Minutes 1205 Town of Blacksburg

Regular Town Council Meeting October 9, 2018

Present at the meeting was Councilwoman Christy Gibson, Councilman Darren Janesky, Councilman Dennis Stroupe, and Councilman S. L. Ford with Mayor Mike Patterson presiding.

Media was represented by Mr. Scott Powell with the Gaffney Ledger.

The invocation was given by Councilman Ford.

Councilman Stroupe made the motion to approve Minutes 1204 as written and distributed. Councilman Janesky seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Councilman Stroupe made the motion to approve the bills with the exception of Patterson’s Wrecker. Councilman Janesky made the second and all were in favor. Councilman Stroupe made the motion to pay Patterson’s Wrecker. Councilman Ford made the second. All were in favor with the exception of Mayor Patterson who recused himself.

Clerk Foster asked Council to approve the second reading of an ordinance to amend the previous ordinance for the Set-off Debt Program through the Municipal Association of SC. Councilman Stroupe made the motion to approve the second reading and Councilwoman Gibson made the second. All were in favor.

Administrator Carter informed Council of a request from Blacksburg High School, Ms. Jenny Funk, to have a five mile Walk-a-thon on November 3rd from 9:00 until 11:00. This is an annual event. They are requesting the towns support in safety measures from the Police and Fire departments. They are planning a two and a half mile loop. The rain date will be November 10th should the weather not permit. Mayor Patterson made the motion to allow the walk-a-thon. Councilman Ford seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Administrator Carter informed Council that she and our Auditor Mr. Terry Fant met with County Auditor Mr. Merv Bishop to set the new mileage and tax rate. The rate will be 175.8 mills changing from 175.1 mills last year. The reassessment year allowed for a minimal charge and our rollback base rate to be 163.7 plus a cost of living increase of 4.7mills with a 7.4 surcharge for prior year deficit. This is the second year of a three year for the surcharge. After some discussion, Councilman Ford made the motion to approve the increase and Councilwoman Gibson seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilman Stroupe voting against the increase.

Administrator Carter then advised Council that the Welcome Center Grant Project had its bid opening. There were five companies that submit bids. Mr. Rich Anderson from Summit Engineering conducted the bid opening today at Town Hall. The lowest bidder was Two Brothers Utility and they are new to Blacksburg bidding. They are based out of Shelby, NC. They will need to be validated by our engineering firm to make sure their work history is acceptable for the project going forward. Administrator Carter asked permission of Council that once the background check is completed and Mr. Anderson makes the recommendation to accept the bid that Council allow the information to be given to RIA, who is the grant funder. Councilman Stroupe made the recommendation to accept the bid pending the check and for permission to be given to move the project forward. Councilman Janesky made the second. All were in favor.

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Chief Jamie Ham reported that all was well with the department. The new K-9 officers are working and doing. He mentioned that they were reaching out to other departments such as Gaffney City and Cherokee County. They both responded with appreciation for the opportunity to use the new K-9 units. He also mentioned that the salary reimbursement for training is mandatory and it would be three hours a week for feeding and taking care of the dogs. He went on to say that the Officers thought that after six months, there should be enough money seized that they will be able to pay themselves the overtime. Councilman Janesky stated that 6 months of overtime from the general fund was acceptable and then let the narcotics fund pay from there. He mentioned that we need to put this on the calendar and revisit this after the initial six months to see if they are truly self- sustaining.

Chief Ham also mentioned about that he is having trouble getting the three estimates for the repairs to the police department. We need to talk about the procurement procedure of the required three estimates needed to approve the repairs. He said he would try again but that he would bring this back to Council next month to see what can be done. This was received as information.

Director Michael Smiley said that the bid opening today was important. He also mentioned that York County Natural Gas Company was in town completing upgrades to the system and that some issues have arisen, but at the same time they are giving us information about the status of our water and sewer lines if they notice anything. This was also received as information.

Fire Chief Donovan Ford told Council that everything was going well at the department. He said that the annual ladder apparatus inspection was coming up and also SCBA (breathing apparatus) training coming up. We just had the fire trucks inspected and they passed the DHEC certification and have the new stickers attached. Captain Jacob Mullinax gave Council an update on calls for the month prior for information. They responded to 54 calls for the month, of those calls, there were seven structure fires, three vehicle fires, one trash fire, 19 medical calls, five motor vehicle collisions, four hazardous conditions, three fuel spills and two power lines down as well as two service calls and two cancelled calls along with four fire alarm call and two special calls. Fifteen of those calls were mutual aid calls assisting other departments. He also listed the individual response time. The average for dispatch to en route is 1 minute 31 seconds.

Administrator Carter gave Council the update for the Administration. She told them the she is continuing to work on the environmental plans for the park and on the donations and grants for the park project. She reminded them of the Christmas plans that she hopes will be bigger and better every year. There are flyers that have gone out with information of all the festivities for December 8th. She informed them we received news today that a crow tested positive for West Nile Virus and that an insecticide spray was already being scheduled for half a mile radius around the infected area. Mayor Patterson reminded everyone to be aware of standing water which can be one of the main sources of mosquitos.

Mayor Patterson brought Chief Ford back for the next item on the agenda which is review and update of the fire ordinance and the agreement with the Town. He said they received a copy of the new contract in the packets for review. They made updates to the older contract to make it current such as dates, etc. Councilman Ford asked a question about the Chief’s right to arrest someone interfering with their work. Chief Ford said it was not something that he would do. (This is in the current Fire Ordinance). He would simply ask them to move back and let the police handle it from there. He said he could have that removed if necessary. It was already written like that in the original Ordinance. He said he had no intention of arresting anyone.

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Captain Jerry Pera with the Fire Department brought before Council some additions that are needed to update to the existing fire ordinance. The updates include state and municipal codes given from the ICC (International Code Council) that need to be added. They are hoping that the Council will adopt this new ordinance to keep up with all changes in the fire suppression industry. Chief Ford added that right now the fire code that is in place in only three pages long. It is in great need of updating. After some questions and answers, Council decided to receive as information until it could be studied further.

Mayor Patterson asked for a motion to go into executive session. Administrator Carter said it was to review and discuss contracts also to discuss personnel operations. Councilman Stroupe asked why the personnel operations couldn’t be discussed in open session and Administrator Carter said it was due to individual personnel issues. Councilman Ford made the motion and Councilman Janesky seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Upon return, Councilman Ford made the motion to return to regular session. Councilwoman Gibson made the second. All were in favor. Everything discussed was received as information. No action was taken.

Clerk Foster asked Council to approve sewer adjustments in the amount of $55.03 for two leaks. Councilman Ford made the motion and making the second was Councilwoman Gibson. All were in favor.

There being no further business, Mayor asked for a motion for adjournment. Councilman Ford made the motion and Councilman Janesky made the second. All were in favor.

The time of adjournment was 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura B. Foster

Town Clerk

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

Mayor, Town of Blacksburg, SC