

**TOWN OF ALBERTA**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**MONDAY AUGUST 21, 2017 AT 7:00 PM.**

The Alberta Town Council held its monthly meeting on Monday August 21, 2017, At the Town of Alberta Office with Mayor Diane B. Ashley presiding.

**Council Members Present:**

William Holmes  
Freida Peterson  
Richard Ozmore, Jr.  
Mable Wynn  
Armenta Stamps

**Council Members Absent**

Thomas Mabry

**Residents & Visitors Present**

Wesley Ruffin	Buddy Hyde, Fire Chief
Bill Hudson	Mary Markel
Sylvia Allen	Toni Celaya, Town Clerk

**Call to Order:**

Mayor Ashley asked for a motion to call the August 21, 2017 regular council meeting to order; Councilman Ozmore made the motion, Councilwoman Wynn seconded, motion carried unanimously.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Bill Hudson led the pledge of Allegiance.

**Prayer:** Councilwoman Mable Wynn led the prayer.

**Resident and Visitors Recognition/ Comments:**

Mayor Ashley recognized the residents and visitors.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Mayor Ashley made additions to the agenda which included;

I. Secondary Vice Mayor  
J. Susan Sawyer

K. Hurt and Profit  
L. Grant Writing

With the additions to the agenda, Mayor Ashley asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the August 21, 2017 council meeting, Councilwoman Peterson made the motion, Councilman Ozmore seconded, motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes and Bills List:**

Mayor Ashley asked for a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for July 10, 2017. Councilman Ozmore made the motion, Councilman Holmes seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Ashley asked for a motion to approve the bill's list for August 2017 totaling 11,764.82; including the Roanoke River Rails to Trails membership, partial payments to the accountants Dunham, Aukamp, and Rhodes; Councilman Ozmore made the motion, seconded by Councilman Holmes and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Ashley spoke of the old dodge police car that needs repairs, and will consider auctioning the old police car.

Mayor Ashley reported that Womack publishing has an ongoing project, "Newspapers in Education", that will place a newspaper in every school. The Brunswick Times Gazette newspaper is asking for sponsors, and Mayor Ashley asked for a motion to donate \$250.00 towards the project; Councilwoman Peterson made the motion, Councilman Holmes seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Wynn stated that the public should be aware that the Alberta Town office has newspapers available to the public.

### **Reports:**

1. **Public Safety:** Mayor Ashley stated that one of the main goals for the council is to care of the citizens of Alberta.

There have been several sightings of wild animals; bears, coyotes, racoons, foxes and bobcats, which have been seen during the day and leans to the idea of them of being rabid. These animals are losing the natural habitat and are being attracted to the town by the smell of garbage. Therefore trash removal twice a week is absolutely necessary.

"The Town council shall provide suitable facilities by its own employees and equipment, or by contract, for the adequate removal and disposal of garbage, including tin cans, bottles, decayed

vegetables and animal matter, and other discarded refuse, within the limits of the town” (Code 1973, § 6-6).

**(State Law Reference-** Authority of town to provide for removal of trash, garbage, etc., and to require property owners to comply with town regulations relating thereto, Code of Virginia, § 15.2-901)

**Sec. 16-43.-** The town council may establish, by resolution, a schedule of fees to be charged for the collection and disposal of garbage and trash under this article; and such schedule may classify properties to be served as residential, business, or industrial, and may impose different charges for different classes. Such schedule may prescribe the billing periods, method of billing, time for payment and penalties for delinquency in payment. (Code 1973, § 6-8).

Therefore, there will be a second trash removal added during the week. M&B Trash removal will pick up on Saturday afternoons and the town maintenance will pick up the trash on Wednesday afternoons.

2. **Fire Report:** Fire Chief Buddy Hyde presented the July 2017 fire report which included 49 calls for the month, with 18 answered calls to the Town of Alberta.

Mayor Ashley asked Fire Chief Buddy Hyde, when will construction begin for the Verizon monopole? Chief Hyde stated “I believe they will start construction by the end of the year”, he said he will keep Mayor Ashley informed.

Mayor Ashley distributed the AVFD Funds disbursement spreadsheet to the council. (see attachment)

Statements made of the mayor and council not contributing to the AVFD is untrue; the total amount of funding received by the AVFD year to date is 37,041.21, including the state funding of 10,000.00.

The line item of the AVFD in the budget was reduced, not eliminated agreed upon during the initial meetings with Mayor Ashley and Chief Buddy Hyde, and council was fully aware. This is one of the selling points to having the Verizon Monopole as an offset to the budget line item.

Chief Buddy Hyde responded, “the state money is pass through and it is not a grant, its entitled...the \$10,000.00 is not money that is generated through the town.”

Mayor Ashley said to Chief Buddy Hyde , “correct me if I’m wrong”, you stood before council and stated, as per the June 12, 2017 council meeting *“Fire Chief Buddy Hyde apologized for missing the public hearing for FY Budget 2017-2018 but asked the Alberta Town Council to please reconsider the budgeted amount for Fire Department because no one on the fire department is happy and they are the ones who protect the town.”*

Chief Hyde stated, "that was prior to me coming in, we've had some members who are no longer with us that had things said in the meeting."

After doing research, should the AVFD decide that they do not want to answer calls in the Town of Alberta, that is their option; and will forfeit the \$10,000.00 state funding.

3. **Police Report:** no report available.
4. **Administrative & Finance/Economic Development:** Mayor Ashley presented the Deposit list totaling, \$5,137.91 including local sales tax and meals tax.

### Old Business:

- A. **Advisory Committee Meeting:** The advisory committee meeting was held on Wednesday, July 26, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at the Town Office. Mayor Ashley thanked the advisory committee, Bill Hudson- BBG, Joan and Joe Glenn- Joani's Place, Chief Buddy Hyde- AVFD, Elizabeth Burns- School Board, Chief Brown- APD, and the two council members that alternate.  
Mayor Ashley welcomed Mr. George Robinson with 30 plus years expertise to the Town of Alberta Advisory Committee.
- B. **Audit:** The audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 is completed and is posted to the Town of Alberta website.
- C. **Labor Day- Community Event:** Mayor Ashley stated the Labor Day event is a short window away, she has found a DJ, but has not received much help for the town council. The Alberta council needs to decide if they would still like to have the Labor Day event. Councilwoman Wynn stated that it may be too hot outdoors to have the event early in the afternoon.

### New Business:

- A. **HB-1000/ Real Estate and Personal Property Tax:** Mayor Ashley read the House Bill 1000 to the council (see attachment), it is a tax deferral for seniors 65 years and older and/or the permanently disabled, who own and reside in their homes.

Mayor Ashley would also like to establish a committee that will focus on the principles and set the norms for the House Bill 1000.

Mayor Ashley asked for a motion to accept the House Bill 1000 after further review for the Town of Alberta.

In 2005 the real estate tax rate was .30¢/100, in 2006 the real estate tax rate was decreased to .28¢/100 and the personal property tax was increased to \$1.90/100.

Upon research the Mayor found the Town of Lawrenceville's real estate tax rate is ¢.30/100 and the Town of Broadnax is ¢.37/100; both of these towns offer many services to their citizens that can be offered to the citizens of Alberta as well.

Mayor Ashley stated that the tax increase would not be a burden to the elderly and/ or the permanently disabled, but it will bring more revenue into the town that will contribute to beautification, as well as services to the Town of Alberta.

Mayor Ashley asked for a motion to increase the real estate tax rate to ¢.35/100 for the fiscal year 2018/2019. Councilman Holmes made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Wynn, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Ashley stated that beginning the 2018 town decal sticker price will be included in the personal property tax bill.

- B. Town Provided Services:** will encompass in the list of services where we will be more inapt to increase our budget.
- a. Grass Cutting:**
  - b. Trash Removal:**
  - c. Public Safety:**
  - d. Recreation:** Mayor Ashley also stated that the town has been inspected, the park is a wooden set there was no apparent termite damage. However the wooden set has been exposed to the elements and would be a liability to the Town of Alberta. Mayor Ashley would like to build a toddler park for ages 6months–7years at the town square. Mrs. Celaya has been in contact with Vito Parisi, creative playthings commercial playset representative.

- C. Water Situation:** Mayor Ashley read the letter aloud from Town of Lawrenceville Manger CJ Dean (see attachment) and the water results from for the Virginia Department of Health (see attachment) due to a complaint from Dorothy Peterson. There was nothing wrong with the water, the coloring in the water could have possible came from the corrosion in the copper pipes.
- D. Advisory Committee:** Thank you again to the Advisory Committee and the next meeting will be on Wednesday August 30, 2017 at 2:00p.m.
- E. Meeting with CJ Dean:** Mayor Ashley will meet with CJ Dean, and will ask about a schedule of flushing. West First Avenue does not have a hydrate for flushing stated Councilman Ozmore. There a few pipes in the town of Alberta on Second Avenue that are very old, but there is no money in the budget to replace all the pipes. Councilman Ozmore would also like to meet with CJ Dean. Chief Buddy Hyde stated that there are new colors of the hydrants, these colors have meaning. The Yellow hydrants are municipal owed hydrants, the Silver hydrants are owed by the IDA. The Red hydrants in the Town of Alberta are owed by the jail. The tops of the hydrants mean the flow for the fire department, red tops = <500 GPM, orange tops = 500-999 GPM, green tops = 1,000-1499 GPM and the blue tops = >1500 GPM.
- F. Meeting with Board of Supervisors:** The Board of Supervisors meeting will be held tomorrow August 22,2017 at 6:00pm. Mayor Ashley will bring the ideas from the Town of Alberta to the supervisors.
- G. Bids:** There were two bids placed for the Town of Alberta.
- a. Trash Removal:**
    - **M&B Trash Removal:** July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018 for 500.00 dollars per month totaling 6,0000.00.
  - b. Grass Cutting:**
    - **Meherrin River Lawn and Landscape:** July 1,2017- June 30, 2018 for 385.00 twice a month for locations specified by the town, and 250.00 for monthly cutting of the school park totaling 7,620.00.

The town council will determine whether they will accept or deny these bids at the next town council meeting scheduled for September 11, 2017.

- H. **Secondary Vice Mayor:** Mayor Ashley asked for a motion to have Councilwoman Mable Wynn as the secondary Vice Mayor for the Town of Alberta. Councilman Ozmore made the motion, seconded by Councilman Holmes, and the motion carried unanimously. This motion is not to replace Vice Mayor Thomas Mabry during his illness.
- I. **Susan Sawyer:** has volunteered to take the minutes for the Town of Alberta, in case of emergencies. Mayor Ashley asked for a motion; Councilman Holmes made the motion, Councilwoman Peterson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- J. **Hurt and Profit:** Mayor Ashley has signed the proposal for the Tobacco Heritage Trail, but had them add that any outside contractors are required to purchase a business license. They also must have jobs for unskilled labor from the Town of Alberta and Brunswick County. Mr. McGuire has made a revision stating that jobs will be advertised through the paper, the radio, and they will notify the Alberta Town office, who will make flyers and will be posted when local jobs are available.
- K. **Grant Writing:** Mayor Ashley asked for a motion to take a two-day grant writing class for \$75.00. Councilman Ozmore made the motion, Councilwoman Peterson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Announcements /Handouts:**

- The School Board Meeting will be held on August 28, 2017 at 6:00p.m.
- The next BBG meeting will be held on September 7, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

#### **Resident and Visitors Recognition/ Comments:**

Mayor Ashley asked if there were any other comments.

- *Mr. Bill Hudson stated "regarding the old police car there are two new deputy positions and a detective approved, but there wasn't anything appropriated for a car, and will call and talk to Sherriff Brian Roberts... I have had pretty good success with live traps, add a little cat food... Thank you, Buddy Hyde, for the information regarding the fire hydrants."*

- *Chief Buddy Hyde suggested blue reflectors and having residents mark both sides of their homes with the address.*
- *Mary Markel suggested “that you can get the whole community involved with trapping the animals, you can go to ace hardware and it doesn’t cost much.”*

Mayor Ashley scheduled a public safety meeting for August 23, 2017 at 2:00p.m.

**Adjournment:** Mayor Ashley thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and stated with there being no further business, do I have a motion to adjourn the August 21, 2017 Alberta Town Council Meeting. Councilman Holmes made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Stamps, and the motion carried unanimously.