Minutes 1197 Town of Blacksburg

Regular Town Council Meeting March 13, 2018

Present at the meeting were Councilman Patterson, Councilman S.L. Ford, Councilman Dennis Stroupe, Councilman Darren Janesky with Mayor David Hogue presiding.

The media was represented by Mr. Scott Powell from the Gaffney Ledger.

The first item on the agenda was a public hearing for the new zoning map and ordinance verbiage changes. There were a couple of questions asked about the limited commercial district and what were the major changes. These questions were answered. The hearing was closed.

Councilman Stroupe made the motion to approve the 2nd reading for the new zoning map. Councilman Patterson made the motion. All were in favor. Councilman Patterson made the motion to approve the 2nd reading of the verbiage and drawings changes. Councilman Stroupe made the second. All were in favor.

Councilman Stroupe made the motion to approve Minutes 1194 as printed and distributed. Councilman Ford made the second and all were in favor. Councilman Stroupe made the motion to approved Minutes 1195 as printed and distributed and Councilman Janesky made the second. All were in favor. Councilman Stroupe made the motion to approve Minutes 1196. Councilman Patterson seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Councilman Stroupe made the motion to approve bills with the exception of Patterson’s Wrecker. Councilman Ford seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Councilman Janesky made the motion to pay Patterson’s Wrecker. Councilman Stroupe made the second and all were in favor with the recusal of Councilman Patterson.

Administrator Carter brought the 2nd reading of an ordinance to sale the property at 314 E. Lime St. to Mr. Flay Lee who is a relative to the previous owner. Councilman Patterson made the motion to approve the sale with Councilman Ford making the second. All were in favor.

Administrator Carter brought the 1st reading of an ordinance to amend last year’s budget. It included C funds that had previously been in the budget but it’s no longer available due to county regulations. This money will be given to a committee assigned by the County for the expenditures. Councilman Stroupe made the motion and Councilman Patterson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

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Administrator Carter presented the FY 2019 budget. She began going through line items of Revenue and Expenditures of all departments which indicated a substantial shortfall. Council entered into discussion of how to pay for the shortfall. She explained the Town would also incur a reassessment year in taxes, so there would be a minimal possible cost of living increase only. She also explained the Water and Sewer department would increase substantially due to growth requiring water and sewer taps. She emphasized the utility department is categorized as enterprise funds and all revenue needed to be retained in the utility department.

After some discussion, she gave the Council a FY budget packet with recommendations. This budget will remove considerable expenses and did still show a shortfall of $24,819. She explained to Council she had made substantial cuts to Town expenditures throughout departments and removed previous requests the Town could not incur. She explained the Administration budget was reduced from FY 2018 $436,088 to FY 2019 to $343,755. She did not include raises or bonuses for employees. Although the police department budget increased from FY 2018 $870,027 to FY 2019 $998,530 it did not allow for additional officers and most of the requests made by Chief Ham in January. The Fire department also requested an additional $100,000 for truck replacements and maintenance costs in their budget presentation. The recommended budget only allowed for an additional $30,000 for the Town to provide to the fire department. The Street & Parks department reduced from FY 2018 $383,255 to FY 2019 $311,748. Administrator Carter recommended the FTE for parks be reduced to part-time. She also stated with the maintenance completed at the cemeteries last year, she only included the grass cutting as expenses with no improvements.

The Water and Sewer department stayed the same other than providing an In Lieu of revenue in the amount of $41,998 to assist with administrative costs payable to the Town Revenue side.

After the significant reductions in the recommendation budget, the shortfall reduced to $24,819.

Councilman Stroupe recommended the Christmas Bonus for employees and funds for special projects be added back to the Administration expenses. He suggested, as did the Mayor that monies to cover the shortfall and additions be split from the police department and utility department new equipment budgets. Councilman Stroupe also recommended after some discussion the police department uniform budget be reduced. Administrator Carter stated the police car and public works truck would be on 3 year payments. The backhoe was discussed and options for water revenue to pay for it or to be on a 3 year payment plan would be reviewed before next budget reading.

The Council was also given current balance for Hospitality, Victims Assistance, and Narcotics funds with budgets. A victim’s assistance agreement signed between Chief Ham and Sheriff Mueller was included with victim’s assistance budget.

After some discussion, Councilman Stroupe made the motion to approve the budget with the corrections. Councilman Patterson seconded the motion and all were in favor.

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Mayor Hogue asked for a motion to go into executive session for personnel and land contract discussions. Councilman Patterson made the motion and Councilman Ford seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Upon return, Councilman Patterson made the motion to return to regular session. Councilman Stroupe made the second. All were in favor. Everything discussed was received as information.

Clerk Foster asked Council to approve sewer adjustments in the amount of $1467.97. Councilman Stroupe made the motion, receiving the second from Councilman Ford. All were in favor.

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

The time of adjournment was 9:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura B. Foster

Town Clerk

Approval: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mayor, Town of Blacksburg, SC