Minutes 1143 Town of Blacksburg

Regular Town Council Meeting October 14, 2014

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

The media was represented by Mr. Joe Hughes of the Gaffney Ledger.

The invocation was given by Mayor Hogue.

Councilman Janesky made the motion for minutes 1142 to be approved as written and distributed. Councilwoman Wilson made the second. All were in favor.

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

Amanda Walker, representative for the Guatemalan mission team of Hopewell Baptist Church, request Council allow them to have a 5k Run/Walk for Hope around Blacksburg on November 15, 2014. Ms. Walker stated that the CKC Volunteer Fire Department will do any needed traffic control. The starting line will begin on the track at the high school and end there as well. Councilman Patterson made the motion to allow the walk/run with Councilwoman Wilson making the second. All were in favor.

Mayor Hogue asked for suggestions of mementos to be placed in a cornerstone to be opened well into the future. Some suggestions were any minutes of past meetings that mention the museum as well as photos of before and after, any possible aerial photos that could be found and a photo of the present Town Council. He asked for any other suggestions to be made as soon as possible we needed to have the items within the next few weeks. No action was taken.

Mayor Hogue brought concerns he has about the electronic sign and stage at the back of the museum. He wanted to know if the sign could be moved to a visible place without being directly in front of the museum and if the stage could possibly be turned to face the street or maybe across the street to the new piece of property purchased that is behind Town Hall. He also made an inquiry as to the possible name of the museum. Iron City Museum or Blacksburg Museum of History was some that were mentioned. Mayor Hogue suggested the possibility of forming a museum committee that would be responsible for the items placed inside the museum and in the future maybe having a part time position to work in the museum as of right now we will need volunteers to open and close the museum. Finally, Mayor Hogue mentioned that the fire truck would need cleaning up and a waxing in order to be ready when the museum is completed. He asked for Council to think about these things and they would discuss them at a later date.

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Mayor Hogue inquired about the use of hospitality tax money for repairs and maintenance of sidewalk and roads. He stated that up to 20% could be used. The State Attorney General has gave an opinion which was sent to Senator Harvey Peeler which states that the money can be used for that purpose specifically with the intent of tourism related improvements to better access these sites. Town

Attorney Larry Flynn gave his opinion that Town Council has the authority to determine whether a sidewalk/walking trail is necessary to provide access to a tourist destination as part of its legislative authority. Mayor Hogue asked that this be put in next year’s budget as this year’s has already been allocated.

Mayor Hogue was invited to a meeting concerning the Blacksburg Senior Center. They are not having enough participation to keep the funding. Mayor Hogue mentioned the Town gives the center $7000 and some churches make donations but the funding isn’t enough. The center takes about $20,000 to operate. It was suggested to him they bus the active participants to Gaffney as an alternative. Mayor Hogue said our citizens should be able to remain in Blacksburg. He asked for suggestions for anyway of coming up with the funding maybe churches or organization making donations.

Mayor Hogue asked for the Church Street Park to be named after Ms. Clouggeon Black. With her history of teaching and being a great role model for others, he and others he has spoken with including Mr. S L Ford, thought it would be a great way of showing her much due respect. Mayor Hogue made the recommendation for the park to be officially named “The Clouggeon Black Memorial Park”. Councilman Patterson made the motion and Councilwoman Wilson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mayor Hogue brought concerns from citizens about the fire siren not activating for calls anymore. After doing some research, Mayor Hogue discovered several local departments have also done away with the activation of these sirens. Some of the counties of the upstate have also done away with sirens stating that only civil and weather emergencies are all they are now used for. Mayor Hogue stated that even though he was uneasy about it that ultimately it was up to the Fire Chief to make that call. Councilman Stroupe added that with the FCC changing the law of narrowband frequencies in January, 2013, the siren would need to be updated at a substantial amount to make it in compliance.

Councilman Stroupe asked council about the possibility of forming a committee to look at the sidewalk problems around town. He had an outline for a charter for them to look at. After some debate it was brought up that the state owns most of the roads and sidewalks in town and they would have to be brought in on anything concerning their property also, that trees were a big concern being that the trees are usually on private property of the citizens. At this time no action was taken but was received as information.

Chief Gore brought before Council a request for an ordinance that would give them permission to do a cost recovery for out of county residents that require their assistance such as wrecks on the interstate. The department would request reimbursement from the insurance company of the insured for items used that would need replacing. Items like hazmat foam required for spills and wrecks and gear destroyed while in the use of the call they have responded to. After some discussion, Council said they were going to wait until the County had made their decision on this same type ordinance being requested of the Cherokee County Council by the Fire Chief’s Association. No action was taken at this time.

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Town Attorney Larry Flynn asked Council to approve the second reading of a Cellular Tower Ordinance. The recent inquiry from a cellular tower company made the need for the ordinance but that company decided not to go forward at this time. Councilman Stroupe made reference to a numerical inaccuracy in the ordinance. Attorney Flynn said that the mistake would be corrected and that it would then be taken to the Zoning and Planning Commission for any tweaking that may need to be done before bringing it back to Council for approval.

Administrator Martin asked for Council to set the date for the Blacksburg Christmas Parade on December 13th at 2:00 pm. Mayor Hogue mentioned that Rep. Steve Moss once again be Grand Marshall due to last year’s parade being cancelled due to the weather. Administrator Martin added that there was a possibility that US Senator Tim Scott may be available and that they could be Co-Grand Marshall’s. Councilman Patterson made the motion receiving the second from Councilman Stroupe. All were in favor.

Administrator Martin asked for the next scheduled meeting which is on Veteran’s Day be moved to another date due to the holiday. Mayor Hogue asked which would be best for everyone and it was decided that Monday November 10th at 7:00 pm be the next Council Meeting date.

Upon the recommendation of the Clerk, Councilman Patterson made the motion to approve sewer adjustments totaling $424.26. Councilwoman Wilson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

There being no further business, Councilman Patterson made the motion for adjournment with Councilwoman Wilson making the second. All were in favor.

Time of adjournment was 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura B. Foster

Town Clerk

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

Mayor, Town of Blacksburg, SC