

MINUTES

The Rural Hall Town Council held their agenda briefing and action meeting on August 1, 2022, at 3:00 PM in Town Hall Council Chambers. The following members were present: Mayor Timothy M. Flinchum - presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Susan H. Gordon; Councilman Terry M. Bennett; Councilman Eddie Horn; Councilwoman Janet M. Carithers; Town Manager Misty A. Meadows; Finance Manager Wade Gilley; Town Intern Jacob Tilley.

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Town Intern Jacob Tilley.

A moment of silence was held.

Adoption of Amended Agenda:

Councilman Eddie Horn made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Janet Carithers to adopt the agenda, and motion passed unanimously.

Announcements and Meeting Updates:

August 2 National Night Out 6:00-8:00 pm
 August 5 Food Truck Friday 5:30 pm
 August 8 Regular Council Meeting 7:00 pm
 August 9 Food Truck Wednesday 11:30 pm

New Business/ Items of Discussion:

Michelle McCullough, Historic Resources Officer at Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Planning and Development Services, updated staff and Council on the surrounding towns portion of the Architectural Heritage book. Also, the Historic Resource consultant came out to the Rural Hall area looking for structures that would fit the criteria for the Historic District National Registry. To be added as a "District" the Town would have to hire a consultant to inventory every property in the district and write up the history and send it to the State. The National Registry Advisory Committee will review, and if approved they recommend it to the Park Service. There are grants that could help fund this project.

Old Business

IT Update – Councilwoman Carithers asked if VC3 would be maintaining the Town's website? Manager Meadows updated the council on the contract we have with Rich Blakemore Web Design for the website. Councilwoman Carithers wanted an update on when the council devices would be here and what was the schedule for replacing all departments equipment. Manager Meadows informed the council all town devices are on a rotation with VC3 to replace devices as needed. The council's devices have been ordered.

Civic Club/Volunteer Organizations - Councilman Bennett wanted an update from Councilwoman Carithers on the Volunteer/Civic Club research she had done. Councilwoman Carithers had reached out to other town's Civic Clubs. The Town of Lewisville invited the Council to visit their meeting anytime. Councilman Bennett is looking more on the side of a Lions Club with their own set of bylaws. These committees are set up by citizens of the community. Manager Meadows stated she had a conversation with the President of the RHABA and asked about partnering with the Town and sponsoring the Parade.

Basement of the LPA Building – Councilman Bennett said there was a lot of space in the basement of that building and would like to see something utilize the space. Councilwoman Carithers would like to see the Historic Museum be reopened. This could be run as an unincorporated nonprofit.

Rural Hall Department Head Reports

- Public Works – Director Jason Hill said he would be cooking for National Night Out and would need help from the Council. Jason requested staff and council be at the park by 5:45 pm.
- Finance Director – Wade Gilley reported July is a crazy time of year with ending an old year and starting a new year. New salary went into effect Friday with everyone’s raises. Mr. Gilley did an analysis of the Fire Department revenue vs expenses, and they were able to make an extra payment on fire truck #123, which means there is one payment left. Several deadlines were met in July. Councilman Bennett stated he would like to see the ARPA funds be moved into “Payroll/Budget Fund”. Manager Meadows said we were waiting on the second installment and guidance from Ron Niland. Ron said the State does allow this money to be used as revenue replacement. Ron stated we are still bound by all the regulations even if funds be moved from one revenue to the other. Ron said the topic will be discussed further soon.
- Fire Department – Manager Meadows reported in the absence of Fire Chief Simone. There is a new NCGS that all fire applicants must complete a criminal history record check. Every applicant will be required to pay this out of their pocket. There will need to be personnel policy change that Manager Meadows will be putting on the agenda in the future.

Annexation Possibilities – Councilman Horn said he was approached by a homeowner in the Deer Creek community that had worked hard to get yard of the month. Mayor Pro Tem Gordon said you do not have to be in the town limits to get yard of the month. There is interest by some of the homeowner’s voluntary annexation in the Ridge View Terrace and Deer Creek Subdivision. Councilwoman Carithers wanted to know what the Town was going to offer for people to be interested in moving into Rural Hall. Mayor Flinchum will put this subject on a future agenda for an in-depth discussion.

Town Services – Councilman Bennett stated he had spoken with numerous citizens that want to be able to call one place to get town services done. They want to be able to call Town Hall for the employees to take care of any issues they have. Manager Meadows told the Council when they receive calls regarding problems with services have the residents call the Town. We will guide and help the citizen as needed however it saves time if the resident calls Waste Management directly. Public Works Director Jason Hill confirmed the volume of calls and repairs when the town took Waste Management calls ourselves. Jason Hill mentioned the quality-of-service public works provides is much greater than having service contracted out. Councilman Bennett requested we put the Waste Management process for services in repairs in the Garden Spot Newsletter again for citizens.

Councilman Bennett mentioned a low hanging tree on College St. Jason stated he has reported it to Duke Energy, and they will not touch it unless it is on their lines. Our code enforcement guidelines don’t address dead trees unless it is endangering to the public, but the Town will investigate it further.

Council Responsibilities Discussion/Roles/Communications - Councilman Bennett would like to see the Agneda Briefing to be a discussion meeting session for the council and to determine what will be on the agenda for the regular meeting.

Councilman Bennett stated the Council are to be respected. It is the responsibility of the Council to make sure the town is taken care of.

Councilwoman Carithers stated it was Jacob's last day Friday with the Town and it has been a pleasure to work with him and wish him well in his future. Manager Meadows added that he has been very helpful, and the Town will miss him.

Councilman Horn made a motion, seconded by Councilman Bennett to adjourn, motion passed unanimously.

Lynette E. Hendrick
Town Clerk