

**TOWN OF ALBERTA**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, October 17, 2016 AT 7:00 PM**

The Alberta Town Council held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, October 17, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Town Office with Mayor Diane Ashley presiding.

**Council Members Present:**

Diane B. Ashley, MAYOR  
William Holmes  
Thomas Mabry  
Jeanette Moore  
Freida Peterson  
Richard Ozmore, Jr.

**Council Members Absent:**

Harriett Johnson

**Town Residents/Visitors Present:**

Attorney Joe Whitby, Editor of Brunswick Gazette: Sylvia Allen, Officer Michael Brown, Mary Markle, Armentia Stamps, Mable Wynn, Amy Poe, Beth Crowder, Elena Scalzi, Cheryl Johnson and Town Clerk: Kerry Baker

**Call to Order:** Mayor Ashley called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. she asked for motion and William Holmes made the motion and Jeanette Moore seconded it. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor Ashley stated C.J. Dean was here to address any concerns residents have regarding the water and sewer system. Ms. Ashley said citizens were concerned with rate increase, sediment in the water, odor and oily deposits. Town resident Elena Scalzi voiced her concern saying, "the water can't be drunk, it is yellow and smells." Councilman Holmes stated people on fixed income may have difficulty if they have to pay reconnection fee if water is turned off for non-payment. Possibly waive fee if paying on cut-off date.

C. J. Dean, Town Manager of Lawrenceville, addressed Council and the residents and stated when Lawrenceville took over Alberta's Water/Sewer system, they stated any cross over 3800 gallon point would be billed more. If a sewer smell, he suggested to check the plumbing inside the house, wax seals might have been broken. He was uncertain the cause of oily deposits. Scalzi had mentioned a report back in March or April stating bacteria and this report would be faxed to Mr. Dean by town clerk. Mr. Dean stated everyone has 45 days to pay after bill is sent. Water rates were raised- first increase in 6 years due to cost of electricity and chemical costs. Mayor Ashley thanked Mr. Dean for coming and answering resident's questions.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve Agenda was made by Jeanette Moore and seconded by William Holmes. It carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes and Bills List:** Mr. William Holmes made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on September 12, 2016 and seconded by Jeanette Holmes and it carried unanimously. Mayor Ashley asked for a motion to approve the bill list totaling \$4,533.95 was made by Jeanette Moore and seconded by William Holmes. It carried unanimously.

Mayor Ashley explained advertising cost were higher than usual but felt it was necessary to show everyone we are alive and in business. She also commented about bill for M&B Trash Removal for \$60.00 to clean up after stew making in the old fire house. Raw chicken parts were left in the trash containers which created maggots and unsanitary conditions. Ms. Ashley suggested requiring a deposit to use the old firehouse. William Holmes made the motion to pay \$60.00 clean up fee to Mary Markle and Richard Ozmore, Jr. seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**A. Public Safety:** Richard Ozmore, Jr. has notified Ms. Ashley children have been climbing on water tank in the town park and they go in the tank. This is a liability on the town. We don't want anyone hurt. Officer Mike Brown is aware of the situation. If anyone sees anything, please notify the town office.

**B. Fire Report:** (See attached report)

**C. Police Report:** (See attached report)

**D. Administrative & Finance/ Economic Development:** (See attached report)

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. Computers-** Mayor Ashley stated 2 new computers that are networked are needed for the office. She suggested selling the old computers and use the money to supplement the cost of the new computers. She will get the technician at Sheriff's office to review computers before selling due to sensitive material on hard drives. Jeanette Moore made the motion to sell the computers to the public and William Holmes seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

**B. Tobacco Heritage Trail- Adopt Resolution-** Ms. Ashley asked that she sign off and adopt the resolution to the tobacco heritage trail. In short, we are ready to go forward and if not and we cancel midway, we would have to reimburse our portion of the grant. Jeanette Moore made the motion to sign the resolution and Thomas Mabry seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

**C. Halloween Flyers/Plans:** The council had previously agreed to have a Halloween event and Ms. Ashley asked for \$500.00 to purchase decorations/candy and favors for the event. William Holmes made the motion and Thomas Mabry seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

**D. Christmas Lights:** Lights for the illumination event in December will need to be working. Lights that are not working will need to be replaced. Jeanette Moore made the motion to replace lights if needed and Richard Osmore, Jr. seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

**E. Councilwoman Harriett Johnson:** Letter to Harriett Johnson sent and no response has been received from her or her husband. Policy after 3 meetings, no longer will receive council stipend. She didn't meet deadline to put her name on the ballot. We cannot vacate her seat. William Holmes made the motion to not pay Ms. Johnson her stipend for August, September, and October. Freida Peterson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**F. School Park:** Ms. Ashley said the swing set in the park is not a commercial set. We need to repair the swing set and move forward. We should make the park a working school park for everyone to enjoy. Jeanette Moore made the motion to make the necessary repairs and William Holmes seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

**G. Litter Grant:** Mayor Ashley voiced the Town was notified on a Thursday about a Litter Grant and the deadline was the next day. We made the deadline and were notified we will receive the grant. The amount is: \$1,031.00.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Audit 2016:** Ms. Ashley said according to the auditor, our audit for 2015/2016 should be completed by the end of this year.

**B. Town Decals 2017/2018:** Ms. Ashley stated the town decals will alternate in color. Red and Blue with the Caboose and Gazebo. They have been ordered.

**C. Mayor/Manager's Meeting:** Ms. Ashley said we are always invited to other town meetings and she felt it was important to participate and to network with others. Mayors/Managers who have been in the position up to 20 years can give us the guidance with grants, work with residents and police. 12 have RSVP'd from surrounding towns and is set for October 26 at Brian's Steakhouse in South Hill, VA.

**D. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Briefing:** Whitehouse initiative to show the dangers to police officers. Our officer monitors Interstate 85, and domestic relations. Implicit Bias- facts and date/ how you inherently feel towards someone shows you how you are and it allows you to adjust your attitude towards others accordingly.

**E. VML Conference:** Mayor Ashley attended the annual conference and also the Mayors/Managers conference the weekend of the Hurricane. It was very informative. Instructed us how to do what's best for our town. How to make policies. Mayor Greg Eanes of Crewe, VA made a motion to the General Assembly and Ms. Ashley seconded the motion for 5% of the lottery funds in this area will be paid back to the town. William Holmes made the motion to move forward with this and Thomas Mabry seconded it. The motion was carried unanimously.

**F. Brunswick Festival Accident:** Dr. Sykes reported a young man driving a golf cart hit 3 people. No one was seriously injured. Town holds liability insurance. Ms. Ashley was opposed to having the festival due to the Hurricane. She stated since the Town holds the liability insurance, we should be part of the committee or have some say in the future.

Mayor Ashley asked a motion be made to require a deposit to use the firehouse for anyone in the future. If everything is left in good condition, ½ of deposit will be refunded. William Holmes made the motion and Thomas Mabry seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Joe Whitby advised council to be consistent with park access fees, and be in sync with other fee agreements.

Mayor Ashley read a proposed draft of letter to accountants Alga, Jones and Creedle. She requested it be sent to accountant so they can help us with Policies and Procedures. Jeanette Moore made the motion to send the letter and William Holmes seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. (See attachment)

**Residents and Visitors Recognition/ Comments:**

Mayor Ashley thanked everyone for coming out.

Discussion about the buzzards in the town began. Officer Brown said he contacted Game and Inland Fisheries to see what could be done. No firearms in the town limits to be fired and the problem of disposing the body. Mike Brown does not recommend anyone to shoot them. Garbage is attracting the buzzards.

A motion made by Jeanette Moore to make a flyer and send to all residents to cover their garbage to discourage the buzzards and William Holmes seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Cheryl Johnson, Alberta General Store is not closed –developing stew and attending farmer’s market. She generously gave everyone a sample of her product.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Ms. Jeanette Moore made the motion to adjourn the meeting for October 17, 2016 and William Holmes seconded and it carried unanimously.