

Town of Talking Rock  
January Council Meeting Minutes  
January 2, 2020

Those present were Ralph Dennis and Mari Livsey.

The following council were present: Mayor Randy Banks, Council members Cheryl Sams, Andrea Watson, Melissia Weaver, James Bryant, Jeremiah Stone and Attorney Jeff Rusbridge, Town counsel.

Town Clerk Rachel Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

Newly elected officers, Mayor Randy Banks, Council members Melissia Weaver and Jeremiah Stone was sworn in by Town Attorney Jeff Rusbridge.

Cheryl Sams made a motion to approve the December 5, 2019 Council Meeting minutes with a few minor changes. Melissia Weaver seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

Cheryl Sams made a motion to approve the December 2019 General Operating Account financial report. James Bryant seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

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

Old Business:

Court System Ordinance: Attorney Jeff Rusbridge stated he was waiting on a proposed intergovernmental agreement from the Pickens County Magistrate Court so he could review and prepare the ordinance for the Mayor and Town Council.

Alcohol Ordinance: Mayor Randy Banks stated attorney Jeff Rusbridge had made some changes to the ordinance regarding advertisements outside and vendor could sell alcohol by the drink on the premises. It was discussed and decided the 50/50 rule the State of GA uses will also be in the ordinance. 50% food sales and 50% alcohol sales. Cheryl made a motion to approve the Alcohol Ordinance. James Bryant seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

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Talking Rock Brewery Lease: Mayor Banks presented a sealed bid from Talking Rock Brewery regarding leasing a passenger rail car for 5 years to operate a brew pub. Cheryl Sams made a motion to accept the bid from Talking Rock Brewery to operate a brew pub in a passenger rail car. Melissa Weaver seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor. Mayor Banks presented the concerns of Mr. Hawf, owner of Talking Rock Brewery regarding the lease which included foregoing the \$1000 deposit and being released from the 5-year lease if the Federal or State Government rejected his application for a brewery. Cheryl Sams made a motion to forego the \$1000 deposit for Talking Rock Brewery. James Bryant seconded the motion. All unanimously voted in favor.

New Business:

Sign Lease Agreement: Cheryl Sams made a motion to allow Mayor Banks to sign the lease agreement once changes have been made and the updated lease agreement has come back from the attorney. Andrea Watson seconded the motion. All unanimously voted in favor.

Organization: Mayor Banks stated a Mayor pro tem was needed. Cheryl Sams nominated Andrea Watson. Andrea declined the nomination. Andrea Watson nominated James Bryant and made a motion to appoint him as Mayor pro tem for 2020. Melissa Weaver seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor. Cheryl Sams stated she would like a volunteer list put together to help with town events. She requested the call for volunteers be posted on Talking Rock's Facebook page and Knowpickens.com. Cheryl Sams made a motion to appoint Andrea Watson as chairperson of the Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration. James Bryant seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor. Cheryl Sams made a motion to appoint Melissa Weaver as co-chairperson of the Heritage Days Festival. James seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

February Council Meeting Date: The February council meeting will remain on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February with the knowledge that the financial reports may not be complete due to town clerk being out of town for mandated clerk training. James Bryant volunteered to take the minutes during the meeting.

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Mayor Banks stated his goal for 2020 was to get the ordinance book together and work on an ordinance for usage of the town in professional photography. Cheryl Sams stated she would like to set up monthly work sessions and a discussion was had on dates and times. Cheryl Sams made a motion to set up a monthly work session on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month @ 6:30 pm starting in February. James Bryant seconded the motion. All unanimously voted in favor.

With no further business to discuss, Cheryl Sams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Melissa Weaver seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ (Town Clerk)

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ (Mayor)