

90

Minutes of the Work Session of
The Liberty Town Council
Held on May 17, 2021 4:30PM

Present

Mayor: The Honorable Filmore York

Council: Chris Compton, Larry Coble, Don Herndon, and Tyson Nixon

Interim Town Manager: Scott Kidd

Town Clerk: Jessica Brown

Staff: Parks & Recreation Assistant; Logan Maness, Police Chief; David Semrad; Fire Chief; Matt Talbott, Finance/HR Director; Kathy Bond, Safety Director; Bret Pedigo, Library Director; Brenda Heindl Hornsby and Public Service Director; Terry Crouse

Town Attorney; Bill Flowe

To Order

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm and welcomed everyone. Council Member Don Herndon made a motion to recess the meeting so Members present could visit the site of a possible Police Department facility at 10046 Old Liberty Road. Council Member Larry Coble seconded the motion which passed unanimously: Council Member Larry Coble voted yes, Council Member Don Herndon voted yes, and Council Member Chris Compton voted yes. The meeting was recessed. Council Members Larry Coble, Don Herndon, Chris Compton, Mayor Fil York and Interim Town Manager Scott Kidd left to visit the site.

Reconvene meeting - 5:30PM

Council Member Chris Compton made a motion to reconvene the meeting at 5:30PM. Council Member Larry Coble seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Council Members Chris Compton, Larry Coble, Don Herndon, and Tyson Nixon voted yes and the meeting was reconvened. Council Member JR Beard is not able to attend the meeting.

Adoption of Agenda

Council Member Tyson Nixon made a motion to adopt the agenda. Council Member Don Herndon seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Council Members Larry Coble, Don Herndon, Tyson Nixon and Chris Compton voted yes and adopted the agenda.

Veteran's Memorial Sign Update - Terry Caviness

Terry Caviness came forward to give update. They are working on bronze plaques for February 2010 - 2018. There will be a sign and a display of the plaques. It will be a brick structure recessed from the weather and will contain registration forms as well. It will have a copper roof and off white brick to stand out more from the Police Department and the actual Memorial. There will be lights and it will face Swannanoa. It will be a "Welcome Center". Mr. Caviness said it will take a couple of months to get the bricks. Mayor York thanked him for all his efforts.

Budget Message - Scott Kidd

Interim Town Manager Scott Kidd said this is a draft and not included in the agenda. He read the Town's Mission Statement. Things that have happened in the past year are: CDBG sewer project, Golden Leaf Grant, ASADRA grant, two AIA grants, awaiting to hear about LWCF grant, selected and reapplied for TAP funding, Police Department facility discussions, ADA Transition Plan, New policies: financial and budgetary policies, water/sewer connection policies, and COVID. He commended the Council for allowing the Town Manager the authority to close streets for events to help local businesses. He went over the property taxes (ad valorem). Revenue streams have held pretty well.

There are more details in Budget Books.

The average salary for the Town is \$40,000.00. Salaries are 50% of expenditures not including benefits. Phone and utilities are 5% and fuel is 2%. Contracted services such as Republic trash and Code Enforcement are 12%. Water and sewer expenses continue to rise. We are required to do more testing by the State at the WWTP. We are having more leaks due to aging lines. Water/Sewer rates dictate our ability to get grants and we will continue to monitor. Some ways to deal with our Water/Sewer challenges is to continue to focus on the I & I Study results, continue to work with the State Division of Water Resources through our SOC (Special Order by Consent) and look at rehabbing water lines in the CDBG project area.

Looking at General Fund Balance Appropriation this audit showed a 110% fund balance. This budget is drawing the fund balance down to 95%. The extra will help to pay off the Fire Station debt.

Some fee schedule changes are: \$10.00 fee for online bank draft, fees for mowing negligent owners lots, \$30.00 off duty officer fee and recreation program fees from \$5 - \$40.00.

In conclusion, Liberty continues to grow. There have been ten to fifteen new houses built the past year. We want to continue to take good care of our employees. We will continue our tireless efforts to pursue funding that will reduce burden on taxpayers.

There will be a Citizen Comment period in June for the Budget.

Information

Monthly Reports

The Town Manager has included the monthly reports from Department Heads and can discuss any comments or questions.

Police Chief David Semrad said it had been status quo with continued domestic calls. Logan Maness with Parks and Recreation said they have started baseball games. They had an Easter Egg Hunt at Freedom Park. They have a new Part Time employee. They helped the library setup for their outdoor movie. Freedom Park will soon have WiFi.

Interim Public Services Director Terry Crouse said the sewer rehab project has begun and they are working on point repairs now. The contractor has set up at the Kimrey place. The roadside repairs at Swannanoa from the detour were completed today. Demolition to a house on Kime has been completed. The cost was \$10,500.00. Tomorrow the lot on Murphy Street that was burned will be cleaned up. Fire Chief Talbott has an agreement with the owners of the house on Dameron to burn for training.

Library Director Brenda Heindl Hornsby said they started storytime at the parks last month which was well received. They will have their first "Community Conversation" this Saturday which is part of their grant. They will have a Juneteenth celebration June 19th at Paul Henry Smith Park. They are looking forward to the summer reading program and plan to give away a lot of books.

Brenda also said they have gotten three quotes for the Town Hall/Library sign. They have two design layouts. The Library Board liked the white sign. The proposal for the final design is \$1,000.00 - \$1,200.00. The money for the sign will come from the Lowe Fund. Both have heavy vinyl over posts and room underneath to place banners. The Council suggested a border around the sign or making the posts a different color. Chief Matt Talbott and Safety Director Bret Pedigo had nothing to add to their reports.

Administrative Reports

Manager's Report

Town Manager Scott Kidd gave a report. The price for the 1990 Pierce Fire truck that we are trying to sell on GovDeals price was set at \$10,000.00 but is still not selling. They have contacted a company that sells fire trucks but they have not gotten back with them yet. They have had no bids so far. Council suggested getting the best price they can get on GovDeals.

Finance Report

Finance Director Kathy Bond gave the report. She went over the cover sheet and mentioned that there are some negatives in the Budget vs. Actual but Budget Amendments are coming to correct this.

New Business

Budget Amendment #39

This amendment is to move funds from L/E Capital Reserve to Vehicle Lease.

Budget Amendment #40

This amendment is to move funds from the General Fund Appropriated to Library Capital Reserve Fund.

Budget Amendment #41

This amendment is to move funds from Library Capital Reserve Fund to Library M/R Building for removing two brick arches at Library front door and replacing front door with double lightweight front doors. (Cox Construction & Liberty Glass & Door, Inc)

Budget Amendment #42

This amendment is to move funds from Library Capital Reserve Fund to Library Capital Outlay to purchase two picnic tables from Uline.

Resolution 2021-6 - Road Closure July Celebration

This resolution is for the temporary road closure for the July 10th 2021 annual fireworks.

Council Comments

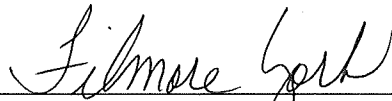
Council Member Don Herndon said litter continues to be a big issue on certain streets. North Smith had five bags of trash in a wooded area. He would like to see some littering signage in English and Spanish, cameras, and possible fines.

Mayor Comments

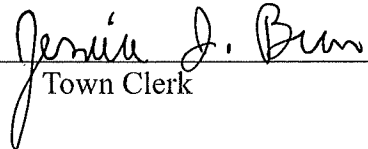
Mayor York thanked everyone who came at 4:30 for the tour. He also thanked Del Pearce and the Police Steering Committee for their efforts and said the Council will continue the discussion.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, Council Member Tyson Nixon motioned to adjourn the meeting and Council Member Larry Coble seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Council Member Larry Coble voted yes, Council Member Don Herndon voted yes, Council Member Tyson Nixon and Council Member Chris Compton voted yes. The meeting was adjourned.



Mayor Filmore York

ATTEST:  _____
Town Clerk