

Town Council Meeting April 4, 2023

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

Under communications from Citizens and Property Owners, Terry Hamilton asked to speak regarding the rezoning of property on Highway 25E that was rejected last month. He explained that a small portion of the property was inside the town limits and they would like to have rezoned from R-1 to M-2. The property will only be used to give a place for utilities to be accessed.

On a motion from Mr. Stump, second from Mr. Woods, the minutes of the March 7, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

On a motion from Mr. Marshall, second from Mr. Stump, Resolution #23-2, allowing the town to apply for a CDBG grant passed unanimously.

On a motion from Mr. Marshall, second from Mrs. Strom, Ordinance #2-23, rezoning a portion of Parcel 41, off Highway 25E from R-1 to M-2 passed unanimously in a roll call vote on first reading.

Under police reports, Chief Cotter reported the officers were busy getting in their required training as well as K9 class too. Prom Promise was done at Lakeway Christian School showing the students the results of wrecking and the extrication process. The upper two grades got to watch as life start landed to pick up the patient. The discussion of the new turning lane was brought up and Chief Cotter said that traffic backed up on the interstate had been reduced and it seems to have helped the flow. Lakeway is looking into purchasing a school zone light system this summer.

Mr. Stump brought up the Silicon Ranch and gave the board a broader view of the annexation. He also gave information about the installation of the battery storage system that is asking for approval from all other cities in order to meet the zoning regulations for Jefferson County. The planning members also discussed the establishment of another zone, A-1, for developments like these. The board will soon be receiving a new zoning map from the state planner to review and discuss making changes to outdated areas.

Jonah Morie gave an update on the Community Building taking in \$480 in March and the Pavilion at Kidz Kountry has taken in \$190. A meeting was held with the project management group and the recreation grant is in the engineering phase. Parts have come in for the Legion field bathroom and a plumber has been contacted to get that fixed and opened back up .

Under water and sewer news, Lane Hodges expressed to the board his and other employees concern for a leader over water and sewer. Mr. Stump commented that he has had complaints on Mr. Harnage as well. Mr. Marshall commented he was not going to bring up since Mr. Harnage was not there, but he too has questions concerning the new subdivision on Roy Messer Highway. He questioned if anyone had inspected the water and sewer lines before they were covered up. Elliott Rednour mentioned he had been in contact with the contractor concerning the water and it is not completed, but the sewer has not been inspected. The sewer plant was discussed and the mess that it has been in. New employee Doug McClure has gotten the plant in a lot better shape and he will be given license transfer information after the Fleming Training Board meets on April 6. There were discussions of overtime, no support, low morale and talk of employees leaving the town. The board asked Brad Collier his opinions on this and he stated that Mr. Harnage does not communicate with him or his employees. Mr. Stump stated he would like to see the job posted and do internal interviews with a panel of multiple people. Then at budget time this role can be looked at and possibly split into two roles. Mr. Harnage role would be changed to Wastewater operator and would be at the sewer plant with a decrease of \$3 and no truck to take home. Mr. Collier was asked to be an interim and he agreed.

Under street and sanitation news, Mr. Collier reported mowing, brush, and monthly pick up had gone smooth. Paving bids are out and will be opened on April 14, 2023 at 2 pm. Roads considered are East Main Street to College Street and Legion Field Ball field.

No Industrial meeting was held.

Under Pine Fest news, Mr. Woods discussed a good meeting was held. The board decided to raise entry fees for booths to \$40 and \$60 for electricity booths. Bush Brothers has already been secured as the top sponsor.

Under unfinished business, Mr. Marshall made a motion to authorize Attorney Drinnon to proceed with mediation and take whatever steps necessary which are in the best interests of the town, litigation or otherwise. Mr. Woods made a second to the motion and it unanimously was approved.

Under new business, Mr. Sinard made a motion to go with the ME meters and to get them ordered. Mr. Woods made a second to the motion and all were in favor.

On a motion from Mr. Stump, second by Mr. Woods, it was unanimously voted to accept Hatfield and Allen's option 1 of advertising and starting the sewer bypass project for construction and complete everything except the work within the TDOT intersection. If TDOT delays the bid process then the town would then do a separate bid for Option 3 which is to purchase required private easements to take the sewer bypass line around and outside of TDOT's construction limits.

On a motion from Mr. Sinard, second from Mr. Stump, it was unanimously voted to demote Richard Harnage to an operator at the sewer plant with a drop in pay to \$23 per hour with no take home truck, and open his position internally, at which resumes will be taken through April 17th and interviews will be done at a determined date.

On a motion from Mr. Marshall, second from Mr. Sinard, it was unanimously voted to appoint Brad Collier as interim supervisor until the position is filled, effective immediately, with pay going to \$26 per hour while fulfilling both roles. Once resumes have been turned in, the board asks that they be emailed these and it will be determined when interviews will take place.

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

Under announcements, Mr. Marshall reminded the board of the Rocky Top Jeep show which will take place on May 6th from 3 pm till 6 pm. Thirty vendors have already committed.

On a motion from Mr. Marsh, second from Mrs. Strom, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:10 pm.



Fred Taylor, Mayor



Alyson P. Susong, Recorder