

01/07/2021 Town Council Meeting

Mayor Reichart: Call to order @ 6 PM.

All council members in attendance, along with Town Manager Dixon, and Town Clerk Kelledes, Billy Biddle PW, WWTP Bill Lesmerises via Zoom, & Chief Lee via zoom. Also in attendance via Zoom was resident Terri Spouse.

Approval of 12/5/2020 Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Mackey made motion, Seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, no questions, all in favor say "I".

South East Rural Community Project: Vikki Prettyman of Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project (SERCAP), a non-profit organization that helps to improve quality of life for lower income individuals. They cover seven states and have assisted 450,000 plus residents with needs. SERCAP is able to bring training to Municipalities on different subjects but really focus on water and waste water. See attached. Town Manager said they discussed with her and Scott Getchell last week about going around town to look at infrastructure and leaks, and also working with Tammy on grants. Commissioner Harrison asked what it is going to cost us? Town Manager Dixon replied she is nonprofit. Probably get her in one day a week. Commissioner Mackey said it would make a lot of home owners happy. Commissioner Cunningham asked what the turn around is. Town Manager said first thing is the I & I. Ms. Prettyman was asked how long it takes for the fee studies; she said a couple months but they prefer to include a few years-worth of data. She recommends billing on a monthly basis instead of quarterly because it helps with cash flow. She said they will make a complete presentation after looking at the budget and will give 4 options with a review of rates and structures. They are also prepared to do a public hearing. Mayor Reichart thanked her for her time.

Environmental Health/Grease Traps: Town Manager Dixon, Planning & Zoning, and Terri Sprouse got everyone talking with our Attorney Lyndsey about how grease trap inspections weren't happening. We should have the businesses get the inspections and then prove that they were done. Lyndsey stated it should be up to the PW department to decide what kind of maintenance schedule they need. We should have a maintenance log every year that shows that they complied with it; most places are checked quarterly. Commissioner Cunningham listed all the businesses that have them. Lyndsey said grease traps are mandated by the international building code. Upside to inspections is that places would have to comply, but you're also responsible for having someone to go around and make them comply. Commissioner Cunningham said the biggest thing for in town is you don't want it clogging up the sewer pipes. Town Manager agreed it is something we have to address and we don't have an inspector. Terri Sprouse was on Zoom and said she had an illegal grease trap if anyone had any questions, she would be happy to answer. No one was aware hers existed but now they are in the process of removing it properly and making a separate channel. Terry explained her story of the sewage back-up into the basement that was due to the grease on the south side of the building. It was done prior to their ownership; they inherited the problem. They have had it all pumped out and now they are going to remedy the solution. Mayor Reichart said that Ordinance 2021-01-02 needs to be introduced; amending land and development ordinance water concerning grease and oil to protect Greensboro

sewer system. Commissioner Cunningham motioned to introduce the ordinance. Public Hearing will be Feb 4th and will be virtual. Lyndsey will post notices in the advertisements.

Animal Ordinance: Attorney Lyndsey said what we have right now in our ordinance is that we do permit up to four (4) chickens and we are now changing it to clearly state a limit of four (4) fowl. The ordinance also provides that the fowl must be within an enclosed structure in the back yard; no free roam. The structure must be no closer than 25 feet to the neighboring property. Anytime a chicken is starting to be a nuisance, the Town will have the authority to remove the chicken(s) or order the property owner to do so. The ordinance includes the prohibition of farm animals. Commissioner Harrison asked what are we going to do with the people that already have the animals? Town Manager Dixon said that if they get reported the Town will have to tell them. In addition, all chickens need to be registered and have a permit. We will not be charging them for the permit. Mayor Reichart read the ordinance. Town Manager said again we will not be charging them they will just have to register them with us and get a permit. Commissioner Mackey asked Lyndsey what if the person that has a rooster says it is a service rooster. Lyndsey said then it would live inside and no one would know about it. Town Manager said if it is a service animal then they just need to send us the paper work on it. Mayor Reichart stated that Ordinance 2021-0-01 must be introduced; Commissioner Harrison made motion and Commissioner Mackey seconded. Commissioner Cunningham asked why is it 4 chickens? Who came up with that number?

Holiday Schedule 2021:

We follow the State of MD except for MD day. We will have the same number of holidays as this year (13). Town Manger Dixon said we should add 9/11 as Patriot's Day and we are changing the day after Thanksgiving to Native American Heritage Day because that is what it is technically called. Attorney Lyndsey said we will need to update the employee manual based on what is decided.

Committee and Department Reports:

Budget: Town Clerk Tammy said she is not overly concerned actually except with the Water/Sewer portion. Bill is trying to get it all cleaned up; him and Wendy have been working non stop prior to us going forward. So, Water & Sewer are in the negative right now. Hopefully the worst of it is in the past. We need to keep in mind the income in bills for Goldsboro & Greensboro still coming in. Tammy gave everyone a graph for the first half of the fiscal year. She mentioned some of the water and sewer expenses that we have incurred may be able to submit them for a draw, asked Lyndsey's opinion. For repair to one of the pumps through Freemire, Lyndsey said she didn't think so. Tammy said she thinks there are several things we need to look at for the next fiscal year and said to keep in mind that we may want to get a program that does it all; billing, payments, inspections etc. Commissioner Harrison asked about rental inspections and Tammy said she would address it at another time. Fee structure will help in the future with the budget. Town Manager also brought up needing a new drug dog for the Police dept in the future; about a year or more out. We need to decide if we want to do a fund raiser to help with that etc.

PW Report:

Billy discussed what they have been actively doing with putting up the Christmas lights and also taking them down; this year took three days. Also discussed doing Whoville next year at the new carnival

grounds as an idea. A donation box could be put up out there. Town Manager agreed & so did Commissioner Harrison. They spent a lot of time cleaning up the parking lot where we currently had it.

Storm Drainage on Bernard looks good. A person was complaining because water is in her yard. Billy went to check it out, it is in her yard but it is because she is in a low spot. We took care of the road but we cannot take care of other people's property. Town Manager said she suggested to the resident that maybe she should have some of the boys that live in that house bring dirt into the yard to help with it.

Tear Down Project: Lyndsey wants to suggest to do a quick meeting on Monday so that they can pick a winner on the bids. Commissioner Mackey asked how much Lyndsey has put into it cost wise for us. Lyndsey made recommendation to approve one of the bids and make a contingent on the amount of exposure. Commissioner Mackey suggested Bishops to reroute the sewer line. Lyndsey wants to look at the court order and review it. If the line is crushed then what do we do? Lyndsey said then he goes to court. Town manager said until this became an issue no one was concerned that it is one piece of land. Commissioner Cunningham said he is not a judge or jury but when you talk to anyone with a family, they are going to say they have paid for it and that he knew that the house was illegal when he bought it. Commissioner Harrison said we go with a ten-day notice then it goes down. Town Manager Dixon said his neighbors will stand behind us fully on this. The judge already stated that the house can come down. Everyone agreed. They have to send a certified letter to him once more. Mayor Reichart asked if everyone was in favor all said "I"; none opposed. Commissioner Mackey was giving scenarios saying if he calls next week, what would happen. Commissioner Harrison said just tear the house down and take our chances, rerouting his sewer isn't our problem. If the line is crushed and we refuse to fix it what happens? Lyndsey said then he would need to go get legal aid and would have to go from there. Loge asked what are we doing about the illegal house? Can we at least site it? Loge asked what do we do next time someone tries to do this? Commissioner Mackey said we have too good of an office now and it won't happen again. Loge said that a crime has been committed.

WWTP:

Bill Lesmerises said we have used the most water he has ever seen but everything is rolling and looking good. He spoke with our engineers about it. The new pump is in; two weeks to put in. Water side of Hobbs well has been shut down for two weeks because of chlorine clogs. They are moving forward with the Vac truck Tammy has worked hard getting USDA bids for it and we are close. Commissioner Harrison thanked him.

Police:

Chief Lee said one year left with Ranger the police dog. See attached for report.

Town Clerk Kelledees added she is still waiting to hear back from the auditor. Tablets have been ordered.

Old Business -Comp Time:

Mayor Reichard said he thinks we left it at Scenario 1: capping it at over 240; anything over that would be forfeited as of March 31st.

Scenario 2: No cap, carry over 128 hours each year only up to 50% of excess of 120 employee would be paid.

Commissioner Mackey said he thought it was 200 hours. Town Manager Dixon said to keep in mind once we get caught up there won't be as much overtime. It will be more minimum. Also, she suggested having a Monday or Friday off and working a weekend day for the department heads that way they can get more done without interruptions. More discussion around how to do comp time. Came to conclusion to try out the 240 hours method. With some discussion around when the time frame should start, they came to the conclusion of using this method. Commissioner Cunningham asked for a list of what everyone still has. Loge made motion and Mayor Reichart made sure everyone was in agreement.

Old Business continued:

Town Manager went over how the Citizen Advisory board had their first meeting and discussed issue they are working on is parking back on Vaugh, which is perfect because two of them live back there. Discussed how there really is no solution. But they are all working on it and determined.

Attorney Lyndsey brought up RK & K working on north county extension. Possibly extending Greensboro treatment plant.

Chief Lee also added in that he was asked for help during the Riots in Washington but he declined because his employees are not trained in that area. And that they lack the equipment, he just wanted to share that. Everyone agreed.

Mayor Reichart asked If there were any more questios.

Town Council Remarks: None

Mayor Reichart said to move into executive session. Commissioner Cunningham made motion and Mackey seconded it. All in favor say "I" I. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM

Respectfully prepared by,

Jaime Fowler