



TOWN OF VANCEBORO

BOARD OF ALDERMAN MEETING

*Held their regular monthly meeting on
October 7, 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 Thad Jones, Alderman Russell Ipock and Alderman Todd McMillen**.
- III. Invocation by **Alderman Ipock**.
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance.
- V. Approval of minutes from last meeting. **Alderman Jones made a motion to approve minutes. Motion was seconded by Alderman Ipock and carried. Vote 5-0.**
- VI. Approval of Cash Receipts and Disbursements. **Alderman McMillen made a motion to pay bills. Motion was seconded by Alderman Cannon and carried. Vote 5-0.**
- VII. Public Comment.

Tony Veneziano of 902 College Street stated that they had an open house at his property and that he was interested in changing the zoning of the property to Commercial instead of R8. The Town will schedule a public hearing for the November 4, 2024, Board of Alderman meeting. We will contact the Planning and Zoning Board to meet and then bring their recommendation to the Board on November 4th. It will also be advertised in the paper for the Public Hearing.

- VIII. Utility Services. **Mr. Andre Noel & Mr. Carey Houck did a presentation for the Board of Alderman and Mayor regarding new water meters for the Town.**

The Mayor and Alderman will be holding a workshop session to determine how and who they will be moving forward with regarding meters throughout Town. The workshop will be held on October 21st at 6 p.m. in the Jimmy L. Morris Boardroom.

- IX. Police Report was presented by Chief Keys. Vanceboro Night Out was hosted along in conjunction with Vanceboro Farm Life Elementary's Title 1 night at West Craven Park on October 26th. I looked up the Crown Victoria market value to see what it's worth, in good/fair condition it is worth \$3,000. With the condition of our car it is probably worth around \$1,200, so I would recommend that we keep it at the school as a deterrent. Currently the Dodge Durango is not running, it needs a new transmission. I will get quotes and bring it back before the Board of Alderman to see which direction we want to go. Vanceboro Police Department will be assisting Global Methodist Church with their Halleluiah night on October 31st from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. I've contacted the Sheriff's Department and requested assistance with the event. We will ensure the event is safe for everyone to enjoy.
- X. Mayor's Reports. Our prayers are with everyone affected by Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina. Our hearts and prayers go out to River Bend, in the recent loss of Mayor John Kirkland. Global Methodist Church will be hosting the annual Trunk or Treat on October 31, 2024, from 5:30-8:00 p.m. Thank you to Alderman Belrose for the mums placed at the stop light, it looks great. Vanceboro Night Out was held on October 26th at West Craven Park, it went well. The bush was cut back at the old part of the cemetery at Vanceboro Cemetery along with the fence being repaired. Next Board of Alderman meeting will be November 4th. Next Recycling date will be October 10th. I attended the event at VFW that NC Lieutenant Governor Republican Candidate Hal Weatherman hosted, the event went well. I attended the ribbon cutting at the Vanceboro Christian Help Center. They have a clothing building now to help with needs in the community. The center is really doing a great job for our residents. The homecoming parade that West Craven High School got canceled. Harvest Beam held a focus group here at the Town Hall on September 21st, there were about ten people that attended. They will probably hold another one here in hopes of getting approved for funding for our area. The parking lot here at the Town Hall and the Police Department will be restriped over the next few days. The water leak by the Global Methodist Church was repaired. Edging and curbing throughout the Town will begin this month, the costs for this is around \$4,000 each year. Craven County paid the Town \$5,000 to pay for the mulch used at the playground. We will be ordering a new piece of equipment from John Barr Recreation to add to the Richard W. Bowers Park. Sheriff Hughes has implemented a new program with Animal Protective Services for the overpopulation of feral cats. This program is free of charge or donations are accepted, the program helps to spay and neuter cats. The ditch mowing throughout Town will begin soon, the limbs at the Wastewater Treatment Plant will be removed soon. Early voting starts on October 17th and Election Day is November 5th. We will be accepting bids on the cemetery contract for the two Town cemeteries. This contract will begin on January 1, 2025. I met the new property manager of Bailey Lane and Oaks apartments. We have received half of the Powell Bill money for this year, we should receive around \$39,000 this year. The annual Tree Lighting for the Town is December 5th at 7 p.m. We are working on the drainpipe repair for the Vanceboro Christian Help Center. Beverly and I met with Lauren Wargo, District Manager with Duke Energy regarding the Town. Tree trimming will begin in January 2025 throughout town. We have a medication drop box over at the Police

Department. The police department collected 748 pounds of medication that was transferred to Raleigh. Ms. Jasmine Canady with the Craven County Opioid Response Team was in Vanceboro last week passing out pamphlets and Narcan. We are grateful that they are spreading the word on help available in our community. Craven County is registering for Basketball for ages 7 to 12. Registration is open from October 1, 2024 – December 1, 2024. There will be a free drive thru shred event on October 26th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Craven County Senior Center located at 811 George Street in New Bern.

XI. Alderman Reports.

Alderman Jones stated that the doctor at Vanceboro Medical Center asked him to see if there was a possibility in the Town of Vanceboro setting up a leash law for the Town. The Police Chief will check into this and see what we have to do.

Alderman Ipock invited everyone to come out to the Halleluiah Night at Global Methodist Church on October 31st from 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Alderman Belrose stated that there was a great need for supplies to go to Western North Carolina. I encourage our residents to donate for the victims of Hurricane Helene. Calico Farms at 8818 Hwy. 43 in Grimesland has tall plants out front that would be great for us to find out what kind they are and plant some in front of the Waste Treatment Plant.

Alderman Cannon asked who takes care of placing dirt in freshly dug graves. Thank you to the Police Chief for partnering with the school at West Craven Park to host the Vanceboro Night Out. It looked like it was well attended.

Mayor Braxton shared an invitation from Shabach AME Zion on October 13th at 11:30 a.m. to celebrate our Pastor, Rev. Dr. Blenda Hargett. They will be releasing balloons to remember those who have lost their lives, to honor those who have battled or are currently breast cancer and to bring awareness to the community.

Public Works Supervisor, Vernon Edwards stated that the Main Street Lift Station needs some rehab work. The pumps that are there have been in place since 1978, they are above ground pumps that are outdated. I would like to see the Town purchase submersible pumps that work more efficiently. The costs with labor is \$64,321.22 and includes all electrical hook ups and everything.

Mayor Braxton stated that he would like to see the Town purchase the pumps for the lift station and that we could do a budget amendment from the back prison money to cover the purchase. Alderman Jones made a motion that we purchase the pumps for the lift station. Motion was seconded by Alderman Belrose and carried. Vote 4-0.

XII. There being no further business we dismissed at 8:57 p.m.

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

Chad E. Braxton

CHAD E. BRAXTON
MAYOR

Beverly W. Drake

BEVERLY W. DRAKE
TOWN CLERK