

**TOWN OF GRIFTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MEETING**

August 6, 2013

Present: Mayor B.R. Jackson; Commissioners E.F. Albritton, Richard Hill, Sammy Whitehurst; Manger Joe Albright

Absent: Commissioners Will Barnes, Mary Grace Bright

Mayor Jackson called the meeting to order.

Mayor Jackson led the Board of Commissioners in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Recognition of Persons to be Heard:

1. Mr. James Newton of 6774 Glenwood Drive came before the Board to contest a very high utility bill he received. He did not dispute that he had a leak he disputed the number of gallons the meter registered him using. Mr. Newton stated that the meter registers 262,000 gallons of water and he does not understand how that much water went through the meter and there was no water standing anywhere. The Board advised Manager Albright to have the meter tested and if the testing showed that the meter is not faulty then Mr. Newton would be responsible for paying the amount owed. Manager Albright asked if the Board would entertain a payment plan with Mr. Newton. Manager Albright also stated that Mr. Newton needs to pay his past due balance because it has nothing to do with the amount that is being questioned. Manger Albright also informed the Board that a Sewer adjustment in the amount of \$1831.45 has already been made to the account. The Board gave Manager Albright the authority to set up a payment arrangement with Mr. Newton if the meter comes back as accurate and if the meter comes back inaccurate then adjustments would be made to the account. Mr. Newton agreed with the process the Board approved.
2. Ms. Adams of 2491 Cameron Langston Road and Ms. Sheila Rountree of NC Hwy 118 came before the Board to ask for help in obtaining some type of program and a building for the young people to attend. Ms. Adams stated she wanted somewhere the children could go to do arts and crafts, cake decorating, play games, etc. Commissioner Whitehurst stated that he thought what the ladies are doing is highly commendable however a business plan is needed. He stated that things such as facilities and funds should be addressed in this plan. He also suggested they talk with Linwood Thorbs for help. Manager Albright stated that the plan should include operational plans with details and

and an organization of ideas with specifics.
Commissioner Hill asked them to add transportation to the plan.

3. Mae McMillian of 395 McCrae Street came before the Board with several concerns.
 - (a) Ms. McMillian thanked the Board for the installation of the bushes that were replaced on her property.
 - (b) Ms. McMillian asked if the Contractors were going to come back and pick up the rock they left in her yard and fix it back the way it was before. Manager Albright stated that he would have a talk with the contractors.
 - (c) Ms. McMillian came before the Board to request that the Board make public record that her house at 381 Queen Street has not been condemned and there is nothing wrong with her house. She stated that Manager Albright gave her tenant a piece of paper that proclaimed her property condemned. Manager Albright stated that the documents, which are of public record, which was given to her current tenant, did not in any way say her house was condemned. It specifically stated that issues and meetings that were held with the tenants prior to the last tenant. Manager Albright told Ms. McMillian to call him when the current tenants had completely moved out and he would do a walk through with her.
4. Wayne Hardee of 2164 Cannon Price Road came before the Board on behalf of the Museum and Indian Village. He wanted to announce the 3rd annual Lawson Days which starts on Friday, October 25th and ends on Sunday October 27th. Mr. Hardee gave a brief account of the activities that would be offered and asked the Board for permission for some of the activities. One of the activities will be to fire a cannon at night and during the day so people can experience the happenings and how it was actually done at night and during the daylight hours. The event will start on Friday night beginning at 6pm with reenactments and camping at the Indian Village. The other events will be on Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 5pm. Mr. Hardee also asked if it was okay to use the two art rooms for their activities. Commissioner Hill stated that a permit from the Police Department would be needed for the firing of the cannon to have on record so when people start hearing it and calling in to the Police Department they will be prepared to answer any questions. Mayor Jackson praised Mr. Hardee and the Museum committee for their hard work. He also stated that if the current occupants of the art rooms and Mr. Hardee can work together there should be no problem with the Museum/Indian Village using the rooms during their event.
5. Bruce Clements of 6776 Dupont Street came before the Board to complain about the leash law and unlicensed vehicle ordinance. He stated that there are several houses in Town that have junk/abandoned vehicles and he would like to see the ordinance enforced. Manager Albright asked Mr. Clements to talk with him at a later date and give him specifics and he would look into the issue.

Discussion/Action Items

1. *Façade Grant Application-613 Queen Street*

Manager Albright stated that in August, 2012 Mr. David Jones made application to the Town for a Façade Grant for renovations to his property. The CDC and Town Board both recommended approval. However, the Façade Grant Budget had been exhausted at the time Mr. Jones applied. Manager Albright stated that there is \$5000.00 set aside for façade grants in the year's budget. Manager Albright stated that Mr. Jones is asking that his original application now be funded. Manager Albright recommended this item be put on the consent agenda at the next regular meeting. The Board agreed.

2. *Retirement-Issuance of Badge and Service Weapon – Resolution 2013-13*

Manager Albright informed the Board that Lieutenant Leon Chapman retired from the Town of Grifton Police Department on July 31, 2013. Manager Albright stated that is customary to award a retiring officer his badge and service sidearm. Manager Albright recommended that this item be put on the consent agenda at the next regular meeting. The Board agreed.

3. *Grifton Library-Computer Software Request*

Manager Albright stated that upon upgrading the computers for the Library it was discovered that the current Library software will not work with the new computers. Therefore, Manager Albright is requesting the Board to purchase new software in the amount of \$1875.00 and for this item to be paid out of the Library Trust Fund. Mayor Jackson asked if the Library Board had been made aware of this issue. Manager Albright responded by saying that he was not sure if the Library Board is still intact. Manager Albright recommended this item be put on the consent agenda at the next regular meeting. The Board agreed.

4. *Pedestrian and Greenway Master Plan Goals*

Since he was not at the last meeting when this was discussed, due to an illness, Manager Albright asked for clarification of what the Board wanted from him.

Commissioner Whitehurst stated that on the walkway from Country Club to Town the maintenance would be grass cutting and holes filled. He would like to take something that does not include a lot of expense and make it usable for Grifton Citizens. He stated that the Board would also like to look at other areas of Town such as, the costs of sidewalks from the horse stables to forest acres.

Manager Albright stated that there was something mentioned about signage.

Commissioner Whitehurst stated that it would be nice to have signage displaying the distance of the walking trails in Town.

Manager Albright also stated there was mention of maintaining and/or redoing existing trails.

Commissioner Whitehurst stated that the RV Park trail needs some serious attention.

Commissioner Hill is concerned about the safety of people walking at the RV Park because of the animals coming out of the woods.

Commissioner Whitehurst stated that there are RV's there and those people like to walk around the trails.

Mayor Jackson stated that Dr. Rasberry had approached him about putting signage on the Hwy118 end of Town. He asked about the old marble sign that used to be at the South entrance.

Manger Albright explained that it is being held securely at the shop until funds are available to put the sign at the Hwy 118 entrance. He stated that the CDC was working on doing that project when the money ran out.

Manager Albright also stated that Dr. Rasberry had approached him about this matter also and said the Lion's Club is willing to help with the cost but is unable to fund the total amount.

Manager Albright gave the Board printed copies of the original letter and pictures from Ms. McMillian's house at 381 Queen Street and challenged them to find anywhere in the documents that stated that Ms. McMillian's house was condemned.

Manger Albright informed the Board that the Town has been awarded the State Grant to do the Contentnea Woods Walk Project. The Grant is \$25,000 and is a 80/20 in kind match. Manager Albright stated that our match will not be funded through cost but through services and labor only.

Manager Albright wanted to publically recognize Alicia Arnold for getting the Grant.

Manager Albright wanted to publically remind the Board that Friday, August 9th would be Alicia's last day and she will be sorely missed.

Alicia Arnold thanked the Board for the opportunity to start off her career here and the knowledge she has acquired while being here.

Mayor Jackson stated that he knew we were only a stepping stone for her but thanked her for her hard work while being employed with the Town of Grifton. He also stated that she has been a pleasure to work with.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Albritton asked about the hiring process of a new Assistant Town Clerk/Tax Collector Position.

Manager Albright stated that he and Angel are in the interviewing process and have some very qualified applicants. He stated that he hopes to make a decision by the end of the week.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Albritton. The meeting was adjourned.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted
Angel Hudson
Town of Grifton