

TOWN OF ALBERTA
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

The Alberta Town Council held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Town Office with Mayor Diane B. Ashley presiding.

Council Members Present:

Diane B. Ashley, Mayor
Thomas Mabry
William Holmes
Freida Peterson
Richard Ozmore, Jr.

Council Members Absent

Residents & Visitors Present:

Buddy Hyde	Susan Sawyer	Mable Wynn
Mary Markle	Robert Hayes	Ray Sawyer
Wesley Ruffin	Joe Whitby, Town Attorney	Sidney Brown
Toni Celaya, Clerk		

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Mayor Ashley asked for a motion to call the January 17, 2017 meeting to order at 7:00p.m, Mr. Ozmore Jr., made the motion and Ms. Peterson seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Ashley made revisions to the agenda and asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Peterson made the motion to approve the agenda and Mr. Mabry seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes and Bills List

Mayor Ashley called for approval of the Regular Meeting minutes for December 12, 2016, on motion Councilman William Holmes and was second by Mr. Ozmore Jr. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Ashley asked for a motion to approve the list of bills for the month of January 2017 totaling \$6,101.57. Ms. Frieda Peterson made the motion to approve the bills list, Mr. seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

- **Public Safety:** No report available.

- **Fire Report:** Mr. Aubrey “Buddy” Hyde presented the fire report with a total of 48 calls for the month of December 2016, totaling the 2016 year with 458 calls. Full report is attached.

Mr. Hyde also explained to the council that the AVFD has dropped around 250 calls due to a lack of funding, and being under staffed. Mr. Hyde also pointed out even though AVFD has dropped calls they have also helped other departments throughout the year 70 times such as Lawrenceville and Brodnax. Mayor Ashley asked Mr. Hyde if the funding has decreased for the EMS, is AVFD unable to meet their payroll. Mayor Ashley also presented Mr. Hyde with a disbursement check for the AVFD that was allotted in the Town of Alberta budget, with deductions that are due to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the town of Alberta (see attachment). Mrs. Ashley also announced the next Alberta town council meeting will be held at the Alberta Volunteer Fire Department on Monday February 13, 2017, which will include the Public Hearing Meeting of the Verizon cell tower.

- **Police Report:** Chief Office Mike Brown was not present. Full report is forthcoming. Mrs. Ashley stated she had received a call from the DEA commending Chief Officer Brown on work he had done on the previous weekend.
- **Administrative & Finance/Economic Development:** Mayor Diane Ashley presented the deposit list for December 2016 totaling \$20,497.63. Mrs. Ashley also stated there will be a public hearing on January 18, 2017 in Brunswick County for an Adult Service Center, who is asking for a conditional use permit.

Old Business

- A. **Computer Purchase/ Security/ Server:** Kyle Pulley from the sheriff department has confirmed that the town office computers have viruses. Mrs. Ashley also stated, the office has only one working computer, and because of the very sensitive information on the computers, we are purchasing new computers, which will be networked together.
- B. **Fire Department Check/Subtraction:** Covered under Fire Report (see above).
- C. **Copier:** The town office print needs to be replaced; it sounds like a dot matrix printer. Mrs. Ashley has been working closely with Ricoh to negotiate the current lease agreement with Ricoh and has three new quotes, and will choose the most suitable quote.

- D. **Verizon:** Public Hearing for the Verizon Cell Tower is set for February 13, 2017 at the Alberta Volunteer Fire Department to accommodate more citizens.
- E. **Accident at the Taste of Brunswick Festival:** On October 8, 2016 during the Brunswick stew festival there was an accident at Southside Virginia Community College, the Town of Alberta holds the liability insurance for the festival. Mrs. Ashley has spoken to town attorney Mr. Whitby, who has instructed to report the accident to our carrier, whom will then make the determination on how to move forward. Mr. Whitby also presented a letter from Dr. Sykes to the council (see attached).
- F. **Buzzards:** There have been numerous sightings of buzzards in the town, there is a 4 inch pipe that appears to be spilling raw sewage from a town residents' home which is attracting the buzzards. Mrs. Ashley asked council for a motion to find a health inspector to examine the sewage and to take the necessary actions to eliminate the raw sewage. Ms. Peterson made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Holmes, the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

- A. **Reorganization Committee- Dissolution:** Mayor Ashley stated that the council has the right and responsibility to set the committees. Mrs. Ashley asked for a motion to have an advisory council, consisting of seven members: 5/7 will be citizens of the town of Alberta and 2/7 will be council members that will alternate every meeting and to dissolve the committees as they stand. Ms. Peterson made the motion to form one Advisory Council; the motion was seconded by Mr. Holmes and carried unanimously.
- B. **Council Appointment/ Reorganization:** Mayor Ashley asked for a motion to appoint Councilman Thomas Mabry to Vice Mayor for the Town of Alberta. Mr. Holmes made the motion to appoint Mr. Mabry and was seconded by Ms. Peterson. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ashley explained to council, that according to VML the governing body shall be composed of between 3 and 11 members (*Handbook for Virginia Mayors and Council Members p.22*) and asked Mr. Whitby to clarify that if council reset the resolution from seven council members to five council members. Mr. Whitby stated he will look into what the council needs to do in order to reset the resolution. Mayor Ashley asked for a motion to table any council appointments until the next meeting. Mr. William Holmes made the motion, Ms. Freida Peterson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- C. **Volunteer/ Maintenance Person:** Leslie Hamilton, resident of the town of Alberta, has been cleaning the town square, picking up trash that is left on the side of the road, and move heavy furniture and lift boxes in the office. Mrs. Ashley asked for a motion to keep Mr. Hamilton as the maintenance person. Mr. Holmes made the motion and Ms. Peterson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- D. **Accounting Firm:** Mrs. Ashley asked for a motion to research and interview with accounting firms. Mr. Holmes made the motion and Mr. Ozmore seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- E. **Harriet “Bootsie “ Johnson:** Councilwoman Harriet Johnson died on Saturday January 14, 2017, Mrs. Ashley stated that Mrs. Johnson was unable to attend council meetings due to circumstances that were not in her control and asked for a motion to take her stipend for the October, November, and December meeting and give to Mrs. Johnsons family. Mr. William Holmes made the motion and Ms. Freida Peterson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- F. **Clarification of Law by Joe Whitby:** See above under: (B)

- G. **Items on the Sidewalk:** There has been a town resident who has been place glass items on the sidewalk in front of their home. The resident has been asked to remove the items and has refused on several occasions. Mrs. Ashley asked for a motion to send citation to remove items. Mr. Thomas Mabry suggested having town attorney Joseph Whitby sends the citation.

Announcements /Handouts: Mrs. Ashley stated that there are census jobs available.

Resident and Visitors Recognition/ Comments: Mayor Ashley recognized residents and visitors then called for comments.

Mr. Robert Hayes stated, “That he would like to be placed back on the Alberta Town Council in Mrs. Johnson seat. Second I would like for you all to look hard at the budget this year, we’ve had a lot of crime in this area I think we need to try and find someone, either up Mike’s hours a little bit or maybe put for a another part-time person...Third thong on these committees my wife has served on the zoning committee for years when Melissa was here, and would like to join the committees... thank you all for listen to me speak.”

Adjournment: Mayor asked with there being no further business, do I have a motion to adjourn the January 17, 2017 Alberta town council meeting. Mr. William Holmes motioned and Ms. Freida Peterson seconded to adjournment, the motion carried unanimously.