



**TOWN OF AYDEN
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

June 3, 2015 – 6:00 pm (Special Called Meeting – Reconvened from May 27th)
Ayden Town Hall – Second Floor Boardroom

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Call to Order

Mayor Tripp called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

B. Roll Call

Present:

Mayor Tripp

Commissioners Davenport, Harris, Mewborn, Skinner and Ross

Absent:

None

Also Present:

Brandon Holland – Town Manager

Alicia Simpson – Finance Director

Sherri Scharf – Town Clerk

II. BUDGET DISCUSSION

During this final budget workshop, Town Manager Brandon Holland and Finance Director Alicia Simpson resumed the previous budget discussion by presenting a summary Statement of Revenues and Expenditures by Cost Center. The Statement provided a snapshot of the final FY 2015-16 Budget by incorporating key elements that had been identified during the May 27th meeting so that the Governing Board could see the impact on projected revenues.

General discussion items and the key elements are listed below.

- Comparison of FYE 2014 General Fund, Electric Fund and Water-Sewer Funds to same Funds proposed in FY 2015-16 Budget
- Statement of Current Fund Balances, Fund Balance Appropriations from FYE 2014, and proposed Funds for FY 2015-16
- Comparison of FYE 2014 Property Taxes to Pitt County Valuation Estimates provided 5-1-15
- Year End Tax Collection Report illustrating unpaid property tax and utilities balances (2009-2013 tax years)
- YTD Summary of Customer Payment Methods (Online bill pay vs. walk-in traffic)

- Storm Water Utility Fee proposal showing tiered monthly charges: \$3.50 residential; \$6.00 commercial and \$10.00 industrial; combined total fees to generate estimate \$129,498 in revenue to address storm water drainage projects
- Sewer rate increases with revenue projections; 3 options outlined: 5% generates \$5,110/month (\$2.48/month increase per customer); 7% generates \$7,154/month (\$3.47/month increase per customer); and 7.5% generates \$7,665/month (\$3.72/month increase per customer)

III. BOARD COMMENTS

Mayor Tripp and Commissioner Mewborn commented that the combined water-sewer rate increase and new storm water utility fee will mean our customers will pay about \$90 more per year.

Commissioner Davenport commented that right now the water-sewer fund is the most volatile, and Mayor Tripp agreed.

Mayor Tripp stated that these increases are actually investments that the citizens will be paying to allow growth in Ayden, much the same as his parents once paid increases that allowed the growth that Ayden residents enjoy now. Mayor Tripp stated that he doesn't want to increase these rates, but the quality of life is important to our citizens. He added that once the electric rates come down, the reserve we are building may allow us to offset other rate increases for our citizens. He stated that the budget is "where it needs to be."

Commissioner Mewborn asked whether the Town had water-sewer infrastructure in place at our industrial parks, and Manager Holland replied that we are ready for businesses to move in there.

For the remainder of the meeting, Board members discussed ideas for future economic growth so that Ayden will be ready when the SW Bypass is completed. There was also a general discussion about developing downtown Ayden. Mayor Tripp said maybe the Board should consider a bond since interest rates are so low and a bond would create capital. Commissioner Davenport asked, "Is it our job to borrow money for business owners to improve their own stores?" to which Commissioners Ross and Skinner replied, "No."

Mayor Tripp asked Manager Holland to bring the Economic Development Strategic Plan before the Governing Board again for another review.

IV. ADJOURN

With there being no further business to discuss, the Governing Board agreed by consensus to adjourn at 6:25 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

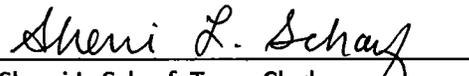
Minutes from the June 3rd Special Called Meeting were adopted and certified this 8th day of June 2015 in Ayden, North Carolina.



AYDEN, NORTH CAROLINA


Stephen W. Tripp, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sherri L. Scharf, Town Clerk