

MINUTES FOR BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING
September 14th, 2010
6:00 PM

The following elected officials were present: Mayor Coleman, Alderman Beaty, Alderman Friday, Alderman Huggins, Alderman Martin, and Alderman Withers.

The following staff members were present: Ed Munn, Interim Town Manager; Pennie Thrower, Town Attorney; Maria Stroupe, Administrative Services Director; Doug Huffman, Electric Director; Gary Buckner, Police Chief; Bill Trudnak, Public Works Director; Community Development Director, David Kahler; Anne Martin, Recreation Director; and Steve Lambert, Fire Chief.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Mayor Coleman opened with the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The Mayor asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were no additions or deletions. Mr. Beaty made a motion to set the agenda, seconded by Mr. Martin, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Huggins made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2010 regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Friday, and carried unanimously.

Chief Buckner recognized Sergeant Kevin McFee for being awarded the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate from the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission. This award is presented only to those officers who have completed numerous hours of training and have completed at least 12 years of service. Sergeant McFee has been in law enforcement since 1991 and started work with the Dallas Police Department on August 23, 2002. He was promoted to Sergeant on December 21, 2005. Sergeant McFee is also an instructor in the Basic Law Enforcement Training program and is a certified Firearms instructor. The entire Board and audience congratulated Sergeant McFee upon this accomplishment.

Mayor Coleman welcomed and recognized Mr. James “Bo” Cable, Street and Sanitation Maintenance Worker, as a new employee with the Town of Dallas.

Recognition of Citizens:

Mr. Glenn William Baker, 300 W. Church St., was on the agenda to present the Town with a specially framed flag. Mr. Baker was unable to attend the meeting due to health issues and Mr. Munn made the presentation. The flag is called the “Weeping Flag” and was hand crocheted by a blind woman that was a resident of New York City at the time of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The lady now resides in North Carolina and makes these flags to honor the memory of 9/11. Mr. Baker obtained this flag to present to the Town of Dallas and it is greatly appreciated by the Board of Aldermen and the residents of Dallas.

Mr. Robert Kendrick, 408 Groves St., stated that he had given the Board a list of concerns in July. Some of these have been addressed and some have not. He is still concerned about paving on Lee St., junk cars around town, an extra light at 410 S. Groves St., cleanup needed on S. Holland St. after Round-Up was applied to the creek bank, and pavement repairs needed at the corner of Robinson

and Gaston St. He had one new item of concern. A guardrail has been installed on S. Groves St. and he does not like it. He stated that someone could not walk beside of the guardrail due to being too far out in the road. Also, he believes it is a hazard for the residents of 410 S. Groves St. to back out of their driveway.

Ms. Mary Boyce, 518 E. Peachtree St., is concerned about the drug problem in her neighborhood. She believes there are 3 people on her street that are selling. She gave the addresses to the police department on Monday and does not feel that they are responding enough. Mayor Coleman and Chief Buckner informed Ms. Boyce that the police department is taking the information very seriously. Chief Buckner also stated that things are in the works, but he could not disclose them at this time, as this is an ongoing operation.

Consent Agenda:

Mr. Withers made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Martin, and carried unanimously.

Public Hearing:

There was no public hearing.

Old Business:

The first item, Item 9-A, was an update from Mr. Munn concerning the recent bids received for tree trimming. The Town received three bids for tree trimming services for the West NC 279, Dallas High Shoals Hwy. and College Park areas from Asplundh, Brent Mackey's Tree Service, and Tree Masters. This is the area most in need of trimming. The bids received were as follows: Tree Masters - \$34,800; Brent Mackey's Tree Service - \$57,800; and Asplundh - \$88,903.12. Some specific information requested in our Proposal Requirements were not included with the Tree Masters bid, such as; a copy of the company's safety program, no statement regarding any OSHA or other governmental agency citations within the last two years, no company background information, no specific automobile insurance confirmation, and no utility references were provided. Mackey's Tree Service bid did not include the following items requested in our Proposal Requirements; a statement regarding any OSHA or other governmental agency citations, only one utility reference was provided (the Town of Dallas) – not three as requested, and safety policies were outlined in the bid letter, not a separate copy of the company's safety program. Asplundh's bid appeared to have all the information requested in the Proposal Requirements. This year's budget provides \$70,000 for tree trimming services. The only bid that met all the specifications was from Asplundh. However, the bid exceeds the amount in the budget. Staff recommends that either all bids be rejected and the project is rebid to achieve a lower bid, or transfer an additional \$18,903.12 to the tree trimming line item and award the bid to Asplundh. The Town Attorney recommends rebidding the project. Mr. Friday made a motion to reject all of the bids and rebid the project, seconded by Mr. Beaty. Mr. Martin stated that he would like to see proposals to completely trim the Town's entire system. This project is approximately 20% of the system. What would it cost to complete the whole system and what are the segments that the Town could be broken into. It may be possible with this approach to lower the long term costs of tree trimming. The motion to reject all of the bids and rebid the project was carried unanimously.

The second item, Item 9-B, was vote on the proposed Golf Cart Ordinance presented last month for review. (Exhibit A) This item was tabled last month to give the Board time to review the ordinance. Mr. Beaty made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented, seconded by Mr. Martin, and carried unanimously.

The third item, Item 9-C, was rescheduling a recreation committee meeting that had to be postponed last month. Matters to be discussed include: recent baseball tournament results and actions, fall soccer, the privately run fall football and baseball programs, and park expansion plans. A meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 20th at 3:00 pm at Town Hall.

New Business:

The first item, Item 10-A, was a discussion concerning application for an upcoming grant. The Gaston Urban Area Planning Organization has recently announced that funding for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) has become available. This grant provides funds on an 80/20 match for projects that will assist in improving air quality and traffic congestion in the area. Grant applications are due at the end of September and the Metrolina Planning Organization will be assisting with this grant. Mr. Kahler stated that the minimum grant amount is \$100,000. He recommends applying for this grant with the intention of using the money to construct a sidewalk from the intersection of Trade St. and Hwy. 321 Business up to the Post Office and to install pedestrian heads at several of the intersections on Trade St. Monies from this grant will not become available until October 1, 2012, so if we are awarded the grant there will be time to budget the Town's match portion into the annual budget. Mr. Friday made a motion to approve application for this grant, seconded by Mr. Martin, and carried unanimously.

The second item, Item 10-B, was appointment of a Commissioner and Alternate Commissioner to ElectriCities to represent Dallas. Each member unit of ElectriCities is asked to appoint a commissioner and an alternate to the ElectriCities advisory board. At this point, Steve Miller is still listed as Dallas' representative. These representatives participate in meetings of the commissioners and have voting privileges. Mr. Friday made a motion to appoint Mr. Ed Munn as Commissioner and Mr. Doug Huffman as Alternate Commissioner to represent Dallas on the ElectriCities Advisory Board, seconded by Mr. Huggins, and carried unanimously.

Item 11, was a manager's report from Mr. Ed Munn, Interim Town Manager.

Closed Session:

There was no closed session.

Mr. Friday made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Withers, and carried unanimously. (7:00)

Rick Coleman, Mayor

Maria Stroupe, Town Clerk