

**TOWN OF NEWLAND
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 7, 2021
6:00 PM**

AGENDA

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROPOSED AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

PUBLIC COMMENTS

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

TOWN OF NEWLAND
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 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: John Baer, Jamie Shell, Derek Roberts, Neal Avery

STAFF: Chief Byron Clawson, Michael Fields, 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. Dave seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I.

Christie Hughes did not approve the minutes. Christie stated the clerk did not put in the minutes that she stated she asked for finance records from the Mayor. Dave made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction. James seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I.

There were no public comments.

John Baer asked the board about planting apple trees in the park. Mr. Baer stated he has two trees now. Colby stated that was fine as long as they were back a little because of bees. Lauren stated maybe he could ask some hunters to pick up the apples to help the town. Mr. Baer stated that later he may add some blueberry and raspberry trees in the park also. Lauren stated that was fine and they would talk about the money for them later. James made a motion to let John Baer put the two donated apple trees in the park. Kenny seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I.

Chief Byron Clawson gave the police report. Chief Clawson went over the notable calls. Chief Clawson stated that Lazlo had done it again. Chief Clawson stated that Lazlo was on duty and helped the officers make a drug arrest. Officer Ahneman made the traffic stop and Officer Fields brought Lazlo to the scene, and he altered the presence of a controlled substance. James told Officer Fields he was very proud of him and Officer Lazlo. James asked how many arrests has Officer Lazlo assisted in? Michael stated six. James asked the chief to write up a commendation letter to put in Michael 's and Lazlo's chart. Chief Clawson stated he would write that up and put in their personnel file.

Colby Benfield gave the public works report. Colby stated they had four leaks in the last month that were taken care of. Fixed old wells with help from Carolina Water. There is a leak near hardware in which the parts are ordered. Colby stated they were having trouble getting the parts. James stated he appreciated Colby and all the guys for all they do, and that the county was dealing with the same on metal and steel. The company can not get any to order from. Colby stated they sold the 1990 F350 for \$5000.00. Colby stated they were waiting for a title, and he would sell the other one. Colby stated the new building should be here this week or next. Colby stated with the setting up of the building it would go over budget. James stated that maybe he should wait till after the truck is sold. James asked Jeremy what he thought. Jeremy stated the board should give him and Colby discretionary authority on sale of the vehicle to move forward to contract the building, so we do not have to wait till the next meeting. James stated that was a great ideal. Kenny asked if that was to complete the building. Colby stated it was not for the concrete, just posts, medal and insulation up. Colby stated the plan was to get the building up and in their spare time they would work on the plumbing and electrical. Lauren made a motion pending sale of the vehicle, to allow Jeremy and Colby to complete the building. James seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Colby stated him and James got their water and sewer research done on the water license. Colby stated he had a ton of applications and talked to some good candidates, but the pay seems to be an issue. Colby stated he needed to know if they were going to up the pay or leave it where it is at. Lauren asked where James and Mark are. Colby stated James was at \$16.45, and Mark was \$14.85. Colby stated the last employee was hired at \$13.25. Colby stated he expressed to them the package that come with that. Dave stated he understood the point, but they would not find that package anywhere. Dave stated that in the future they would have to look at that with inflation going up. James stated to Jeremy they did a payroll study and asked Jeremy to look over it. Colby stated he had two people with experience, and one with certifications. James stated to get with Jeremy and interview the one with certifications. Lauren asked Colby what his pay was, Colby stated \$20.00 even. Lauren stated the Christmas parade would be December 4th on Saturday at 6:00 p.m. Lineup at 5:30 starting at the square. James stated there should be prizes for the top three floats. Lauren stated it would be cash.

The Mayor gave the finance report. The Mayor gave the board financial statements. Christy stated that was fine but too late. The Mayor stated she sent an email to Lisa Randolph about the audit on July 22 and Lisa never responded back. The Mayor stated after a while she contacted her again in which Lisa stated she did not see the email. The mayor stated Lisa had messed up there. The Mayor stated she did not send Nancy's letter of resignation out to the board because Nancy stated she gave the mayor one and the clerk a letter, but she did not send the board one stating the mayor could tell the board if she wanted too. The Mayor stated by then the board already knew about it. The mayor stated that she had been keeping her time sheets from day one. The Mayor told the board she was tired of their BS. The mayor stated she had worked her butt off, but the board members had been a bunch of butts about it. The Mayor stated to the board how many times have they not responded to her emails. Christie called a point of order. The Mayor stated she would call the point of order; she was the Mayor. The Mayor stated to Christie that she called the carpet place and cancelled the carpet when Jeremy was supposed to handle that. Lauren stated the Mayor was doing the Administrator job and when there is no administrator the Mayor does the job. Christie stated no its not. The Mayor stated she was tired of being disrespected and talked about like a dog. Christie stated point of order. The Mayor called a point of order and stated she was not going to say another word. Lauren asked about Christmas bonuses for the employees. Jeremy asked what was in the budget for the bonuses. Jeremy stated he would start with

the dollar amount in the budget, then work with department heads. Lauren stated last year they gave them in July. Christie stated that this year they were given a 3% raise, so they didn't get a bonus in July. Jeremy stated he would get back with the board after looking everything over.

Jeremy explained to the board about payroll support. Jeremy proposed to the board a company called ADP. Jeremy stated he was working with someone from the company to start doing payroll for the town. Jeremy stated it would cost \$450.00 for three months, and this would help and give time with this transition. James made a motion to accept Jeremy's proposal to ADP for a three-month contract for \$450.00. Kenny asked when it would start. Jeremy stated next week but he would need the Mayor and Shelby's help getting things put into the system. Dave seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Jeremy stated he would also like to talk to them about a wage/hour study that is current. Jeremy stated that financial record keeping and year to date cleanup was something that could be contracted out. Jeremy stated he was talking to a company about this. Jeremy stated he had three different groups to come meet with him to discuss what can be done. James stated it was a wonderful ideal. Jeremy asked that he be given discretionary funding approval of \$5000.00 to retain someone. James made a motion to try to get a company in here to catch up everything. Kenny asked if the money was coming out of the general fund or where would it come from. Jeremy stated that since there has been no finance officer or administrator, there should be funds already for that. Lauren seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I.

Dave excused himself from the meeting. James thanked Dave for his service. Dave told the board to respect each other.

James made a motion to go into closed session for personnel. Kenny seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I.

Upon returning from closed session the Mayor announced no decision was made.

Kenny stated now that we have an administrator and payroll taken care of, Kenny made a motion to eliminate the Mayors \$250.00 a week. Lauren asked Jeremy if he heard the recommendation from Kenny where Kenny made a motion to eliminate the \$250.00 a week for the mayor for who has been paying bills and doing the administrator business that Jeremy has not been able to. Lauren asked Jeremy where he stood with this motion. Jeremy stated he was going to need help and since the Mayor has been doing the bills, she would be the one to help him for at least two weeks. Jeremy added please don't take away the only trainer. Kenny stated there is a motion on the table, any second? Christie seconded the motion. James agreed. Lauren stated you all are really good people. Lauren stated amazing and good luck Jeremy with that. Lauren stated to Jeremy that the mayor would help him anyway because she has a good heart and that is the way she is anyway. Kenny stated he had one more question about the carpet and where does the town stand on this. Christie stated she called and put it on hold. Jeremy stated he would look into it this week. Jeremy stated he would see when they could start the project. Kenny stated it was a board decision. Kenny stated it was ordered by someone who is a part-time employee and a down payment was made. Jeremy stated he would look into it and figure out how to move forward. Joe Seegers stated if he needed help to give him a call.

James asked about public comments. Derek Roberts stated he had a question. Joe Seegers stated that the Mayor already asked for public comments and to move on.

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

Mayor, Valerie Jaynes

Clerk, Tammy Gardner