Minutes 1154 Town of Blacksburg

Regular Town Council Meeting July 14, 2015

Present at the meeting were Councilman Mike Patterson, Councilman Darren Janesky, Councilman Dennis Stroupe, Councilwoman Janie Wilson with Mayor David Hogue presiding.

The media was represented by Mr. Joe Hughes from the Gaffney Ledger and Ms. Janet Spencer from the Cherokee Chronicle.

Administrator Trudy Martin gave the invocation.

Councilman Patterson made the motion to accept Minutes 1152 as written and distributed. Councilman Stroupe seconded the motion. All were in favor. Councilman Patterson also made the motion to accept Minutes 1153 as written and distributed. Councilwoman seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Councilwoman Wilson made the motion to pay the bills as distributed. Councilman Patterson made the second. All were in favor. Councilman Stroupe noticed a payment to the Lawn Service had been doubled by mistake. Councilwoman Wilson made the motion to pay the correct amount and Councilman Patterson made the second. All were in favor.

Mr. Terry Fant, the Town Accountant, presented the audit report to Council. He said last year wasn’t great but was better than in the past. He stated the Town was in a stable condition. Council thanked Mr. Fant for his work and his presentation of the report.

Item 6 was struck for lack of representation.

Mr. Brian Wilson from the Hampton Creek Subdivision asked Council to approve a new light in the subdivision where there is a dark section. People walk through the subdivision and it is dangerous at night. Councilman Patterson made the motion for the light with Councilman Stroupe making the second. All were in favor. Mr. Wilson also asked if they would consider putting a speed limit in the subdivision. This would have to be checked into who is the responsible party to set speed limits. If it is the Town’s place then he respectfully asked for the sign to be made to match the other signs in the subdivision. Council agreed to look into the speed limit situation with no decision being made.

Mayor Hogue asked Council what they thought about putting an electronic sign over the existing electronic sign with the name of the museum on it or the possibility of putting a sign on the museum building itself. He suggested the raised dimensional lettering for the building. No decision was made at this time. Mayor Hogue also mentioned having a plaque in honor of Dr. Love who made a substantial donation for the museum. Everyone was in agreement. The stage was also brought up about whether to keep it, move it or sale it. This item was then tabled until some information could be gathered and a check of the stability of the stage was done. Mayor Hogue also asked Council to submit names for the creation of a new Historical Committee to handle the submission of items and to oversee the retention of these items. They were asked to have their names for consideration at the next meeting.

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Mayor Hogue reminder Council about David Benton’s offer to buy property owned by the Town that adjoins his property. CBS Surveying surveyed the property and suggested the property is worth $2500 an acre. He would also need to pay for the surveying. He has made an offer of $1000 an acre. Council discussed whether to sell up to the creek or from the tip, marking pen to pen. They needed to find out the fair market value of the property. No decision was made.

Linda Falls addressed Council with her concerns of the lack of written guidelines for the Mountain View Cemetery. She has purchased lots there and would like to see a guideline put in place for everyone to follow. Council said they would look into other cemeteries nearby and get some input into the request.

Ms. Falls also stated that some of the new pavers placed at the museum had abrasions and other deformities on them. Council stated they would look into this as well and see what could be done.

Councilman Stroupe gave the public an update for the Clouggeon Black Park. The restroom has been ordered but it would be closer toward the end of August before a delivery date would be available.

Administrator Trudy Martin asked Council to set the date for the Christmas Parade this year. She told Council that Gaffney has moved their parade to Sunday instead of the normal Saturday. Blacksburg has always followed Gaffney on Saturday’s for the convenience of participants. Mayor Hogue mentioned he thought Sunday’s were just too busy and he made the motion to keep the parade on the 2nd Saturday in December at 2:00 pm as usual. Councilman Patterson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mayor Hogue made the motion for retiring Administrator Trudy Martin to be this year’s Grand Marshal.

Councilman Patterson made the second and all were in favor.

Administrator Martin brought before Council a request for hospitality funds for the Little League Baseball Tournament that happened in Blacksburg. Mr. Jeff Wright asked for $300 to cover some costs of the tournament. Administrator Martin mentioned the cost was $1000 to fill out the application to request the tournament come to Blacksburg. Mayor Hogue made the motion to give them the $1000. Councilman Patterson made the second. All were in favor with the exception of Councilman Stroupe who recused himself for being affiliated with the league.

Administrator Martin informed Council that $51,395.19 had been transferred to Community Works for the assumption of the Revolving Loan program. No action was taken.

Administrator Martin informed Council of the newest grants that have been awarded to Blacksburg. An ARC Grant for $338,000 for the Brugg Street Pump Station upgrade. Rural Development grant for $350,000 for upgrades to our wastewater plant for new gravity lines, screens and aerators. These two projects already had bid openings on July 1st. Both bids went to Tri-County Utilities. We have also received $368,000 ARC grant for the expansion of sewer to Highway 5 for the possibility of future growth. This grant has not yet bid out.

Administrator Martin brought before Council the 1st reading of an intergovernmental agreement for Cherokee County to begin collection of property taxes. Councilman Patterson made the motion and Councilman Janesky made the second. All were in favor.

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Councilman Patterson made the motion to accept the 1st reading of an amendment the original ordinance for tax penalty dates to change from December 1st until January 15th when the Counties are due. Councilwoman Wilson made the second. All were in favor.

Councilman Patterson made the motion to go into executive session to talk about personnel matters and legal advice. Councilwoman Wilson made the second. All were in favor.

Councilman Stroupe made the motion to return to regular session. Councilwoman Wilson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

For police personnel there was no action taken.

For water personnel, Public Works Supervisor Michael Smiley recommended John Walker to be hired as an equipment operator. Councilman Patterson made the motion and Councilman Janesky made the second. All were in favor.

For legal advice, Attorney Larry Flynn gave an update on the Keyo lawsuit. No action was taken.

Clerk Foster recommended seven accounts that needed sewer adjustments due to leaks and pools being filled. The total amount is $349.58. Councilman Stroupe made the motion and Councilwoman Wilson seconded the motion. All were in favor with Councilman Patterson recusing because his brother is on the list.

With no further business to discuss, Councilman Patterson made the motion to adjourn. Councilman Stroupe made the second. All were in favor.

Time of adjournment was 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura B. Foster

Town Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mayor, Town of Blacksburg, SC