

Town of Talking Rock

October Council Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2019

Those present were Charles Opdenhoff, Mary McDonnell, Mark McDonnell, Audrey Kirsten, Steve Lewis, Ralph Dennis, Mari Livsey, Attorney Laura Rollins and Rachel Jones.

Council Members present were Mayor Randy Banks, James Bryant, Cheryl Sams, Andrea Watson, and Melissia Weaver.

Mayor Randy Banks called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

Cheryl Sams made a motion to approve the September 5, 2019 Council Meeting minutes. James Bryant seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

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

Cheryl Sams made a motion to approve the September 2019 FEMA financial report. Andrea Watson seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

Old Business:

Due to Daryl & Leanne Cain not being present, Cheryl Sams made a motion to table the naming of the Cain's driveway until the November Council meeting. James Bryant seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

Cheryl Sams provided a Heritage Days update. There are currently 31 vendors participating and over \$4000 has been received in vendor application fees and sponsor fees. Everything is looking good.

Cheryl Sams made a motion to advertise for two weeks a public hearing notice for Shadow Creek Antiques variance request and hold the public hearing at 6:30 pm on November 7, 2019. Melissia Weaver seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

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Continued...

New Business:

Cheryl Sams made a motion to set the millage rate at 3 mils and roll back 2 mils. James Bryant seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

Cheryl Sams made a motion to set the public hearing for the proposed 2020 budget at 7:00 pm on November 7, 2019. The public hearing notice will advertise for two weeks in the local paper. Melissia Weaver seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

Mayor Randy Banks stated 3rd street needed gravel at the road entrance which should take approximately two tons to fix and cost approximately \$200. Cheryl Sams made a motion to buy gravel up to \$200 to fix the entrance at 3rd street. James Bryant seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

Mayor Randy Banks stated a fence needs to be built beside the dumpster for easier access to recyclables. Three sections of picket fence should be enough. Cheryl Sams made a motion to purchase materials for the building of the fence. James Bryant seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

Mayor Randy Banks stated the park walkway is falling apart and needs replaced. He has spoken with SouthScapes and they suggest granite dust which packs well. Mayor Banks stated he would also like two more picnic tables. He will work on getting estimates to present to the Council. Cheryl Sams commented she would like a fence built next to the creek for safety reasons.

To sale the playground equipment and used kitchen appliances it was suggested to have a one-day yard sale. Cheryl Sams made a motion to have a yard sale on October 12, 2019 from 8 am to 1 pm with any unsold items being taken to the Jasper Thrift Store. Melissia Weaver seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

Mayor Randy Banks stated two people were interested in leasing the train cars for businesses. The possibilities are a brewery and deli. The business would be responsible for renovating the inside with the Town of Talking Rock responsible for the outside renovations. The money spent on renovations by the business on the inside would be swapped out for rent. Mayor stated after researching the going rate for rental is \$1 per square foot. Attorney Laura Rollins stated there would have to be a detailed written lease to spell out all specifics. Also, attorney will add a brewery section to the ordinance.

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Continued...

Mayor Randy Banks read a letter from the Insurance Service Office (ISO) regarding the recent analysis of the Talking Rock Fire Department and that the ISO classification is in danger of changing from a 6 to a 10. The primary reason being a minimum of four firefighters being able to respond to an initial alarm and training must be provided for three hours every three months. Pickens County has offered to build new fire station but wants to own the land the fire station is on and lease back to Talking Rock. Mayor Banks stated he wanted to hold onto the land for future sewer project. Cheryl asked attorney Laura Rollins to research if Pickens County had to own land to use SPLOST funds for fire department improvements. James Bryant would like more information and another session on the subject. Cheryl Sams made a motion to table until next council meeting in November. James Bryant seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

Cheryl Sams made a motion to enter into contract negotiations with the Pickens County Magistrate Court so the Town of Talking Rock could use their services and have a court system. James Bryant seconded the motion. All unanimously voted in favor.

Being there was no further business, Cheryl Sams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Andrea Watson seconded the motion. All unanimously voted in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Submitted by: R. James (Town Clerk)

Approved by: Randy Banks (Mayor)