

TOWN OF ALBERTA
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, November 14, 2016 AT 7:00 PM

The Alberta Town Council held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, November 14, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Town Office with Mayor Diane Ashley presiding.

Council Members Present:

Diane B. Ashley, MAYOR
Thomas Mabry
Jeanette Moore
Frieda Peterson
Richard Ozmore, Jr.

Council Members Absent:

Harriet Johnson
William Holmes

Town Residents/Visitors Present:

Attorney Joe Whitby, Editor of Brunswick Gazette: Sylvia Allen, Officer Michael Brown, Bill Hudson of the BBG, Mary Markle, Wesley Ruffen, Mable Wynn, and Town Clerk: Kerry Baker

Call to Order: Mayor Ashley called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. she asked for motion and Jeanette Moore made the motion and Frieda Peterson seconded it. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor Ashley asked there be some additions to the Agenda before it was approved. Please add to C under New Business: Exit Audit- 3 lines Verizon. H. Town Ordinances. J. Nancy Watson- Cats K. Cat feedings. L. Motion- Office Brown to have authority to enforce the Town Ordinances. M. Ricoh- Lease Agreement.

Approval of Amended Agenda: Motion to approve Amended Agenda was made by Jeanette Moore and seconded by Frieda Peterson. It carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes and Bills List: Jeanette Moore made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on October 17, 2016 and seconded by Frieda Peterson. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Ashley asked for a motion to approve the bill list totaling \$7,813.07. Mr. Mabry questioned the bill to Boyd of South Hill. Officer Brown explained front wheel barrings, oil sensor and other necessary repairs were made and servicing the Town car in South Hill is more convenient than taking it to Petersburg. Thomas Mabry made the motion to approve the bills and seconded by Jeanette Moore. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Public Safety: NO REPORT

B. Fire Report: (See attached report)

C. Police Report: (See attached report) Officer Brown also reported the suspect breaking into vehicles has been apprehended and has 22 charges pending against him, 3 of which are felonies. He is charged with Breaking and Entering and Trespassing. This will be a long process, several cameras were placed in the town and it was a homeowner, who caught the suspect on their camera.

There have been issues with kids climbing on the water tanks and we have purchased no trespassing signs and tape to put up. Buddy Hyde complimented Officer Brown and said he was a huge help to the fire department and he is very knowledgeable and saves the department a lot of time.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Computers- there has been a call put into the Sheriff's office- waiting on a response regarding purchasing new computers, selling old computers safely, and networking.

B. Halloween Event- Ms. Ashley said the event was a lot of fun. Children and adult were pitching in and everyone worked together. Next year hopes to be even bigger.

C. Christmas Flyers/Plans: The Town will have a night of Grand Illumination, Saturday, December 10, 2016 starting at 5:00 PM. We will have caroling, music, etc. We will need volunteers. A press release will be in the paper.

Buzzard/Garbage Flyer:

A flyer concerning the Buzzards will be designed stating to be sure to put lids on cans and a flyer for garbage listing household garbage only, no fecal matter or furniture. We will design the flyer and print at Dogwood Graphics instead of putting a strain on our copier and it will be in color. A motion was made by Jeanette Moore and seconded by Frieda Peterson. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Christmas Dinner: Town of Brodnax will be hosting the Christmas Dinner on Wednesday, December 14 at the Brodnax Fire Department. Mayor Ashley asked that we invite former clerk Elizabeth Burns and pay for her meal. Frieda Peterson made the motion and Jeanette Moore seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Lap Top/Computer Networking: Mayor Ashley said she had a lap top but she felt the Town would need to purchase a Lap Top that would be networked with the other computers in the office and any future Mayor could have access to this Lap Top. Richard Ozmore, Jr. made the motion to purchase a laptop for the Mayor's use and Frieda Peterson seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Exit Audit: Mrs. Ashley stated an exit audit has just been completed for the period of time she took over as Acting Mayor from May 2016- October 2016. There were no discrepancies, nothing illegal done and no missing money. A draft of the letter to the Town has been issued and a final draft will be completed soon. The amount charged for the exit audit was \$2,475.00 and was

presented today to the clerk and it was not on the bills list, so Mayor Ashley requested we pay this bill. Jeanette Moore made the motion and Mr. Ozmore seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. Lastly, the auditor noticed 3 lines were on the Verizon bill but only 2 were authorized and also they are charging us for calls instead of unlimited coverage. We will resolve this matter with Verizon.

D. Election Results: Mayor Ashley announced she won the seat of Mayor on November 8. Also Robert Hayes received 4 votes according to Registrar David Clary. Mr. Hayes will be back on Council effective January 2017. Mayor Ashley quoted from the Town Code **Section 2-35. Duties of presiding officer; preservation of order.** (see attachment) She stated the Code will be enforced. No one will feel intimidated by anyone. She also stated her seat will be available in January 2017 and can be filled by Council appointment.

E. School Park-Water Tank: No trespassing signs and tape will be put up around the Water Tanks.

F. Real Estate: Piece of property across from the Town office is for sale. Idea for a Community Garden. VML offers grants for healthy eating. Possible negotiate lower price due to tax lien, etc. Cost of burning house, etc. Mr. Ozmore made the motion to negotiate purchase and Thomas Mabry seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Caboose Occupied Space- Rental: The Town cleans the area and cuts the grass around the Caboose. Mayor Ashley suggested a nominal fee to charge as a rental fee to the Town. The Town also pays for the electricity. Jeanette Moore made the motion to set a fee and Frieda Peterson seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

H. Training Seminar: Leadership Skills for Changing Times: 11/21- 11/23: Mayor Ashley would like to go to this training. It will help her understand and supervise the people in the office and also officers patrolling the Town. Officer Brown explained that it would be beneficial for her to attend. Jeanette Moore made the motion and Richard Ozmore seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

I. Illegal Dumping: Mary Markle and Wes Ruffen had to clean up trash illegally dumped. They found the name and address in trash of who was responsible for the dumping. The Town had to pay Mary to clean it up. Town would like to send letter to person and charge them the amount paid to Mary. Jeanette Moore made the motion for the Town to prepare letter and bill and Frieda Peterson seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Nancy Watson- Cats: Nancy Watson has been instrumental in catching stray cats, taking them to spay/neuter and then releases them. If you see any loose cats needing attention please let her know immediately.

K. Cat Feeding: The Town would like to send a letter out to those businesses dropping food on the sidewalks to feed the cats in the Town. It was suggested to feed the cats in grassy area. Frieda Peterson made the motion and Thomas Mabry seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

L. Motion- Authority: Mayor Ashley asked we give authority to Officer Brown to enforce the Town Codes. It was mentioned about derelict vehicles/abandon vehicles. Code Section: 16.5 Unsafe Real Property (See Attached) We as Council Members need to set the example. Thomas Mabry made the motion to give Officer Brown the authority to enforce the codes and Mr. Ozmore seconded it. Jeanette Moore opposed the motion and Frieda Peterson was undecided. The yes vote has it.

M. Ricoh Lease Agreement: Mayor Ashley would like to look into what is cost effective for the Town to buyout the copier and get a service contract or not. Mr. Ozmore made the motion and Mr. Mabry seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Ashley read Section 16-4 re: Grass Cutting. (see attachment) There are several properties on Main Street and Virginia Avenue which letters need to be sent. Jeanette Moore made the motion to send letters out and Mr. Mabry seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Holiday Schedule: Thanksgiving: The office will be closed on Thursday, November 24 and will reopen Friday November 25.

Christmas Holiday: Discussed whether close on 23 or 26 since Christmas falls on the weekend. Mr. Mabry made the motion to close on Friday, 23 and open on December 26.

In January, a Vice Mayor will need to appoint to Council in case Mayor Ashley can't be at the meeting and in the event the Vice Mayor isn't available, the Town Clerk will preside over the meeting. Committees will be reorganized in January. Mayor Ashley asked everyone to be thinking of what committee they would like to serve on and said if no one comes forward, she will appoint positions.

Residents and Visitors Recognition/ Comments:

Mayor Ashley thanked everyone for coming out.

Bill Hudson congratulated Mayor Ashley as the newly elected Mayor. Mary Markle thanked the Town for all that we do and Mayor Ashley thanked her also.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Mr. Thomas Mabry made the motion to adjourn the meeting for November 14, 2016 and Jeanette Moore seconded it and it carried unanimously.