
AUGUST 2024 MINUTES

Attendees: Mayor Joe Slaton; Council Members: Harry Baughn, Benita England, Lauren Tiger; Town Clerk: Suzanne Hedden; Zoning Administrator, Ron Wallace
Others: Lorraine Bennett (Clay County Progress), Sandy Zimmerman (HHI/Small Town Mainstreet); David Alsobrook (Master Gardeners), Jarod England

Mayor Slaton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Tiger made a motion to approve the agenda; Mr. Baughn seconded the motion; motion approved.

Mayor Slaton administered the oath of office for Benita England, our new Town Council member, replacing Austin Hedden, who no longer resides within the city limits.

MINUTES

Mr. Baughn made a motion to approve the July 2024 Town Council minutes as written; Ms. Tiger seconded the motion; motion approved.

FINANCE REPORTS

July 2024 Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statement – reports are attached.

- Ms. Tiger made a motion to approve the Profit and Loss information and Balance Sheet; Mrs. England seconded the motion; motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- David Alsobrook, Co-President of Master Gardeners, presented an update on the landscape plan for the lawn at Town Hall. He recently met with two vendors and received quotes. Juniper Junction provided the lower estimate and Mr. Alsobrook was satisfied with the quote and information. A copy of the estimates was provided for the Mayor and Council members. New suggestions were: 1) Have a dumpster on site; 2) remove junipers behind Town Hall and mulch afterwards; 3) Someone will need to maintain the new landscaping (Mr. Alsobrook knows someone who might be willing to do that. Mr. Baughn made a motion to permit Mr. Alsobrook to proceed with obtaining a firm quote from Juniper Junction (up to \$4,645.00) so work can begin in mid-October; Mrs. England seconded the motion; motion approved. Ms. Zimmerman stated that HHI will possibly be able to assist with needed funds.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ms. Zimmerman presented her state statistical report (attached) which she submitted on August 12th.
- Mayor Slaton would like to add MountainTrue to our annual list of non-profit donations. He recommended \$1,000.00 annually. Discussion on this matter was tabled until our September meeting.
- It was suggested to Mayor Slaton that the discussion on employee salaries be moved to closed session.
- Mayor Slaton noted that our new trails must be maintained; it is an ongoing expense and qualifies as an ARP expense.
- Our Mill Street Grant (\$100,000.00) has been submitted. Drawings for plan of work must be submitted by a licensed engineer; therefore, Mayor Slaton has a scheduled meeting with Tylor Dockery on Tuesday. He will report back to Council with information. Ms. Tiger made a motion to approve Grant; Mrs. England seconded the motion; motion approved.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

- Mr. Wallace’s report is attached.

MAYOR’S REPORT

- In addition to the information Mayor Slaton discussed earlier in the meeting, he added that prices to do six (6) benches for the Mayor’s Park and Whitney Property will cost approximately \$125.00 each.

PUBLIC COMMENT


Ms. Zimmerman reported on: 1) Trash to Treasures proved to be a big success this year with a good donation going to Peacock Playhouse for all sales beginning on May 15th and ending on August 1st; 2) Business After Hours was held at the Exhibit Hall on Thursday, August 8th, with several attendees; 3) Inmates will paint at Exhibit Hall and other buildings on property; 4) Repair is need on the roof from recent damage; 5) HHI could possibly donate benches for the trails; 6) Ms. Zimmerman’s tenure is ending this month as a member of the Board of Adjustments; she will be glad to serve another term, if appointed; 7) Exhibit building is open now and averaging good attendance; it is being discussed about adding another day to be open.

Mr. Baughn made a motion for Council members to enter Closed Session at 7:32 pm; Ms. Tiger seconded the motion; motion approved. No action was taken. Ms. Tiger made a motion to end Closed Session; at 7:59 pm; Mrs. England seconded the motion; motion approved.

Ms. Tiger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.; Mr. Baughn seconded the motion; meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:


Suzanne G. Hedden, Town Clerk



Joe Slaton, Mayor