

## Town Council Minutes February 6, 2024

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

There were no comments or remarks from the audience.

On a motion from Mr. Stump, second from Mr. Woods, the minutes of the January 9, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

On a motion from Mr. Woods, second from Mr. Sinard, Ordinance #1-24, amending the recreation committee requirements, passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

On a motion from Mr. Marshall, second from Mr. Woods, Resolution #24-1, applying for a HOME grant passed unanimously.

On a motion from Mr. Stump, second from Mr. Woods, it was unanimously voted to take the per diem out and the reimbursement form to be filed with Recorder within thirty days of return. A resolution will be prepared to properly pass at the March meeting.

Chief Cotter addressed the board and expressed a busy month for the police department. A drug investigation netted three arrests and the victim that was run over by a hit and run truck driver was found as well. The sub temperatures and snow did not deter the department and all went smoothly there.

Chief Layman said the fire department had answered seventy-four calls in January, and had two structure fires as well. He also urged citizens to contact the department if smoke alarms were needed. Mayor Potts is working on an equipment grant through the county. The state fire marshal's grant has been turned in to receive \$46K in rescue gear. Mr. Layman expressed thanks to the town for the dinner provided for the firemen for the hard work during the snow and ice.

Mr. Stump reported the planning commission had reviewed a minor change to a subdivision plat on South White Pine Road and Valley Home Road. The Pine Meadows subdivision was re-visited and approved by the planning commission.

Mr. Reid addressed the board about the LPRF grant. The community football teams will lose the field for practice and games during the construction of the field maintenance and the town council will decide on an amount to give the teams for the funds they will be losing at the gate. Mr. Marshall will audit their records. The master plan will need to be updated as well and possibly make future land acquisition. A Easter egg hunt is being planned for the Saturday

before Easter. Basketball is still in works and will hopefully have some camps and tournaments coming up.

Lane Hodges announced the consent order first year is done. Several items were turned in to the state and a couple of things are to be sent in, including a maintenance plan and an asset plan. SCADA plans are to start within the next two weeks. The mayor added a hydrant on Old Airport Road has been replaced, and the new water operator is working out well.

Mayor Taylor brought up the new subdivision plat, Pine Meadows, and stating it had to be re-submitted. After talking to Attorney Drinnon and MTAS, it was decided to appoint an intern until a public works director is hired. This position is limited duty and power and will not receive a raise. This position is temporary, and will have the ability to sign off on the plat. The mayor added he is negotiating with one and is set to interview three more this week for the open positions.

Jason Bales spoke for Street and Sanitation adding the clean up went well. They have been cleaning ditches, clearing tiles and patching holes. Mayor Taylor commended the employees for the tremendous job they did during the snow and ice. Town hall was open, police had a lot going on during the single digits and also a water leak sprung during these cold hours. As a token of appreciation, the public works department and police were treated to breakfast, and the fire department had dinner. This discussion brought up the need for a warming station for citizens to come to and seek warmth. Chief Cotter said Dandridge had one during the last cold snap and thinks we should plan now for the next weather emergency. Mr. Marshall asked if the Ruritan building could be used for this. After much discussion, Chief Cotter told the board he will get with others and try to come up with guidelines and check with our insurance for this plan.

Mrs. Susong gave reports on financial status that was included in packets. She also asked if the board could meet before the budget meeting with department heads to seek out plans for next years Capital purchases. The board decided to meet on March 19, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

Under new business, Mr. Woods made a motion to have Chief Cotter get a written contract together for the purchase of the LPR cameras with Mr. Stump making a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.


On a motion from Mr. Marshall, second from Mr. Woods, it was voted to allow Chief Layman to apply for the SAFER staffing grant. All were in favor except Mr. Sinard who abstained due to being the assistant fire chief.

On a motion from Mr. Stump, second from Mr. Marshall, it was voted to allow Chief Layman to apply for the FEMA Fire truck grant. All were in favor except Mr. Sinard who abstained due to being the assistant fire chief.

On a motion from Mr. Stump, second from Mr. Sinard, it was unanimously voted to appoint Lane Hodges as an intern with signature authority with no pay increase for the water and sewer department.

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

On a motion from Mrs. Strom, second from Mr. Stump, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:54 pm.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Fred Taylor, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alyson P. Susong, Recorder