

**Town of Hertford**  
Regular Session Meeting (In Person/Facebook)  
Monday, July 10, 2023 – 6:00 PM  
Horace Reid Community Center, 305 W Grubb Street

The Council of the Town of Hertford held a Regular Session Meeting at the Horace Reid Community Center (also by Facebook) on Monday, July 10, 2023, at 6:00 PM.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**

Connie Brothers  
Jerry Mimplitsch

Ashley Hodges, Mayor Pro Tem

**COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Earnell Brown, Mayor  
Sandra Anderson

**STAFF PRESENT**

Doris Walton, Assistant to the Town Manager  
Gina Durante, Town Clerk  
Johny Hallow, Attorney

A quorum was present.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Pro Tem Hodges called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Brothers, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Councilman Mimplitsch to approve the agenda with the addition of a Closed Session, pursuant to § 143-318.11 (a) (3), to preserve attorney-client privilege, and §143-318.11 (a) (7), to plan, conduct, or hear reports concerning investigations of alleged criminal misconduct. Councilwoman Brothers seconded the motion. It passed unanimously, 3-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilman Mimplitsch made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and it was seconded by Councilwoman Brothers. The motion carried, 3-0.

## **CITIZEN CONCERNS**

Ernest Berry addressed Council regarding fishing restrictions. He would like to see the current hours amended to allow night fishing. Mr. Berry would also like to see fishing be allowed off the old S-Bridge truss when it is opened to the public.

Tim Brinn thanked the following people for their hard work and support for the Town fireworks on July 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tony McLawhorn, EMS, Hertford Fire Department, Doris Walton, Stacey Layden, Diane Cangemi, representatives from Perquimans County, Hertford, Winfall, and County Manager Heath. Mr. Brinn recommended next year's July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration take place on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **CONTINUED BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) **System Development Fees** – these are upfront charges imposed on new or existing development before a property parcel is actually connected (or under contract to connect) to a local government's water and sewer system. At the June 12, 2023 Town Council meeting, Council was advised of an area that a developer is looking at to subdivide into 100+ residential lots. Our current infrastructure does not extend to that area. First Tryon, our financial consulting advisors, does not perform the kind of study needed for the expansion of our infrastructure, but they have recommended some consultants to get pricing. Manager Cole will then present a selection of bids to Council. Council discussed that a study is necessary as the Town should not overextend itself and incur great debt to extend the infrastructure. Having a portion or all those costs covered makes the expansion feasible to the Town. Assistant Walton asked Council for permission to gather pricing to hire a company which will then determine if we need an RFQ or RFP, and then present it to Council. Mayor Pro Tem Hodges asked for a motion to authorize Manager Cole and Assistant Walton to begin preparing an RFQ/RFP package for the purpose of System Development Fees study. Councilwoman Brothers made the motion and Councilman Mimplitsch seconded. The motion passed, 3-0.
  
- b) **Drinking Water** – At the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, when the Fire Department opened a hydrant on West Academy for the splash pad, discolored water sprayed from the hydrant due to sediment and the water lines not being regularly flushed. The water did clear up. Public Utilities Director, David Forsythe, is confident in our water and believes the sediment push out has to do with the pipes not being regularly flushed. The Town will be conducting regular water line flushes and residents will be notified by CodeRed when their residential area is affected. During

these scheduled flushes, residential water may briefly be discolored but will return to clear.

Every year, municipalities must report specifics on their water production and quality each year to the NCDEQ and public. NCDEQ accepted our report, and our annual Drinking Water Quality report is posted on our website. The report reflects our compliance with the drinking water standards for which we are required to routinely test. NCDEQ performed a bi-annual inspection of our water treatment plant and found a couple equipment issues that did not affect our water quality. Resolutions have been put in place for those issues and will be reported back to NCDEQ.

**c) Managers Update**

1. NCDOT gave Manager Cole an update of work they are doing on the old S-Bridge truss. The old paint and rust are being sandblasted before applying primer. Titan Industrial Services, who is doing the work, will then repair the structural members, columns, girders, beams, and floors – all parts that have been damaged. When that is completed, the truss will be painted, and Hertford will have total ownership of it. DOT is projecting the work to be completed at the end of August.
2. The School of Government development finance initiative group out of Chapel Hill came down for a tour of the spray field and the town of Hertford. They were able to meet with the stakeholders and were very optimistic about what they could do for the Town, and what their studies will produce that Manager Cole can bring back to Council.
3. The State Historic Preservation Organization had a site visit. The RFQ that Council approved for the small portion of West Hertford is being completed. It will then be reviewed to determine if there are any contributing homes that can be added to historic Hertford.
4. Our July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration on July 2<sup>nd</sup> was very successful. The event was well received, and our staff completed all preparations for the event with no incidents.

**COUNCIL REPORTS/CONCERNS**

Councilwoman Brothers did not have any items to report. She did thank those for coming out and supporting our meetings.

Councilman Mimplitsch noted all the residents and visitors that came for the Town's fireworks display. It was a very successful event. He mentioned that with the ferry boats coming, the Friday Night Strolls, Saturday Morning Live Market, and other events coming, Hertford will continue to attract visitors. He thanked the Sheriff's Department, EMS, and TDA for all their support.

Mayor Pro Tem Hodges also thanked those involved with the July 2<sup>nd</sup> fireworks. He heard very positive feedback about the event. He stated that in our last utility bill newsletter, there was an announcement that Jason Value, our Public Works lineman, has retired. Mr. Value received an award for having a perfect safety record for last year. Mayor Pro Tem Hodges also met with Mr. Thomas from DFI today and discussed the different opportunities that we have to do with the spray field. Mr. Thomas will be providing us with geographical, economical, and marketing analysis of the spray field.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Pro Tem Hodges read the announcements.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Mayor Pro Tem Hodges asked for a motion to go into Closed Session, pursuant to § 143-318.11 (a) (3), attorney-client privilege, and §143-318.11 (a) (7), to plan, conduct, or hear reports concerning investigations of alleged criminal misconduct. Councilman Mimplitsch made the motion to go into Closed Session, and Councilwoman Brothers seconded. The motion carried, 3-0.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Pro Tem Hodges asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Brothers made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Councilman Mimplitsch seconded. It passed unanimously, 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 PM.