



TOWN OF VANCEBORO

BOARD OF ALDERMAN MEETING

*Held their regular monthly meeting on
January 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM
in the Jimmie L. Morris Boardroom*

- I. Call to order by **Mayor Chad Braxton**.
- II. Roll call **Those Present: Mayor Chad Braxton, Alderman Steve Belrose, Alderman Keith Cannon, Alderman Russell Ipock, Alderman Thad Jones and Alderman Todd McMillen.**
- III. Invocation by **Alderman Jones**.
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance.
- V. Approval of minutes from last meeting. **Alderman McMillen made a motion to approve minutes. Motion was seconded by Alderman Jones and carried. Vote 5-0.**
- VI. Approval of Cash Receipts and Disbursements. **Alderman Belrose made a motion to pay bills. Motion was seconded by Alderman Ipock and carried. Vote 5-0.**
- VII. Public Comment.

Shante Jackson of 657 McLawhorn Lane stated that she was trying to open a home daycare at her residence and was needing our zoning ordinance to include the business in the R-8 Zoning for her location. She received a grant from Craven County Smart Start and the State has already approved her home and everything is ready to go. Shante stated that an email was made on November 29, 2023 regarding this request.

Mayor Braxton followed up with email by calling Ms. Pate and left a message with her. He asked Shante how many kids would be in the daycare and the hours of operation? She stated eight kids and the shifts would be from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Alderman McMillen asked if the State inspection had been completed and Shante has been approved by the State to operate a daycare.

Alderman Jones inquired if all she needed now was for the Town to approve this business in her zoning area.

Mayor Braxton will check with Town Attorney and make sure if we would need to change anything in zoning or if she is okay to move forward with this business as it is.

- VIII. Police Report was presented by Chief Keys. The Christmas event hosted by CNC Systems was a great success. They were able to give all the teachers and staff at VFLES, parents at Lambs Care, all the staff members at Wells Fargo and other area businesses free turkeys and dinner. We purchased new armor for our new officer along with new gear for the entire department with the donation made from the Caprara family. There was a total of 1,287 calls made to the department for the 2023 year. The violent crimes were down by 47% this past year. This decrease correlates in proactive policing in the area. Officer Johnson should be through training in two weeks, we have had positive feedback from the residents and staff at VFLES.**
- IX. Mayor's Reports. Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Longtime resident Lennie Fornes passed away this month. Our hearts and prayers go out to her family, she will be greatly missed. Public Works Supervisor Vernon Edwards celebrates a birthday this month. There will be a new State Senator this coming election. I and Alderman Ipock attended the East Carolina Council meeting for the council to fix us a subdivision ordinance, the charge would be around \$10K. The first Vanceboro Strawberry Festival organization meeting will be held January 16th at 6:30 p.m. here at the Town Hall. Next recycling date will be February 1st. Next Board of Alderman meeting will be held February 5th. Our new electronic sign here at the Town Hall is complete and looks great, this sign will be used solely for Town information. The total cost of the sign will be around \$19K. Continue to remember Chris Edwards, Public Works employee who was injured a month ago, he has a long way to go in his recovery. We wish him a quick recovery. Public works employee Pernell Fields retired December 31, 2023; we wish him the best in his retirement. The Town is looking a replacement and hope to have someone soon. The Town Hall will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 15th. Edging of sidewalks and ditch work throughout Town has been completed for this year. We have two new homes being built in Town, there is a couple of houses for rent at this time and we have had three homes sold over the last month. There is an early release day and late arrival the next day to school because of the pending winter storm that is expected to arrive. I have met the new librarian; she will be a great asset to the residents. There will be an Opioid meeting at the Convention Center on January 30th from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Alderman Cannon will be attending on behalf of the Board of Alderman. Alderman Cannon stated that the Vanceboro Christian Help Center will be in attendance as well. Craven**

County will be receiving \$15 million dollars over eighteen years (2022-2038) to help reduce the opioid addictions.

X. Alderman Reports.

Alderman Cannon stated that Sondra Hoover had won the raffle for the Christmas basket that the Friends of the Library raffled off. The library also held a ornament event and told stories from long ago about the ornaments. My Dad had the oldest ornament that my Mom had made.

Alderman Belrose stated that J & J Environmental is working on cleaning up the creek. I attended the Coastal Regional Solid Waste Management Authority meeting, and they had a great year. They surplused 17 million dollars and were able to invest some of the funds at 5% interest. They plan to buy equipment with the interest money earned. Thanks to the Police department for investigating the wastes that had been dumped close to my home.

Alderman Ipock thanked Beverly, Brittany and Chad for the awesome Christmas Party for the Town. He asked Vernon if there was anything he could do to help since Chris Edwards is out and Pernell Fields retired.

Alderman Jones congratulated Cornelius Bradley on the great job he has been doing with the absence of the other two employees.

Alderman McMillen has received one quote so far on the fence for the Richard W. Bowers Park. This quote includes 150 feet of fence and two gates. I am waiting for one other quote and should have it soon.

XI. There being no further business we dismissed at 7:49 p.m.

I hereby certify that the above is true and accurate record of said minutes.



CHAD E. BRAXTON
MAYOR



BEVERLY W. DRAKE
TOWN CLERK