshall Bickett then administered the oath of office to Roger Safrit for the position of Alderman of the Town of Landis.

Judge Marshall Bickett then administered the oath of office to Tony Hilton for the position of Alderman of the Town of Landis.

Mayor James Furr stated that it was an honor to serve as the Mayor of Landis and that he had first attended a Board of Aldermen meeting as a child. Even then, he said that he had stated one day he wanted to be a part of that. Mayor Furr stated that he had served six years as an Alderman and that he had never imagined one day he would be Mayor. He stated that he appreciated the support of his friends and family, and hoped that those who had not supported him could change their minds through his hard work.

The next order of business was brought up by Alderman Hilton, in regards to filling the vacant Alderman position. It was Alderman Hilton's desire to ask Dennis Brown to take the vacant position.

Alderman Hilton motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to appoint Dennis Brown to the vacant Alderman position on the Landis Board of Alderman. Before the vote, Mayor Furr stated that he was certain "minds were made up" but he felt awkward about this vote. He stated that they needed to remember they had another candidate who had ran for the position of Alderman and if there had been a third position available on the Board at that time, he would have filled it. It was his opinion the vacant seat should go to the third candidate. Alderman Hilton then called for the vote. All voted aye.

Alderman Safrit motioned, seconded by Alderman Sloop, to immediately swear in Dennis Brown to the vacant Alderman position on the Board of Aldermen. All voted aye.

Judge Marshall Bickett then administered the oath of office to Dennis Brown for the position of Alderman of the Town of Landis.

The issue of the TAC and TCC delegates was then brought before the Board. Alderman Hilton stated that if he was allowed to continue in the role as the delegate to the TAC, he would be the chairman of the MPO in 2012, right now he was the vice-chair and he would like to continue. Mayor Furr stated that he thought that was a great idea, that Alderman Hilton had been a great influence there.

Alderman Brown motioned, seconded by Alderman Sloop, to once again appoint Alderman Tony Hilton as the delegate to the TAC, with Town Manager Reed Linn serving as the alternate. All voted aye.

Alderman Hilton motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to once again appoint Public Works Director Steve Rowland as the TCC delegate, with Town Manager Reed Linn serving as the alternate. All voted aye.

Mayor Furr stated that this was an excellent choice.

The next order of business concerned the COG (Centralina Council of Government) representative. Mayor Furr stated that he had served as the representative to COG for several terms and he had a good rapport with them, and it was his desire to remain the representative.

Alderman Sloop motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to once again appoint Mayor James Furr as the COG representative, with Alderman Dennis Brown serving as the alternate. All voted aye.

Major Furr thanked the Board.

The next order of business concerned a special joint meeting with the Landis Planning Board on December 13th, 2011 at 7:00pm. This meeting would be to receive annexation legislation updates from Bill Dustin of COG. Mayor Furr stated that he felt this was a great idea, as there had been tremendous changes in annexation in the General Assembly. He also commented that Mr. Dustin would be retiring soon.

Alderman Safrit motioned, seconded by Alderman Sloop, to call for a special joint meeting with the Landis Planning Board on Tuesday, December 13th, 2011 at 7:00pm. All voted aye.

There was then discussion of moving the dates of several of the regular meetings due to holidays.

Alderman Hilton motioned, seconded by Alderman Brown, to move the January Regular Meeting to Monday, January 9th, 2012, the July Regular Meeting to Monday, July 16th, 2012, and the September Regular Meeting to Monday, September 10th, 2012. All voted aye.

Department Head Comments

Recreation Director Andrew Morgan: stated that South Rowan and Carson High Schools were considering using the lake for their home cross country meets. They were currently trying to figure out a course, and if they were able to find a suitable course, is it something the Board would be willing to let happen. Alderman Hilton instructed Director Morgan to make sure that liability coverage with the school was obtained.

Town Manager Reed Linn: stated that on Thursday, December 22nd, 2011 at around 12:00pm the Public Works and City Hall Christmas gathering would be held at the American Legion building. Aldermen Hilton and Safrit would be cooking.

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

- 9 accidents
- 10 calls for assistance
- 10 disturbances
- 19 property crimes
- no violent crime
- 13 citations issued out of 50 stops
- 6 arrests

There were 100 general/other calls.

Chief Wood stated that all in service training had been completed last week. The Special Olympics raffle was still underway. The tickets were \$1.00 per ticket, and a winner would be chosen on December 20th, 2011.

The Christmas Toy Drive was also underway, and boxes were set up all over town for collection. They were asking for unwrapped toys and they would be picking families in need.

Chief Wood then stated that Savannah Marie Linn was born on Sunday to Officer Brandon Linn. She had an E Coli infection and they were starting treatment. She had another virus due to an infection with her mother before she was delivered. They would know Wednesday if she had spinal meningitis and the doctors were confident they could treat her. Chief Wood asked everyone to remember the Linn family in their prayers.

Chief Wood stated that the Police Department Christmas Party would be Thursday, December 15th, 2011 at 6:30pm at the American Legion Building. He invited the Board members and their families as well.

Board Comments

Alderman Tony Hilton: stated that he was looking forward to another four years of serving on the Board and that he felt the Board had worked well together so far and hoped they would continue to do so.

Alderman Dennis Brown: thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve and stated that he would do his best, and that he also looked forward to everyone working well together.

Alderman Roger Safrit: thanked everyone for their confidence in him and he was looking forward to the next four years of working together with the Board.

Citizens Comments

Hilda Beaver: stated that in February she had a sewage leak and she had paid to have it cleaned up. She had sent the bill to City Hall about it and had received no response. She went on to say that she had another leak later and had to call Roto-Rooter and they gave her an estimate of \$2,500.00, but when they gave her the bill it was for \$3,500.00. She had no choice but to let them continue though. She stated that she had Keith Gullidge look at the lines and he had stated they were not hers, but she had no choice. Ms. Beaver stated that she had given the bill to Town Manager Reed Linn. She stated that Director Rowland told her there were roots in the lines, but she had never seen on the bill where it said anything about roots. She hoped that the Town would reconsider and help her pay the bill because she felt it was half the Town's responsibility. There had been a problem with the hook-up and the Town had put a new tap in. She stated that she had had problems with it before.

Manager Linn stated that Ms. Beaver was correct, there had been a line broken at the main and the Town had repaired it at the main, and Ms. Beaver had not been charged for a new tap or access fee which was normally the procedure. Roto-Rooter had indicated they had replaced part of Ms. Beaver's sewer line and piping.

Sally Russell: stated that she had lived here for four years and behind her property was where Margaret Lisk lived and that property contained junk vehicles, campers, boats etc and was very run down. She stated that it was an eye sore and attracted rodents and pests. She had called and written in to complain and had been told by Chief Art Delaney (the employee that handles Code Enforcement) that he had been out to speak with Ms. Lisk, but that there was not much the Town could do yet. Ms. Russell stated that Ms. Lisk is a widow lady and that she took in children and she was a great lady, and she felt it was perhaps the kids and their friends making the mess.

There was brief discussion of the matter. Ms. Russell stated that her property value had "plunged" because of this and she had been trying to get it sorted out for years. She had talked to Manager Linn and Chief

Delaney. She stated she had even called Salisbury because she was not satisfied by what had been done by Landis so far. There were little kids, cats and dogs inside and she was asking for any help. Ms. Russell stated that Ms. Lisk was a great neighbor, but the property was junky.

Mayor Furr stated that he understood Ms. Russell's frustration, he had a similar situation with a neighbor and he had tried to handle it several times. However, there was really only one practical way to handle it, which would be through involuntary steps for Ms. Lisk. It would be months down the road because of procedure, but the Town would eventually go in and clean up and then put a lien on the property for the cost. Mayor Furr inquired of Manager Linn if anything had been done so far.

Manager Linn stated that Chief Delaney had met with Ms. Lisk in the last two weeks and had scheduled with her to get rid of things. He believed one truck had already been removed. He stated he was not certain how to classify toys other than debris. He stated that there were a lot of vehicles and this was a long, drawn out process but they were working to get it clean.

Alderman Sloop motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to go into Executive Session to discuss Legal and Personnel matters. All voted aye.

Alderman Sloop motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to come out of Executive Session. All voted aye.

Alderman Sloop motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm on Monday, December 5th, 2011.

Heather Wood
Administrative Assistant