

Town of Fletcher
Council Meeting
October 5, 2020
Minutes

Call the meeting to order at: 06:00 pm

Those who were in attendance are as follows:

Mayor Rod Whiteside
Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy
Councilman Preston Blakely
Councilman Eddie Henderson
Councilwoman Sheila Franklin
Town Manager Mark Biberdorf

Public Comments

None at this time.

Invocation: **Mayor Whiteside** asked for a moment of silence for all those who have lost their lives due to the coronavirus.

Pledge of Allegiance: **Mayor Whiteside** led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of minutes-corrections, additions or deletions.
(9/8/ & 9/14)

Mayor Whiteside asked if we have any corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes as presented and if not do we have a motion to approve and it was so moved by Councilman Eddie Henderson and seconded by Councilman Preston Blakely.

Motion carries all in favor.

Council Updates

None at this time.

Consent Agenda

Tax refunds/releases

Approval of Resolution R-20-06 for surplus auction on Gov-Deals to start on November 2, 2020.

Approval of Interlocal Agreement with Henderson County for CRF Funding.

Mayor Whiteside asked is there any discussion related to any of the items on the consent agenda and if not do we have a motion to approve and it was so moved by Councilman Eddie Henderson and Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy and seconded by Councilman Preston Blakely.

Motion carries all in favor.

Proposed legislative priorities list for 2020-2021-Mark Biberdorf, Town Manager.

Town Manager Mark Biberdorf stated that on the purposed legislative priorities list the only amendment he has suggested is the removal of the item (#12) concerning preserving the current ABC system and prevent privatization. The reason that I am suggesting that this come off is because this was really an issue for our prior legislator Representative McGrady. Since he is coming off this is not really an issue for the other legislators and if there is anything else that council wanted to revise or amend on this as well please let me know. I also need action on this. The next step would be to use this in our meetings with our legislative delegation

Mayor Whiteside asked for a motion to approve the legislative priorities list and it was so moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy and it was seconded by Councilman Eddie Henderson and Councilman Preston Blakely.

Motion carries all in favor.

Update on five-year capital improvement plan-Mark Biberdorf, Town Manager.

Town Manager Mark Biberdorf stated that is just an information item for you. This is our 3rd five year CIP process that we are setting up. This is funded each year with 8.5 cents of what our tax levy produces in which we are fortunate to dedicate that much revenue from the property tax base. We try to start this update in the fall so that it gives us time to work on project estimates and then recommend a list of projects to submit to you for your consideration and approval. This covers land, building construction, renovations to existing buildings, other improvements to land like storm water improvements, parking lots, landscaping, greenway trails. I would like to get an estimate here for our extension of Cane Creek trail towards the Meritor property trail and supplement that with a grant. Of course equipment, vehicles and

furnishings. Projects from Department heads will be due November 6th. If council has a project that they would like staff to work on please let us know.

Response from DOT traffic study for a portion of Fanning Bridge Road-Mark Biberdorf, Town Manager.

Town Manager Mark Biberdorf stated that as you know at the last meeting we did a safety request for a traffic study on a portion of Fanning Bridge Road. The area is near the quarry (Snowball, Sunflower, and Lilac Lanes) where they intersect with Fanning Bridge and it is challenging pulling out from these streets. I know that we recently had an inquiry from a resident on Snowball Lane. So DOT did a review of this and primarily focused on accident history. They looked back 5 years on that stretch there and there was 3 accidents over a 5 year period and they were all rear end collisions more than likely due to driver inattention. None of them involved someone pulling out onto Fanning Bridge and getting hit. There are not any other recommendations from DOT on this. The good news is that what might help this situation is that Northwest of Lilac lane there you have the intersection of Fanning Bridge Road and Rutledge Road (current flashing light) Lonnie Watkins (District Engineer) mentioned that it has been approved for a traffic signal. I am not sure at this time when that will actually go in.

Discussion Followed:

Comments from the Town Manager Mark Biberdorf.

The town center project that we did our RFP for this and we had a couple of letters of interest that were due back in June then we gave them until the end of September to submit a full proposal. However we only received one full proposal and it was for the tract on Hwy 25. I am still in communication with John Holdsworth of Strategic Real Estate Investment Partners and he is working on a purposed project on the property possibly to the north of town hall here. We sent him elevation points and he is working with an architectural firm to submit something more specific.

On the tract/piece of residual property (DOT acreage) we went through the bid process and our bid was tentatively approved. Then they said wait there was some consent judgement on the property and because of that they could not do a bid process. I was able to get a copy of the judgement and had our attorney to review this and they had not finalized the settlement on condemnation back when DOT was working on the expansion of Hwy 25. They instructed me to go through the right of

way office which I did and I copied you on the letter to the district engineer's office and I will do everything I can to stay on top of this.

COVID-19 updates, we are now in Phase III that went into effect Friday at 5:00 pm. It doesn't affect us or a lot of businesses in town. It really does effect the businesses that were shut down completely and not allowing them to at least operate at a reduced level. The group size is the same allowing for 25 indoors and 50 outdoors. The current Phase III order expires on October 23. There was a source of funding and the funds went to the county that we are sharing in but another source of funding became available for assistance with rents and utilities that social services would handle. Henderson County is interested in this and they are looking at a \$900,000 application and they are having a hearing on this today. They will probably ask us for a Resolution of support or an Interlocal agreement like we did with the CRF funds. The eligibility of the benefits would be county wide.

Kate's Park is under the ownership of Kenneth Youngblood's family and we have been leasing it and are currently under a 5 yr. lease right now. They would like it to remain a park permanently but would do so by conveying it to The Community Foundation of Henderson County and we would lease it from them. (The library located there is in the Foundation as well)

Discussion Followed:

Mayor Whiteside asked for a motion to go into Closed Session and it was so moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy and seconded by Councilman Eddie Henderson and Councilwoman Sheila Franklin.

Motion carries all in favor.

Went into Closed Session at: 6:30 pm

Closed Session per NCGS 143-318.11 (5) "Land Negotiation"

Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Davy made a motion to come out of Closed Session at 7:07 pm and it was seconded by Councilman Eddie Henderson

Came out of Closed Session at: 7:07 pm

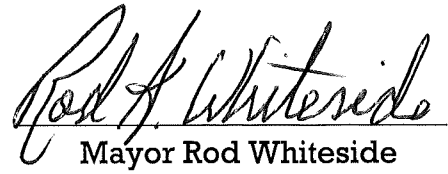
Mayor Whiteside asked for a motion to adjourn and it was so moved by Councilman Preston Blakely and seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Franklin.

Motion carries all in favor.

Adjourned: 07:10 pm

Approved:

11/9/2020
Date


Mayor Rod Whiteside