Minutes 1183 Town of Blacksburg

Regular Town Council Meeting March 14, 2017

In attendance were Councilman Dennis Stroupe, Councilman Darren Janesky, Councilman Mike Patterson and Councilman S. L. Ford with Mayor David Hogue presiding.

Scott Powell of the Gaffney Ledger represented the Media.

Councilman S. L. Ford gave the invocation.

Councilman Stroupe made the motion to approve minutes 1182 as written and distributed. Councilman Ford made the second. All were in favor.

Councilman Stroupe made the motion to approve the bills as written and distributed and Councilman Patterson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Administrator Carter brought the second reading of the annexation of the new recreation property on Lime St. Councilman Janesky made the motion to approve the second reading and Councilman Stroupe seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Administrator Carter reminded the Council that the Blacksburg representatives on the Cherokee County Recreation Board were not in compliance with their terms. Both of their terms have expired. Mr. Danny Ham and Mr. Roger Childers need new terms and must be voted upon. Councilman Patterson made the motion to reinstate the men with new four terms. Councilman Ford made the second. All were in favor.

Clerk Foster asked Council to approve a resolution to adopt the Cherokee County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Town of Blacksburg, City of Gaffney and Cherokee County all had representatives on the committee. It must be approved by all government entities involved. Councilman Ford made the motion to adopt the resolution and Councilman Patterson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Administrator Carter asked for a second reading of the ordinance for the Planning and Zoning Committee to have four year term limits that coincide with the appointing Councilmember terms. As of now, there are no term limits. Councilman Patterson made the motion and Councilman Ford made the second. All were in favor.

Administrator Carter asked Council for a noise permit on behalf “Hands across Blacksburg”. They are planning a cookout on April 15, 2017 at Clouggeon Black Park from 10 am until 2 or 3 pm. Councilman Patterson made the motion with Councilman Stroupe making the second. All were in favor.

Administrator Carter explained to Council about the bid opening on March 7, 2017 in which Tri-County Utilities won the low bid for the Highway 5 Sewer Project with a bid of $449,410.00. The cost are over what the original construction cost estimate was when the project started four years ago. We need to ask for more funding from ACOG to cover the additional cost. The original projected cost was $385,000.00.

Councilman Patterson made the motion to accept Tri-County Utilities bid and Councilman Stroupe seconded the motion. All were in favor. Administrator Carter along with Mayor Hogue signed the letter requesting the additional funds.

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Administrator Carter asked Council to go into executive session to discuss personnel changes in the proposed 2018 budget. Councilman Ford made the motion to go into executive session. Councilman Janesky seconded the motion. All were in favor. Councilman Stroupe made the motion to return to regular session with Councilman Patterson making the second. Everything discussed was received as information. No action was taken.

Administrator Carter brought the proposed 2018 budget for review by Council. The proposed budget is for the amount of $3,266,761. That is an $82,090.00 increase from the 2017 budget. After going over several items in the entire proposal and discussing the need for the changes, Council continued to ask for more information and clarification. Councilman Stroupe brought up the purchase of a police vehicle listed as an expenditure coming from the Narcotic Funds. He and Police Chief Ham made mention that they did not think that was possible. Administrator Carter said she would research that and bring the findings back to Council at the next meeting. It was also brought up about Administrator Carter wanting to increase the rent on the tenants in the medical building. The current rent is $100.00; she proposes the rent to increase to $300.00. The cost of keeping up the building and grounds, as well as the liability insurance for the property, is costing more than the rent is covering. Mayor Hogue brought a concern about the original agreement with DHEC (the organization that helped fund the construction of the building), he thought the rate was set by them and must be maintained. Administrator Carter said she would also research this matter and bring it back to Council at the later meeting. Administrator Carter mentioned that the Wastewater Treatment Plant is going to possibly be in need of repair to Lagoon 2. This lagoon is almost 20 years old and deteriorating at a normal pace, but will eventually need to be refurbished. The estimated cost will be $150,000.00. Should this become a necessity, the Town will have to incur this cost. The Town also has to match the grant for the Highway 5 Sewer project in the amount of $92,000.00. This amount will also need to be incurred. The monies will come from our Investment account. With all the information given, Councilman Stroupe made the motion to accept the first reading of the proposed 2018 Budget. Councilman Patterson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Clerk Foster requested Council approve two sewer adjustments in the amount of $54.63. Councilman Stroupe made the motion with Councilman Ford making the second. All were in favor.

There being no further business, Councilman Patterson made the motion for adjournment. Councilman Stroupe made the second. All were in favor. The time of adjournment was 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura B. Foster

Town Clerk

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

Mayor, Town of Blacksburg, SC