

TOWN OF NEWLAND
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2021
6:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROPOSED AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

PUBLIC COMMENTS

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

TOWN OF NEWLAND
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

July 6, 2021

6:00 PM

PRESENT:

MAYOR: Valerie Jaynes

ATTORNEY: Joe Seegers

ALDERMAN: Kenny Caraway, James C. Johnson, Lauren Turbyfill, Christie Hughes, Dave Calvert

GUESTS: Ruth Shirley, Greg Greene, Mary H. Johnson, Walt McRee, Kelton Lastein,
John Wayne Hughes, Luke Barber

STAFF: Chief Byron Clawson, Colby Benfield, Tammy Gardner

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The Mayor then led the audience in the pledge to the American flag.

James made a motion to approve the proposed agenda. Christie seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I.

James made a motion to approve the June minutes. Christie seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I.

Greg Greene spoke to the board about the Town possible buying or leasing the Lowes building. Mr. Greene stated he was talking with different people about leasing it now, but he felt it would be useful to the Town. Mr. Greene stated they were asking 1million 5 for 7 acres. He stated they would consider financing it. The board thanked Mr. Greene for coming.

Ruth Shirley spoke to the board about a dog park. Miss Shirley stated she was taking her dog to Banner Elk to a park there and thought it would be a good ideal to have one in Newland. The board agreed. James asked Colby to check into it. Dave asked about liability. The board agreed it was a good idea.

Mary Johnson from Land Partners spoke to the board about satellite annexation water for the property across from Mountain Glen. She presented the board with maps and ideals of what they were planning to do if the Town could help with water. Mary stated they were looking at lodging and affordable housing for the area. Phillip Barrier stated it was the future and he could see things going that way. John Hughes stated it would be a good thing. James and Christy both stated they were all for it. Kenny asked about the cost. Colby stated they would have to get an engineer to come look at it for an amount. James stated the town would be eligible for grants to pay for it. Lauren asked about contracting the job out. Colby stated it would have to be contracted out because there is no way the boys would have time to do

that plus all their work now. Lauren asked if Mountain Glen would be part of the add on for water. James stated possibly, they would have to pay tap on fees, normal rates and city taxes. Joe Seegers stated first they would need to get a signed request from individual property owners, and then to get the engineer.

Chief Byron Clawson gave the police report. Chief Clawson went over the notable calls. Chief Clawson stated it had been a busy month. Christie thanked him for everything they did at the parade.

Colby Benfield gave the Water works report. Colby stated it has been a busy month and they were slammed, but everything went well. Colby stated he had passed his test and would be taking the other tests soon. Colby stated O'Reilly's is scheduled to open in August. Colby stated they had a pump quit and they were looking for parts to get it fixed. Colby stated they were doing a couple of water tap on at Banner Hill. Colby stated he and Jarrod would be doing a pesticide class issued by the state. Colby stated he would be out of town on the 16th and 19th. James thanked Colby and stated they do a great job.

Mayor Valerie Jaynes gave the finance report. Valerie stated she had talked with a someone from North Carolina Reality about a \$5000.00 grant to improve downtown. Valerie stated she would come do an assessment and tell them where to use the funds. The board discussed the grant.

Valerie explained situations with the board concerning the Qs1 system she is learning. Valerie stated she has a call from municipalities concerning the job opening for Administrator and stated he knew someone who might take the job. James stated he knew him, and he would be good for the job if he would take it. James stated you need to be up straight with him and let him know he is coming into a mess. James made a motion to allow the mayor to proceed with the NRA grant for \$5000.00. Lauren seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Joe Seegers discussed the cell tower lease and stated not to do it. Christie asked about signs or crosswalk for the ducks. Colby stated he would look into it.

The board discussed pay for Shelby Taylor and Mayor Valerie Jaynes in the finance office. Valerie stated she talked with a couple of board members, and she is paying Shelby Taylor \$25 an hour to do payroll and tax stuff. James asked who agreed to hire Shelby, Valerie stated she brought it up in the meeting and no one said anything, and she was in a desperate position, so she went ahead and hired her to do payroll since Shelby offered to help. Dave stated it did not matter because Valerie oversees day-to-day operations and did not need them. Valerie stated Shelby was doing payroll and Valerie stated she was paying bills and doing phone calls to change everything and take care of daily business. Kenny stated she should be compensated for her services. Christie stated she did not see how Shelby got hired without them, Dave stated he already addressed that before. Valerie stated Shelby did not want it indefinitely, she was just helping out for a while. James asked if the administrator job had been posted yet. Valerie stated no; she was waiting on municipalities to give her the go ahead on the job description. Alderman Kenny Caraway left the meeting for health reasons. Valerie Jaynes left the room while the board discussed the pay for her. James C. Johnson protem, stood in for the mayor.

After discussion, Christie made a motion to appoint Shelby Taylor as interim finance officer. Dave seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I.

Dave made a motion to give Valerie Jaynes \$1000.00 compensation for the previous 4 weeks she has worked and moving forward \$250.00 a week and work on getting an interim administrator. Christie seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I.

Christie made a motion to adjourn. Dave seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Mayor, Valerie Jaynes

Clerk, Tammy Gardner