

REGULAR MEETING OF
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 10, 2020

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Council was called to order by Mayor Doug Cheek.

Present: James Dumas, Cliff Hill, Jerry Payne, Sandra Garrison (zoom 6:30pm) and Attorney David Syfan. Absent: David Dunson.

The invocation was given by James Dumas.

The pledge to the flag was led by Mayor Doug Cheek.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. (3-0)

OLD BUSINESS

1. Water Rates

Jerry Payne, James Dumas, Carol Ayers, Bud Crawford, and Bill Powell met with representatives from the Banks County school board. Mr. Payne stated that they were very receptive to the discussion regarding the water rate increase. Their concern would be including this rate increase into their upcoming budget. Mr. Payne stated that the town would work with them regarding this concern. The impact the increase will have on the school's budget will be approximately \$10,000.00 per year if it is approved by the mayor and council. Sewage was also discussed and they were also receptive to this idea. At this time no one has met with Banks County. Mr. Payne stated that Bud Crawford mentioned a feasibility study grant from USDA that would possibly pay up to \$30,000.00. James Dumas has the contact information regarding the grant.

Mayor Cheek discussed the plans for moving forward with the water rate increase. Mr. Dumas stated that he would like to discuss the increase more in January and have a public hearing in February.

2. Well update – Evans Street

Cliff Hill stated there are some calibration issues that need to be resolved. Target date to change over from Banks County water is January 19th.

3. Resolution - Face Coverings

Tabled

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor & Council Salary

Tabled

2. Alcohol Ordinance

Attorney, David Syfan, discussed an amendment to the ordinance. The amendment adds more detail regarding the 3% excise tax for distilled spirit sales by the drink and establishes a monthly reporting procedure. The report and 3% tax will have to be remitted monthly to the town by anyone who holds a distilled spirit license. The amendment also makes the food sales requirement consistent with the state statute regarding food sale requirements. The license holder will have to provide monthly reports regarding food sales to the town to make sure that they comply with state law and the town ordinance.

Mayor Cheek asked if the event center and the new clubhouse will be able to use the same license.

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Mr. Syfan will check to see the number of the licenses needed by the golf course. His understanding at this point is that separate locations cannot operate under the same license according to Department of Revenue regulations. Mayor Cheek questioned the food sale requirement at both places. Mr. Syfan will check on this matter.

Mr. Syfan recommended that the mayor and council adopt the amendment to the alcohol ordinances. James Dumas made the motion to adopt the amendment to the alcohol ordinance. Motion was seconded by Jerry Payne and approved. (3-0) Sandra Garrison was not included in the meeting at this time because of a problem with Zoom.

3. Road Ordinance

Mr. Syfan discussed the road ordinance. He stated that it is in the town's interest that they be sure that streets and roads are constructed properly so they will not be a maintenance burden on the town. He drafted a street construction specification ordinance for new streets coming into the town. The new roads will have to meet Georgia Department of Transportation specifications and standards. A certified representative would have to sign off on the streets which are constructed. The certified representative could either be the town's engineer or the developer's engineer. The town would need a certified engineering report that the street construction specifications have been met. Cliff Hill stated that the inspections on the streets will have to be done in several phases as the road is constructed. Inspection fees will have to be charged to the developer if the town engineer does the inspections. Motion was made by Jerry Payne to accept the ordinance to establish street construction specifications for new street construction in the Town of Homer. Motion was seconded by Cliff Hill and approved. (4-0)

James Dumas will check with Turnipseed Engineers regarding inspecting new roads.

Cliff Hill discussed surface treatment which includes liquid and stone, it does not include asphalt. It can be used for several years and will make a good base. Asphalt will be used after this has cured. Mr. Hill will send an email to Mr. Syfan regarding this method so he can check into it. Mr. Dumas stated that the engineer could review the ordinance and help fill the gaps.

4. Additional water project(removal of piping)

Mr. Dumas met with Ken Bryan, engineer, regarding using loan funds for replacing water lines. These funds can be used for that purpose. They also discussed the isolated report regarding water staining at a residence. The engineer's opinion was that the problem with the staining is probably in the service to the house. Sandra Garrison stated that the pipe going from the meter to the house is not galvanized. She will check and see if anyone else on the line is having problems with staining. No decisions were made.

5. Homerule Ordinance

Mr. Syfan stated that the homerule ordinance on the mayor and council salary has to be formally adopted twice in two consecutive meetings. It is required to be adopted, advertised three times, and adopted again in December. After discussion regarding the salary amounts and number of additional meetings, Jerry Payne suggested taking out the clause "not to exceed 12 additional meetings per year."

Jerry Payne made the motion to adopt the ordinance to amend the town charter of the Town of Homer to increase the salary of the mayor and councilmen pursuant to OCGA 36-35-4 and that the ordinance is accepted with the exclusion of the phrase "not to exceed 12 additional meetings per year" in section 2.4. Motion was seconded by Cliff Hill and approved. (4-0)

OTHER BUSINESS

Rick Billingslea discussed UGA being interested in putting a park in the town as a school project. He also discussed Appalachian Regional money that may be available to help pay for the sewer

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project study and in addition to that there is a USDA grant that allows you to fund a revolving loan fund from the Downtown Development Authority. The USDA fund is up to approximately \$300,000.00. Appalachian regional money grant is due anytime. USDA grant is due in February. Motion was made Jerry Payne to go into closed session. Motion was seconded by James Dumas and approved. (4-0)

Closed session at 7:05 to discuss possible litigation. Roll call.

Re-open regular meeting 7:45pm

No decisions were made. Mayor Cheek stated he has concerns of the golf carts crossing Scales Creek rd.

Work session December 1, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

CERTIFIED

CAROL AYERS, CLERK