

Town Council Meeting March 7, 2023

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order with all council members present except Mrs. Strom and Mr. Sinard.

Mayor Taylor welcomed several members of the Youth Leadership group.

Under communications from citizens and property owners, Joe Jaynes approached the board concerning the steam engine. He expressed the original agreement was to store for two months and that has been almost two years ago. His building is being sold and he would like the board to go ahead and remove the steam engine within thirty to sixty days. Mayor Taylor explained we had the funds to do a concrete pad but when the loan fell through the funds were not available to complete the building. Mr. Jaynes expressed that a post and beam shed with gravel would work till a permanent site can be determined. Mayor Taylor said several members wanted to keep the engine and upgrade it, has in paint for appearance. Mr. Jaynes said Randy Baxley can build a tongue system that will make it easier to be moved. Mr. Dale Snapp informed the board that the History Committee will be meeting next Tuesday, March 14th at 2pm and invited the board to come. He also asked that the board consider planting flowers on Main Street in the pots along the road.

Pastor Raby asked the board again about running water down Highway 113 so that their church could hook up and use. He asked that we check with the gas company and possibly run with them. The mayor explained he had spoken with our engineer and planner about possible grants to get water on Highway 113 and at Champion Lane. Unfortunately, this would take time but the mayor said it is something that needs to be accomplished.

Mr. Darrell Keene approached the board and asked that they reconsider his request for rezoning. Mayor Taylor explained that we have done this before and we could have five homes there bringing in tax revenue. Mr. Marshall explained he understood the concern but property across from town hall was denied and he felt everyone needed to be treated the same. Mr. Taylor explained that Joe Barrett, the town's state planner, had sent him minutes from meeting with Doyle Wallace who owns property that is close in proximity to Mr. Keene's property. He then mentioned that Mr. Keene would like this to be addressed under new business at the meeting tonight. At this point Mr. Glen Warren asked to speak and address the attorney. He asked the question if Robert's Rules of Order stated that if someone is representing him as a realtor, should he not recuse himself to the board. Mr. Drinnon said that Mr. Keene has done business with their law firm for years, but he is not familiar with the Robert's Rules of Order. The Charter could contain conflict of interest rules. It was also noted that the mayor does not vote unless there is a tie vote.

On a motion from Mr. Stump, second from Mr. Wood, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2023 meeting.

On a motion from Mr. Marshall, second from Mr. Wood, it was unanimously voted to approve Resolution #23-1, approving the application for the Appalachian Regional Commission grant.

On a motion from Mr. Marshall, second from Mr. Stump, it was unanimously voted to have town employees tear down the stone off of the concession stand wall and then re quote the project of adding a new surface.

On a motion from Mr. Marshall, second from Mr. Stump, it was unanimously voted to appoint Whitney Woods to the Pine Fest board as a council representative.

Under police news, Chief Cotter informed the board that the police department has received a \$69K grant. Two suspects were also arrested with one being on Rosella Drive and the other attempted to steal a truck from Ridley's Auto. Suspect wrecked on interstate and was arrested. For fire department news, Chief Cotter gave their written reports.

Mr. Stump informed the board about the last planning commission meeting and about the Silicon Ranch development.

Under recreation news, Public Works Director Brad Collier informed the board that Jonah had went home sick and he did not have his reports to give.

Mr. Harnage informed the board that the state gave a surprise visit today to tour the plant. A spill at the plant from the night before was cleaned up and reported. A faulty bar screen was to blame. The operator got everything fixed and the state was informed of this unfortunate event.

Mr. Collier gave a report on the large pick up. The sanitation picked up roughly 20K pounds of items. The department has been mowing and also bush hogging sewer lines to help with the sewer cleaning.

Mrs. Susong gave the board the expenditures report. It was discussed about doing a fund balance policy and she will work with MTAS to get this done. She also asked if the board would agree to ask department heads to have all big purchases completed by June 16, 2023 in order to help with closing of 2023 fiscal year. Bringing up the budget brought up the topic of Mrs. Susong's overtime. She explained that the mayor ask that she stop staying past 4:30 pm each day and to not have any over time. With the budget being such a hectic time she asked for the boards approval to stay over if the need arises. After discussing the topic, the board agreed that a budget amendment could be done and if needed, she can stay later than normal business hours.

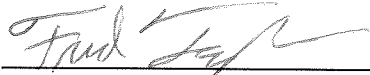
There was no unfinished business.

Under new business, Mr. Marshall made a motion to hire Randy Baxley to make a ball and tongue system so that the steam engine can be transported easily. Mr. Stump made a second to the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

Under announcements, Mrs. Susong asked the board about dates for a budget work session. An email will be sent out with several options to find the best date suitable for everyone. Mr. Marshall announced that there would be a jeep show put on by Rocky Top Jeep on May 6, 2023 at White Pine School. The fire department will be cooking hamburgers and selling and all proceeds of this event will go to the Friends of the Fire Department. Parking will be a donation basis and the event is free.

On a motion from Mr. Woods, second by Mr. Marshall, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:50 pm.



Fred Taylor, Mayor



Alyson P. Susong, Recorder