

Town of Talking Rock

December Council Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2019

Those present were Ralph Dennis and Mari Livsey.

Council members present were Mayor Randy Banks, Cheryl Sams, Andrea Watson, Melissia Weaver. James Bryant was absent.

Mayor Randy Banks called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

Cheryl Sams made a motion to approve the November 7, 2019 Council Meeting minutes. Andrea Watson seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

Cheryl Sams made a motion to approve the November 7, 2019 Public Hearing minutes. Melissia Weaver seconded motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

Cheryl Sams made a motion to approve the November 2019 General Operating Account financial report. Andrea Watson seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

Cheryl Sams made a motion to approve the November 2019 FEMA financial report. Melissia Weaver seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

Old Business:

Mayor Banks stated the town attorney did not have the Court System Ordinance ready for review and discussion. Cheryl Sams made a motion to table the Court System Ordinance until the January council meeting. Melissia Weaver seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

Chery Sams gave a report on the Christmas celebratioin. A new tree was bought and even though the turnout was low for the Christmas celebration and Santa, approximately 25 families participated. The celebration went over budget by \$10.

The Alcohol Ordinance was presented by Mayor Banks. After he and council members reviewed the ordinance, questions came up that needed to be answered by Attorney Jeff Rusbridge, Town Counsel. Cheryl Sams made a motion to table the Alcohol Ordinance until the January council meeting. Andrea Watson seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

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Mayor Banks reread the letter from Pickens County Commissioner Jones. If nothing is done regarding the Talking Rock Fire Department then the ISO rating will change to 10 which basically means no fire department. He asked council members what they would like in the response letter. Cheryl Sams wanted to know if it was in GA Code where a county had to own the property to be able to use SPLOST money to help renovate fire department. Also, will Pickens County staff the fire department? An invitation to come look at the fire department was also suggested. Cheryl made a motion to send a response letter to Commissioner Jones with all the questions proposed by the council members. Andrea Watson seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

Cheryl Sams made a motion to add an item to the agenda under "old business". That item being item E - denied variance letter. Andrea seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

Cheryl Sams stated she had spoken with Attorney Jeff Rusbridge about sending a letter to Shadow Creek Antiques regarding the denied variance request. Per their discussion, it was agreed upon to give Shadow Creek Antiques 45 days to vacate the residential portion of the property and remove the chickens and fencing. Cheryl Sams made a motion to have the attorney proceed with sending the letter to them. Melissia Weaver seconded the motion. All unanimously voted in favor.

New Business:

The proposed 2020 Operating Budget was presented, and the floor was open to public comments. There were no public comments. Cheryl Sams made a motion to adopt the 2020 Operating Budget as presented. Andrea Watson seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

Mayor Banks read the 2020 Operating Budget Resolution (AR2019-12) out loud and all council members signed the resolution.

Mayor Banks stated the town clerk is required by state law to take 15 hours of mandatory training. The training is February 2nd – 4th at Jekyll Island. Cheryl Sams made a motion to send the town clerk to the training in February. Andrea Watson seconded the motion. All unanimously voted in favor.

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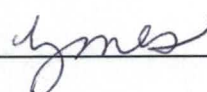
Mayor Banks presented the Records Retention Ordinance stating it was in accordance with the Georgia Records Retention Schedule for Local Government Records and an amendment to the current Records Retention Ordinance in place. Cheryl Sams made a motion to adopt the Records Retention Ordinance. Melissia Weaver seconded the motion. All unanimously voted in favor.

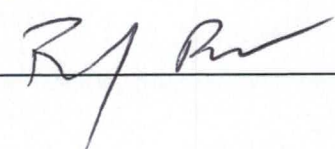
Mayor Banks stated Attorney Jeff Rusbridge did not have the Talking Rock Brewery lease ready for review. Mayor Banks said Mr. Hawf has begun working on the railcar for his brewery. Mr. Hawf would be responsible for inside improvements and the town would be responsible for outside improvements. Mayor Banks would like to use SPLOST money to renovate the outside of the railcars such as building decks and fixing rusted areas. He has also spoken to Jamie Godfrey regarding putting in a septic tank and bathrooms for that area. Jamie will provide a quote.

Mayor Banks presented the 2017 & 2018 audit reports done by Welch, Walker and Associates. He discussed the non-compliant issues that were found and that the audits weren't too bad.

Cheryl Sams made a motion to hire Welch, Walker and Associates for the 2019 audit. Andrea Watson seconded the motion. All unanimously voted in favor.

With no further business to discuss, Cheryl Sams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Andrea Watson seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Submitted by:  (Town Clerk)

Approved by:  (Mayor)