Minutes 1149 Town of Blacksburg

Special Town Council Meeting March 31, 2015

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

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

The invocation was given by Mayor Hogue.

Mr. George Kirby of the Blacksburg Business Association, who was scheduled to address Council after the budget was discussed, made a request to go before the budget. With no opposition, Mayor Hogue agreed to the change. Mr. Kirby asked Council to grant the Business Association the same amount as last year, $12,000 dollars for the Iron City Festival. Mr. Kirby explained,”It takes a great deal to put on an event like this and we can’t take a cut from our budget.” He thanked Council for their consideration. No action was taken at this time.

Mayor Hogue asked Administrator Martin to lay out the proposed budget which she has prepared for the upcoming fiscal year, April 1, 2015-March 31, 2016. Administrator Martin started with the Victim’s Assistance budget. It remained the same as last year. Councilman Patterson made the motion to accept the VA budget as presented. Councilman Stroupe seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Hospitality Tax budget was presented and discussed at length with the changes requested from the first reading. The restroom facility at the new Clouggeon Black Park was the main point of discussion. Councilwoman Wilson made the motion to accept the Hospitality Tax budget with the original restroom facility that is at the other park facilities. Councilman Patterson made the second. Councilman Stroupe and Councilman Janesky voted in opposition. With the Mayor agreeing, the motion carried.

Administrator Martin presented the General Fund budget. She said there would be a tax increase due to CPI and growth in the amount to of 2.9 mills. Also, with the Town losing over $61,000 dollars last year a one-time surcharge of 14 mills will help us recoup the loss. The surcharge would be removed next year. Councilman Janesky made the motion to pass the General Fund budget as presented and Council Stroupe seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Administrator Martin presented the Water Department Budget. Councilman Patterson made the motion to accept the Water Fund budget as distributed and Councilman Janesky made the second. All were in favor.

Administrator Martin presented the Sewer budget. Councilman Patterson made the motion and Councilwoman Wilson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

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David Benton has requested to purchase land the Town owns near our wastewater treatment plant. His son needs the land for a drive way. Councilman Patterson made the motion to start the process. Councilman Stroupe made the second. All were in favor.

Mayor Hogue asked for a motion to go into executive session for personnel matters for the police department and administration. Councilwoman Wilson made the motion with Councilman Patterson making the second. All were in favor.

Councilman Patterson made the motion to return to regular session. Councilman Stroupe made the second. All were in favor.

Mayor Hogue stated Chief Jamie Ham has requested that Mr. Tracy Fowler and Mr. Brooks Allison be hired as police officers in place of two officers leaving our employment. Mayor Hogue made the motion to hire the two officers and Councilman Patterson seconded the motion. Councilman Janesky opposed. Councilman Stroupe and Councilwoman Wilson was in favor therefore the motion carried.

Administrator Martin asked Council to hire Ms. Kristi Bell as accounts clerk, filling a vacancy. Councilman Janesky opposed the hiring. Councilman Patterson made the motion to hire Ms. Bell and Councilwoman Wilson seconded the motion. With the Mayor and Councilman Stroupe voting in favor, the motion carried.

There being no further business, Councilman Patterson made the motion for adjournment. Councilman Stroupe seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Time of adjournment was 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura B. Foster

Town Clerk

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

 Mayor, Town of Blacksburg, SC