

Town of Hertford
Regular Session Meeting (Zoom & Facebook)
Monday, October 11, 2021 – 6:00PM
Horace Reid Community Center, 305 W Grubb Street

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Earnell Brown
Ashley Hodges, Mayor Pro Tem

Jerry Mimlitsch

Frank Norman and Quentin Jackson arrived during the Scheduled Business Presentation.

STAFF PRESENT

Pamela Hurdle, Town Manager
John Leidy, Attorney

A quorum was present.

The invocation was offered by Mayor Pro Tem Hodges followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Hodges made a motion to approve the agenda and the motion was seconded by Councilman Mimlitsch. The motion passed with the following vote:

Mayor Brown	yay
Mayor Pro Tem Hodges	yay
Councilman Mimlitsch	yay

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Brown passed the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Hodges. Mayor Brown made the motion to post all unapproved minutes to the website as Draft Minutes. Councilman Mimlitsch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with the following unanimous vote:

Mayor Brown	yay
Mayor Pro Tem Hodges	yay
Councilman Mimlitsch	yay

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SCHEDULED BUSINESS

Sheriff Shelby White

Sheriff White presented to Council the quarterly report for the Town of Hertford for July 1 through September 30, 2021. The report included 1,058 service calls (excluding: 53 Animal Control calls, 106 Paper Service, 67 returned phone calls (some are County associated)), 11 calls of gunshots reported (3 substantiated and 2 of those with property damage, 1 possible but unfounded, 7 found to be nothing). Two deputies hired July 1st that were previously with Hertford Police Department, went through training, and working the night shift in the town limits. Three deputies were hired September 1st and are in training. This allowed for an Investigator slot to be filled for the town. One of the deputies went to day shift for the town, and the other that was going to be in town resigned after 30 days. An Admin Assistant was hired on September 20th and is in training. Two deputies accepted an offer and are starting November 1st. Extra duties in town are five building checks per night, foot patrol, presence at store closings, increase presence when the information is received of possible acts or "parties", and increase patrol presence when large crowds gather. Council thanked the Sheriffs Department for the evidence and policing transition and question the response time of calls. Sheriff White told Council that the Annex building is being renovated so that the administrative staff will be in the front of the building.

CITIZEN CONCERNS

Gerald Flaucher

Mr. Flaucher stated why he came to Hertford, retired as an airline pilot, and his concerns about Hertford having so many potentials with a lot of the potentials having not been revealed. Mr. Flaucher fell in love with the people of Hertford. Mr. Flaucher asked Councilman Norman why he was twelve minutes late for the meeting. Councilman Norman replied that the meeting time does not fit everyone's schedule, especially if you work.

Henry House

Mr. House came to Hertford and fell in love with the people of Hertford, moving from the upper Virginia area. Mr. House addressed his concerns for the Council to be more functional, completing an agenda, and working as a team.

Martha Borders

Ms. Borders spoke on the 28 properties in Hertford identified by the town, that are so dilapidated they need to be torn down, with a total of 40 properties at risk. Hertford is in the real estate business because a large part of our budget comes from property taxes. ZLS will be starting proceedings in November against delinquent tax owners. When an interim town manager is hired, the Town can move forward to take care of this dangerous situation. Also, when a permanent town manager is hired, the dilapidated buildings should be high on the list of priorities.

Frank Norman

Mr. Norman spoke on emails that he has not received and the inability to speak to news media as a Council person is not correct.

Yvonne Brown

Ms. Brown spoke on dilapidated houses and the vacant property on the 400 block of Grubb Street. Ms. Brown wanted to know if it is state-owned, the status of the gas leak at this property, and what is the Town doing about this. Ms. Brown requested a written reply.

Quentin Jackson

Mr. Jackson spoke on the new citizens in Town, the Waterfront property, the inability to govern, the condition of Pennsylvania Avenue, and the meeting time being changed back to 7:30PM.

Tom Ray Jones

Mr. Jones gave a handout about "Ruth Carolyn Stepney Jones Community Center – Vision for Aunt Carolyn’s House." Mr. Jones wants to open a community center that will offer literacy, nutrition, laundry, and counseling services for citizens.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

Brinn House Offers

Manager Hurdle presented Council two offers received in the amounts of \$10,000 and \$12,500. A motion was made and after discussion, it was rescinded. The Board reached a consensus to not accept the current offers and will discuss future offers.

NEW BUSINESS

Trick or Treat/Grand Illumination/Christmas Parade Events

Manager Hurdle presented the annual events for approval. Council asked that COVID precaution and protocol be added to the events. Also, in the future suggest a rain date be added. A motion was made by Councilman Norman and seconded by Councilman Jackson to accept the events with the right to rescind if COVID protocol is not a part of the event. The motion passed with the following unanimous vote:

Mayor Brown	yay
Mayor Pro Tem Hodges	yay
Councilman Jackson	yay
Councilman Norman	yay
Councilman Mimlitsch	yay

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COUNCIL CONCERNS/REPORTS

Mayor Brown stated her concerns as accomplishments, youth, code enforcement, work on citizen concerns, Sheriff White, PAL, blighted properties, and the gas leak.

Councilman Norman spoke on utilities in the vacant house, not able to attend special call meetings, inability to attend the meetings scheduled at 6:00PM, and the Manager having a lot of duties to do. Councilman Norman made the motion to add on next month's agenda under Continued Business, Town Clerk. The discussion was veered to adding Town Clerk to next month's agenda. A motion was made to override the chairman. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jackson. The motion to override the chairman did not pass with the following vote:

Mayor Brown	nay
Mayor Pro Tem Hodges	nay
Councilman Jackson	yay
Councilman Norman	yay
Councilman Mimlitsch	nay

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Councilman Mimlitsch thanked the citizens and commented that the new PAL Center is awesome and encourages everyone to visit.

Councilman Jackson spoke on payment to the grass cutting contractor, lights on the basketball court, candidate forum, apologizes to the employees, house torn down at 329 W. Market Street, and property tax fund balance.

Mayor Pro Tem Hodges spoke on blighted houses, four properties budgeted to be demolished, Spring – Big Help Event, and confusion on what Council can do.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Pro Tem Hodges made the motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to §143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel and §143-318.11(a)(1). The motion was seconded by Councilman Jackson. The motion passed with the following unanimous vote:

Mayor Brown	yay
Mayor Pro Tem Hodges	yay
Councilman Jackson	yay
Councilman Norman	yay
Councilman Mimlitsch	yay

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Council went into Closed Session at 7:47PM

Council returned to Open Session at 8:55PM

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Norman and seconded by Councilman Mimplitsch to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with the following unanimous vote:

Mayor Brown	yay
Mayor Pro Tem Hodges	yay
Councilman Jackson	yay
Councilman Norman	yay
Councilman Mimplitsch	yay

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Meeting adjourned at 8:56PM