

THE PERQUIMMANS WEEK



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"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020

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Jackson, Mayor spar over policy

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

Heated discussion dominated Monday during Hertford Town Council's marathon work session meeting.

Instead of sitting with council during the first portion of the meeting, Councilman Quentin Jackson sat

with the crowd before taking his seat, joining council. Soon after Jackson sat down, he raised one, then two hands in the air in an attempt to gain approval from the mayor to speak.

Brown wasn't having any of it as she looked over at Jackson and said, "We're going to continue to function in a very respectful way.

You're not being very professional. Councilman Jackson, do you have something to say?"

The topic that council had been discussing was planning for training for new council members.

Jackson asked the mayor to explain why this training should be considered mandatory as only ethics training is necessary for council members.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ashley Hodges said before attending any such training, council would need cost data and more information so as to better decide whether to approve travel costs.

Brown wanted the record to reflect, "Make sure to put in the minutes that

discussion during the work session, no decision about live-stream has been made.

Later, Jackson questioned whether council had made any official decision to live-stream the meetings, perhaps starting in March on the town's web page.

Brown answered that because the matter is under

discussion during the work session, no decision about live-stream has been made.

Councilman Frank Norman said while there have been thousands of dollars in costs incurred and contract negotiations associated with the planning stages needed to develop a means

See **POLICY**, A2

ROUND-UP

Allison Platt and dogs

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

A round-up of all things Perquimans County...

Citizens for the Preservation and Growth of Hertford will meet between 10 a.m. and 12 a.m. and again between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, at the Town of Hertford Community Center, located at 305 West Grubb Street. Noted Urban Planner Allison Platt will present the proposed master plan for the waterfront development and community plan. This is an open meeting so feel free to invite those who are interested.

Platt, a senior landscape architect/project manager with Rivers and Associates, has drafted a concept plan to identify how best to utilize the town's waterfront. Platt has worked on projects that have transformed New Bern and Little Washington's waterfronts.

Perquimans County Commission approved a resolution in early November supporting a strategic plan to develop Hertford's waterfront. **Hertford Town Council** has endorsed Platt's plan.

Platt said that by the county and town supporting these plans, it will be easier to attract grant funding that is needed to pay for the transformation.

In other news, **Hertford Rotary** co-president Karen Throckmorton has an interesting biography. A lot of the people that come to these parts from whereabouts have amazing stories.

Near as I can remember, Karen was a major league nurse who worked all over the globe. And she's trained dogs in a K9 search and recovery unit for 9 years in Virginia. She handled 3 dogs, now retired.

That last part about the dogs peaked my interest in Karen. Back in the day, I was a reporter at a large daily newspaper in a Pennsylvania county that tended to need the use of "cadaver" dogs from time to time, like the ones Karen trained.

These special dogs would be called out whenever a body went, well... missing for various reasons. If a kayaker had a fatal ending in the Youghiogheny

See **LAYTON**, A2

HERTFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



PHOTOS BY MILES LAYTON

Hertford United Methodist Church is the fifth Methodist Church in Perquimans County and the first Methodist Church in Hertford beginning in 1822. Sunday School starts at 9 a.m. and the worship service starts at 10 a.m.

'Inviting, loving, growing, sharing'

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

Editor's Note: From time to time, *Perquimans Weekly* will feature churches through the county, perhaps with the goal in mind of getting more souls in the pews.



Hertford United Methodist Church Pastor Gene Tyson gives the Sunday sermon on Epiphany.

over his chest, Pastor used the word "authentic" during his sermon. The word seems to fit everything about this church and faith that still has wise men seeking Christ.

On any given Sunday, HUMC is the real deal - authentic - or as the timeless song says, "Give Me that Old Time Religion."

"We call this a spirited traditional service," Tyson said.

Hymns sang by the choir and congregation are classic hits that echo an eternity - "We Three Kings" and "Go Tell It on the Mountain" - a video snippet of this hymn is available on the Perquimans Weekly's Facebook page.

HUMC's worship service starts at 10 a.m. on

Brick church on Dobbs Street has been a familiar site for the faithful in Hertford and Perquimans County for generations.

Stained-glass windows and the woodwork within the sanctuary speak volumes about the congregation who worships at Hertford United Methodist Church.

Sunday's Epiphany service as offered by Rev. Gene Tyson was top notch. Dressed in a blazer with a small cross hanging down

See **HUMC**, A2

Changes to zoning on hold

Proposed amendments sent back to planning board

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

Prior to the scheduled Town Council meeting on Monday, there was a public hearing to discuss text amendments to provide more guidelines for principal and conditional use as well as home occupations as it relates to zoning permits.

Hertford resident Edgar Salvo, who shared his extensive knowledge of the zoning code, asked council to refer the matter back to the Town's Planning/Zoning Board to better address inconsistencies he sees in the proposal.

"I feel it's my civic duty to be involved when I see things that I feel are not correct or don't benefit the citizens of Hertford," he said.

After much discussion, council opted to send the matter to the Planning/Zoning Board for further review.

Councilman Jerry Mimitsch said the intent behind the proposed changes was to bring zoning more into compliance with the existing ordinances.

"I think we have to do something to bring our town in compliance because right now, we are completely out," he said.

Councilman Frank Norman noted that there are quite a few businesses who may not be in compliance with the ordinances. He cited One-Stop as operating illegally according to the zoning ordinances, but no one has done anything about it.

As to the changes, Norman said, "If we decide to allow this to go through, then we still have to go through

See **ZONING**, A2

Grayson Byrum is region's Baby New Year

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON
 Chowan Herald

EDENTON — Grayson Byrum's later-than-scheduled arrival marked the region's first baby born in 2020.

Byrum was born at 2:38 p.m., Friday, at Vidant Chowan Hospital, the son of Hope Howard of Elizabeth City and Jacob "Jake" Byrum of Edenton. Grayson weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces and was 21½ inches long at birth.

"He's probably 22 if he'd stretch out all the way," said a smiling Jake Byrum, who works at Feyer Ford in Edenton.

Howard's due date was scheduled for Dec. 28,

which would have possibly made Grayson one of the region's last babies born in the last decade.

Now, he's the first of this decade, noted great-grandmother Peggy Byrum, who was visiting her newest family member at the hospital. Grayson's parents noted that many family members have visited since his birth.

Howard said she was at the hospital on Thursday, but was told to go home because the baby wasn't ready. A few hours later, she and her grandparents, Milton and Theresa Howard, drove down — "at 100 miles an hour," Hope noted — from Elizabeth City to the Edenton hospital.



PHOTO COURTESY BRIAN WHITE

Newborn baby Grayson Byrum sleeps during a photo with his mother Hope Howard, of Elizabeth City, and father, Jacob Byrum, of Edenton, at Vidant Chowan Hospital, Saturday. Grayson was the region's first baby born in 2020.



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