



***Minutes of The Board of Commissioners Meeting- January 5, 2021 @7:30 pm
Held at 227 West Main Street, United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall***

Attending:

Mayor Perry Conner, Mayor Pro-Tem Priscilla Dunn, Commissioner A.C. Hurley
Commissioner Richard Goodwin, Commissioner Brandon Hurley, Commissioner Mac Whatley
Finance Officer/Town Clerk-Beverly O'Brien
Utility Clerk-Christie Gunter
Public Works Director- Arnold Allred
Public Works Assistant Director- Joe Walsh
Guests: Billy Farias, Harvey Harman, Jill Wood

21-01 7:30 pm: MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of silence/ prayer

21-02 CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Conner discussed the consent agenda. **Motion by Commissioner Whatley, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dunn to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion adopted, unanimously.**

21-03 OLD BUSINESS

Jill Wood, consultant for the Land Development Ordinance up-date, gave a report on the progress with the document and a date was set for the next Planning Board Meeting to discuss the changes and make decisions before a public hearing and submittal to the entire Board of Commissioners for approval. The next Planning Board meeting will be January 21st at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall meeting room.

Mayor Conner asked Finance Officer O'Brien for an up-date on the bid process and sale of the Curtis property. She reported sealed bids will be opened on January 14th at 5:00pm and there will be an 11 day up-set bid period if an upset bid is received. The current bid is \$70,000.00.

Commissioner Whatley reported on the transfer of the Methodist Cemetery to the Town. The Attorney Ricky Cox has drafted the documents and expects to have them signed and finalized by the end of January. The Attorney has asked for the Board to authorize a signer for the transfer.

Commissioner Goodwin, motion to authorize Commissioner Mac Whatley to sign the cemetery transfer for the Town. Seconded by Commissioner Brandon Hurley. Motion adopted, unanimously.

21-04 ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Finance Officer O'Brien presented the financial report. See attached. Revenues are holding steady and the on-line payments have increased. She discussed the reimbursement requests for the TTHM project and a timeline of payments. **Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Dunn to accept the financial report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Goodwin. Motion adopted, unanimously.**

Finance Officer O'Brien discussed the need for an inexpensive cell phone for use by the office. The State phone system used by the office will not allow some customer's cell numbers to be reached and the Utility Clerk and the Finance Officer have been using their own phones. This allows the customers to have their personal phone numbers. Many times, they need to text the public works department with meter numbers and directions and must use their personal phones. The phone will remain in the office for Administrative use only. A low-end phone is approximately \$150.00, and the service can be added to the current Town Public Works service for about \$36.00 per month.

Motion by Commissioner Goodwin to allow purchase of the phone and service for the office. Motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dunn. Motion adopted, unanimously.

21-05 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Commissioner Whatley discussed a recent request for a new plat from Ken Davidson at the former Britt property near the Kubota Dealership. He asked the Public Works Director and the Clerk to check on whether the streets of Quartz, Gemstone, and Redrock are considered Town Streets and are covered under the Powell Bill from the Department of Transportation. General discussion reference the maintenance of these streets.

21-06 PUBLIC SAFETY

Mayor Conner and Public Works Director Arnold Allred discussed the recent fire on East Bend and the trash and debris left outside. The Mayor asked the Clerk to send a letter asking the owner to demolish the building and clean up the property as soon as the fire investigation is completed.

21-07 PUBLIC SERVICES

Mayor Conner read the most recent report from Amanda Ratliff with Smart Start, Partnership for Children. See included. Commissioner Whatley suggested the Town Hall include the notice of the expanded Wi-Fi on the large, digital sign to increase the awareness of the local citizens.

21-08 PUBLIC UTILITIES

Public Works Director Arnold Allred presented his report. See attached. He discussed the Sewer Treatment Plant Licensure Renewal for 2021. He discussed the need for a .2 permit and the increased sampling costs and the higher cost of the permit. It will be necessary if the sewer lines are extended along the Highway 64 project and would have to be done at that time with additional costs. General discussion among Commissioners and Director Allred about rainwater infiltration in the sewer system. Director Allred discussed the progress of the TTHM Water Project and stated he hoped to have the Clark Street Tank back in service by Friday and Utility Services would start the improvements to the Providence Grove Tank next week. Mayor Conner asked about the warranty on the new equipment and how to judge the success of the project? Director Allred said he had asked for a 50% reduction in TTHM levels. The Providence Grove Tank will be sandblasted and painted and then the new equipment installed with a timeline of likely two months. General discussion reference water losses of 8-12%. They are considered normal whatever you do, and with any repairs you make to the system. He discussed the recent repairs to the restaurant and the on-going grading at the new ballfield. Assistant Director Joe Walsh had obtained engineered plans from Larry Chilton of drainage and grading systems for the field and stated he was thankful for Mr. Chilton's generosity in the use of the plans. Commissioner Brandon Hurley discussed the Spring Ball season and hoped to sign up in March. Mayor Conner thanked them both for the report.

21-09 VISITORS COMMENTS

Billy Farias asked the Mayor about his recent health issue. He became ill in the restaurant because of dehydration and is feeling fine now with no reoccurrences. Mayor Conner thanked him for his concern. Mayor Pro Tem Dunn told Mr. Farias the Town was happy to have him back from Florida.

Harvey Harman, Living Well Community, discussed the parking situation for the Greenway and asked for more signage at the Eastern Parking area off Rising Sun Way. Mayor Conner agreed and stated the Town would get more signs for the area.

Commissioner A.C. Hurley told the Board of the recent death of former Town Commissioner Rick Andrews. General discussion reference the incomplete arrangements and how the Board wished to send a memorial when Commissioner A.C. Hurley found out the completed arrangements. Commissioner A.C. Hurley asked if the Town was charging to put announcements on the sign. Finance Officer O'Brien discussed the lack of written policies for the sign. She asked the Board to have firm, written policies the office could reference as some requests were inappropriate for a municipality. Utility Clerk Gunter addressed the Board with concerns that it would be too much to add to an already stretched office. General discussion reference the Fire Department continuing to use their own sign for this purpose.

**Commissioner Whatley, motion to Adjourn.
Seconded by Commissioner Brandon Hurley.
Adjourned 8:36 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted

(SEAL)

Perry L. Conner, Mayor

Attest: _____

Beverly O'Brien

Finance Officer/Town Clerk