

**MINUTES  
MARCH 24, 2014**

**BUDGET MEETING  
6:30pm**

Mayor Pardue and all Council Members present. Mayor Pardue called the meeting to order.

**PUBLIC HEARING – CDBG APPLICATION**

The proposed water systems improvements will further consolidate the Jonesville and Arlington water systems and will meet several current needs for the Jonesville system. The proposed project will increase the Hydraulic Grade Line (HGL) of the entire Jonesville system to match that of the Arlington system and increase service pressure to all of the Jonesville system. This HGL increase will solve documented low pressure concerns and increase available flow for firefighting. The proposed project will also include the replacement of several sections of 2-inch diameter galvanized water mains, upgrade finished water pumps, upgrade water transmission mains, establish reliable pump-free connections between the Jonesville and Arlington systems, and replace a host of residential and commercial meters that currently limit billable water consumption.

No one spoke at the public hearing, so the public hearing was closed.

Council Member Moore made the motion to adopt the resolution that states our intention to apply for funds and to adopt the necessary plans to complete the application process and Council Member Wall, seconded the motion, unanimous 4-0.

**ABC STORE/BOARD DISCUSSION**

Options –

- 1.) Do nothing. The ABC referendum gave the Town the authority to operate an ABC Store. However, there is no requirement that we do so. Any restaurant or bar that was to sell liquor by the drink could purchase their alcohol at another local ABC Store.
- 2.) Appoint our own ABC Board and open our own ABC Store. The store could be located in a new building or an existing building.
- 3.) Join with another ABC Board.
  - A.) Town of Elkin – The Elkin ABC Board has approached us about joining their Board. They seem to be open to the option of operating one, unified store or two separate stores.
  - B.) Seek to facilitate a new, regional ABC Board – During the discussions with Elkin, the idea of trying to help establish a regional ABC Board similar to the Triad ABC Board was brought up.

The Triad ABC Board said NO to working with us.  
The ABC Board needs to be appointed....Neil Finger would like to be on the board.  
The Board likes the idea of using the Food Lion shopping center for its first location.  
Keep talking with Elkin and bring back detailed information for us to discuss.  
Find out the pros and cons of forming our own region with Dobson, Elkin and Jonesville.

## **COUNCIL VACANCY**

When Mr. Pardue was sworn in as Mayor, the Council seat he occupied became vacant. According to State statute (see below) the Town Council is to appoint someone to serve the remainder of this unexpired Council term (until 2015). There is no requirement that the person chosen to serve the remainder of the term be someone that was a candidate for office in the most recent election. In fact, the Council may choose any "qualified citizen" to serve. Qualified citizen is anyone that is registered to vote in Jonesville.

The Statute does not provide the Council with any particular process to use in selecting the person to fill the vacancy. Therefore it is probably reasonable to believe that the legislature intentionally left the decision making process to each Town Council to decide what is the best for their individual community. Council should review the paper written by Frayda Bluestein about Filling a Vacancy on the Town Council and the paper about the best processes to do so by Robert Joyce.

Council Member Wall made the motion to leave the seat vacant and Council Member Moore, seconded the motion, unanimous 4-0.

## **FIRE STATION AND OTHER TOWN OWNED FACILITIES**

The Town owns the old Fire Station, old Town Hall, old Arlington Town Hall and the rental property across from the old Town Hall. All of these properties are in need of some amount of repair and most are currently being underutilized. The Town has several options for future use of all these locations.

Town Hall can move its town records in one of the bays at the Fire Station per Chief Roger Reece and that will leave the old Town Hall empty for the Board to make a decision on the building.

Arlington Town Hall can be clean up and used for holiday storage, even the holiday items at the old Town Hall can be placed in this building for storage.

Rental property across the street from the old Town Hall will be updated/fixed according to its needs including the roof.

Need to think about maintenance at the Town Hall on the parking lot and metal frontage on building.

Council Member Moore made the motion to approve the Police Department to move its operations into the old Fire Station. Police Department Administration will stay at its current location. All details should be worked out between Town Manager, Scott Buffkin and Police Chief Roger Reece and then brought to the Board for information only. Work on the outside of the building must be done first to beautify the appearance including paint, roof, and rock ½ ways up wall. Council Member Wall, seconded the motion, unanimous 4-0.

The Board would like to help the Police Department increase their resources to help with drug enforcement.

Council Member Moore made the motion to approve Chief Roger Reece trying to get outside funds to help update the firing range at the old sewer plant and Council Member Wall, seconded the motion, unanimous 4-0.

Decisions need to be made to move the sign at the fire station and also what to do with the old fire truck at the old town hall.

## **BUDGET WORKSHOP**

As time permits the Council can begin discussions about revenue expectations and large ticket, capital items (vehicles, equipment, structures, etc.). The only major revenue source that the Town has control of is the property tax. Our current tax rate of \$.40 will generate about \$620,000 in revenues. Each \$.01 increase in the tax rate will bring in about an extra \$15,000.

The Town has not purchased any police patrol vehicles in two years or any other vehicles or equipment in some time. As a result, our maintenance costs have increased and we have experienced times that the backhoe and other equipment is unavailable for use.

With no pending business to discuss Council Moore made the motion to adjourn and Council Member Wall, seconded the motion, unanimous 4-0.

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Mayor, Gene Pardue

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Town Clerk, Lynn Trivette