

Town Council Meeting January 4, 2023

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order with all council members present except Mrs. Strom. Attorney Drinnon was present also.

Rick Stafford asked the board if they had agreed to sign the consent form from the State. The mayor informed him it was on the agenda to be voted on. He also asked if the town had done anything since last months meeting.

On a motion from Mr. Stump, second from Mr. Woods, the minutes of the December 6, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved.

On a motion from Mr. Sinard, second from Mr. Marshall, the minutes of the December 14, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved.

On a motion from Mr. Woods, second from Mr. Sinard, it was unanimously approved to hire Jesse Williams for the full-time police officer position replacing White.

On a motion from Mr. Stump, second from Mr. Sinard, it was unanimously voted to hire Jason Bales as a street/sanitation employee pending the attorney's opinion that his relationship with the mayor being his brother-in-law did not interfere with the charter.

On a motion from Mr. Marshall, second from Mr. Woods, it was unanimously voted to approve Chief Cotter to participate in the Violent Crime Grant, which is a hundred percent grant. The grant would cover the upgrade of body cameras and server.

On a motion from Mr. Woods, second from Mr. Sinard, the board approved the mayor's recommendation to nominate Ryan Winstead to the Planning Commission, replacing Woods. The motion passed unanimously. On a motion from Mr. Sinard, second from Mr. Woods, the board approved Mr. Woods nomination of Donna Wallin to the Planning Commission, replacing Wilder. The motion passed unanimously.

On a motion from Mr. Stump, second from Mr. Marshall, it was unanimously voted to approve the consent order from TDEC as it reads.

On a motion from Mr. Marshall, second from Mr. Woods, it was unanimously voted to award M & M Pipe Service with the bid for tv/camera inspection of sewer lines at a cost of \$368,654.58.

Chief Cotter gave reports to the board for police department. For the fire department he reported that 2022 yielded the busiest year ever. There were 444 calls inside town limits and 367 outside calls.

Under Recreation news, Mr. Collier, the public works director, informed the board that the Recreation employee would be hired next week.

Mr. Harnage reported the water department had to purchase water from Morristown Utilities. Two major leaks back-to-back, as well as frozen water from subzero temperatures created havoc on the water system.

Mr. Collier reported the street department had done a great job salting roads during the icy conditions. They have also been busy doing asphalt patching.

Financial reports were given to board in the packets.

Under new business the mayor informed the board that the new parks and recreation employee would be spending a hundred percent on recreation. The salary under the budget would be reduced down to \$28K-\$30K and they would also need a vehicle to drive. He would like to purchase a new truck for the street public works director, so he would like to transfer funds from the salaries in parks to the street department to cover the cost. Wilson County ford has a 2023 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD on the state bid list for \$38K. He would like to transfer \$35K to the street and sanitation department. Mr. Woods asked if there was anything cheaper and was informed the 2022 models were more. Mr. Stump thought it was a good price. The mayor said nothing would come out of repairs in recreation budget but may take some out of street.

On a motion from Mr. Stump, second from Mr. Marshall, a motion was made to amend the budget from parks and recreation salaries not to exceed \$38K. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The mayor wants the board to look at the license requirements and CDL requirements and decide on the best for employees.

On a motion from Mr. Marshall, second from Mr. Stump, it was unanimously voted to pay bills.

On a motion from Mr. Sinard, second from Mr. Woods, it was unanimously voted to donate \$500 to Witt Baptist Church in memory of former mayor Stanley H. Wilder.

On a motion from Mr. Woods, second from Mr. Marshall, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:06 pm.

Fred Taylor

Fred Taylor, Mayor

Alyson P. Susong

Alyson P. Susong, Recorder

Special Called Council Meeting December 14, 2022

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order with all council members present except Mrs. Strom. Attorney Drinnon was present also.

Attorney Drinnon approached the board to discuss the ongoing proposal with Path Construction concerning the payments owed for completion of the wastewater plant. He explained that we have a couple of options being to counter offer or keep the initial offer on the table. Mediation would be the next step if an agreement can not be reached.

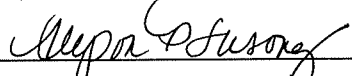
John Allen spoke to the board and recommended them to let the attorney handle. He feels like we have gone above and beyond being fair and that they seem to be grasping for every legal sentence in the contract to wear us down. Several council members asked questions and the mayor feels like we need to stand our ground. Time has been granted above what was asked and a lot of energy and time have been put forth.

On a motion from Mr. Marshall, second by Mr. Sinard, it was unanimously voted to reject the counter offer and stand by the original amount and if not accepted, the board will seek liquidated damages.

On a motion from Mr. Stump, second from Mr. Wood, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:30 pm.



Fred Taylor, Mayor



Alyson P. Susong, Recorder

Town Council Meeting December 6, 2022

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order with all council members present. Attorney Drinnon was present also.

On a motion from Mr. Marshall, second from Mr. Stump, the minutes of the November 1, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved.

On a motion from Mr. Woods, second from Mrs. Strom, Ordinance #10-22, guidelines on Bitcoin zoning, passed unanimously in a roll call vote on second and final reading.

On a motion from Mr. Marshall, second from Mr. Woods, it was unanimously voted to hire Shannon Cotter for planner and Hatfield & Allen as engineer for the LPRF Recreation grant.

On a motion from Mr. Sinard, second from Mrs. Strom, it was unanimously voted to hire Brad Collier as the new full time public works director.

On a motion from Mr. Marshall, second from Mrs. Strom, it was unanimously voted to give employees and volunteers a Christmas bonus and gift cards.

Detective Lowe gave the board monthly reports and said it had been a busy month. Derrick Layman gave the board an update for the new brush truck. He also commented that the fire department has broke a record for the number of calls this past month by answering 104 calls.

A five lot subdivide was on the Planning Commission's agenda. This was land adjacent to the Agriculture Park Boulevard area. It was discussed that the board needed to appoint two new people to serve on the Planning commission to replace Janice Wilder and Whitney Woods, the newly elected council member. Nominations will be taken at the January meeting to get those vacancies filled.

Mr. Harnage reported that Rouse would probably start next week on the sewer plant effluent piping project.

Mr. Collier reported that the curb side pick ups went well and the leaf pick up was going great.

Under financial news, Mrs. Susong asked if anyone had any questions from the reports placed in packets. She also offered assistance to Mr. Sinard and Mr. Woods to help them have a better understanding of the financial reports and budgeting.

Under new business, Mr. Woods made a motion to reconsider the action of the Christmas bonus and the gift cards, with Mr. Sinard making a second. Discussion was made toward the fact of inflation and how that has impacted everyone. A longevity pay was also discussed. After much discussion, the vote to reconsider was denied and comments made to look into this item at the next budget cycle.

Another item discussed under new business was the possibility of the two holidays at Christmas. On a motion from Mr. Marshall, second by Mr. Stump, it was unanimously voted to allow the Street and Sanitation employees to observe Monday and Tuesday, December 26th and 27th as their holidays and town hall, police and water and sewer would take off December 23rd and December 26th. This will help the garbage pick up and the water readings as well.

Another new item discussed was the need for a fire inspector. Mr. Sinard addressed the board concerning several businesses had gotten by without getting some of the required sprinklers and Knox boxes. He suggested the board appoint Dereck Layman to be the fire inspector for the town. Mr. Layman approached the board and explained he would like to be involved in reviewing plans so that these items would not be left off of future developments. The board decided to talk about this at the January meeting.

Mr. Marshall asked about the electronic billing and if we offered a text service to inform customers of nonpayment. Customers may use their email to receive bills and notices of payments, but no text. This brought on a new subject of meters. It was decided to discuss the meter issues at the January meeting as well.

On a motion from Mr. Stump, second by Mr. Marshall, it was unanimously voted to pay bills.

Under announcements, a card was read from Carolyn Voiles in appreciation of the recognition. Mayor Taylor reported that the open house at the Green Houses went well too.

On a motion from Mr. Woods, second from Mr. Marshall, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session with Attorney Drinnon. Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.



Fred Taylor, Mayor



Alyson P. Susong, Recorder