

REGULAR MEETING OF  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
JANUARY 12, 2021

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

Present were Jerry Payne, James Dumas, Sandra Garrison and Cliff Hill (by zoom).

The invocation was given by Jerry Payne.

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Mayor/Council salaries**

Sandra Garrison made a motion to increase the salary for Mayor to \$150.00 each for work session and regular meeting and council \$100.00 each for work session and regular meeting. Up to 12 extra meetings per year Mayor and Council will be paid \$50.00 per meeting. Any meetings over 12 must be approved (for pay of \$50.00) by the Mayor. Motion was seconded by Jerry Payne and approved. (4-0)

- **Water Rates**

James Dumas looked into tap fees charged by surrounding areas. The tap fees charged ranged from \$600.00 to \$2250.00. The average is \$1142.50. Mr. Dumas suggested that the Mayor and council raise the tap fees for the town. Cliff Hill stated that he thinks the tap fees should be in line with Banks County.

Clerk, Carol Ayers, will look into training for distribution license for Nick Whitlock so that the town can do the taps without having to hire an outside contractor. An outside contractor would only be necessary if the tap included a road bore.

Mr. Dumas made the suggestion that the town supply the meters to be installed if the tap is done by a contractor.

Jerry Payne asked what equipment would need to be purchased in order for the town to do their own taps. Cliff Hill stated that a tapping machine would have to be purchased and the proper size fittings would have to be kept on hand in order to do the taps.

Sandra Garrison stated that she thinks they need more information before changes are made to the rates for the tap fees. Mayor Cheek stated they need to create an outline of the information that is needed before going forward.

Carol Ayers asked if water rates were still going to be raised and what the next step needs to be. Mayor Cheek stated they were still looking into raising the rates. There is still some confusion regarding the equivalency table presented by Bill Powell from Georgia Rural Water. Mr. Dumas stated that they need to have a public hearing before the February meeting and Bill Powell from Georgia Rural Water be in attendance to give the presentation. Mrs. Ayers will get in touch with Mr. Powell to see if he can attend.

- **Garbage Rates**

Carol Ayers stated that the deposit for garbage is only \$3.00 more than the monthly fee. Mr. Payne suggested that the garbage deposit (for customers who only have garbage service) might need to be raised to \$35.00. Mrs. Garrison suggested the garbage reconnect be raised to \$20.00.

Doug Cheek discussed the recent garbage complaints: numerous customers garbage is not getting picked up, containers are being left in ditches after being emptied, containers are being crushed during pick up

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and no one is advised that this is being done, pick up time has been changed, different color containers other than green. There will be a meeting with representatives from Waste Management on Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall regarding the abovementioned problems. There has been a recent employee turnover at Waste Management. Also, Waste Management says they are having problems with employee absences due to COVID. All of the above complaints will be addressed at the meeting on Thursday.

- **Sewer**

No discussion

- **Well update Evans St.**

Ken Bryan says that the parts to fix the new meter at the well should arrive the 1<sup>st</sup> of next week. As soon as it is fixed Mr. Bryan will get in touch with EPD to have it inspected.

Survey still has not been done in order to locate the line so they can move forward with the 2<sup>nd</sup> new well site. Carol Ayers will get in touch with the person who did the original survey to get this done. If they are not able to get it done, Mr. Payne suggested contacting Chris Carlan in Commerce.

- **Resolution Face Coverings in property owned or leased**

Tabled

- **Ordinance use of mask or face covering in public during covid-19 outbreak**

Tabled

- **Tank Removal**

Mr. Hill stated that the same company that gave the quote for removal three years ago is approximately \$10,000.00 more at this time. Four bids have been received in the following amounts: \$24,705.00, \$27,870.00, \$28,100.00, and \$34,588.00. The bid in the amount of \$34,588.00 states that backfilling is included. They will haul up to 220 gals for no additional charge, anything over that is \$1.75 per gallon and \$250.00 per hour. More clarification is needed on the other three bids, they do not specify if backfilling is included in the price. Carol Ayers will call the three companies to clarify this.

Mr. Hill stated that the 10,000 gallon tank has approximately 2-3 inches of material in the bottom of it. Deadline to have the tanks removed is approximately 2 months.

No decisions made, more information is needed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **APPOINTMENTS**

Jerry Payne made a motion to appoint David Syfan as attorney. Motion was seconded by Sandra Garrison and approved (4-0). Jerry Payne made a motion to appoint Carol Ayers Court Clerk & Hammond Law as Judge. Motion was seconded by James Dumas and approved (4-0). James Dumas made a motion to appoint Carol Ayers, Clerk. Motion was seconded by Sandra Garrison and approved (4-0). James Dumas made a motion to appoint Jerry Payne, Mayor pro-tem. Motion was seconded by Cliff Hill and approved (4-0). James Dumas made a motion to appoint Cliff Hill as Fire Chief. Motion was seconded by Jerry Payne and approved (4-0).

- **Election**

Motion was made Sandra Garrison to appoint Carol Ayers Election Superintendent and Tracey King and Carol Ayers qualifying officers. Motion was seconded by James Dumas and approved (4-0).

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Sandra Garrison made a motion to set qualifying fees for Mayor \$33.00 and council \$25.00. Motion was seconded by James Dumas and approved (4-0).

- **Loan Renewal**

Mr. Dumas discussed an email from Ken Bryan regarding the water improvement project. He asked if the loan needed to be extended so that the balance of the money can be used on other water projects. Mr. Dumas recommended that the load be extended. Mayor Cheek agreed. Mr. Dumas will call Ken Bryan and ask him to go ahead with the extension. Jerry Payne made the motion to request the extension of the loan. Motion was seconded by Cliff Hill and approved. (4-0)

Mr. Hill discussed the bridge project. The project will cost approximately \$305,000.00. Georgia DOT may be able to help some with this project.

REPORTS

Cliff Hill reported the fire station is a possible location use for the Banks Co. Health Dept. to give Covid-19 vaccine to the public.

Mr. Hill gave an update on the paving. Town Hall parking lot is still in progress. Sullivan Drive, McCoy Bridge Road, Greasy Creek Street, and Hill Street are all complete except for the shoulder work.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Next work session Feb. 2, 2021

**CERTIFIED BY    Carol Ayers, Clerk**