

Minutes of the Altamont Town Council Meeting
March 14, 2019

Present:

Mayor Clyde Watkins
Brent "Ole" Olsen
Sommer Arnold
Derek Mecham
Glen Jessen (arrived at 7:04 p.m.)
Melba Markham, Town Clerk
Shawn Keel, Town Employee
Josh Phillips, Fire Chief
Kimberly Layton, Taking Minutes

Public Attending:

Porter Farr
Orin Farr
Colton Beal
Kaleb Witbeck

Mayor Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Minutes Approved (7:00 p.m.)

Motion was made by Derek Mecham to approve the minutes of February 14, 2019. Motion seconded by Sommer Arnold. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Department (7:05 p.m.)

Chief Phillips reported that the Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) have been signed by the firefighters. He also reported that the pump on Tinder 156 has been repaired and was cheaper than anticipated. They also changed the bearings. Derek sent a quote on a pump for 153. Additionally, they checked the alternator on 152 and everything checked out ok, but while on a fire they had more problems. Brandon Peck is working on it, and they plan to keep the truck in service for now.

Chief Phillips stated that they would like to do a swap on the trucks and put the extrication equipment on the 155 Ford. The Chevy will be used for backup.

There are firefighters in training this weekend. Wildland season is coming up, so they will be doing pack tests soon.

With regards to the power bill, Chief Phillips believes that a heater was left on.

Chief Phillips further reported that in the winter they need a different access at the fire department, so they plan to take the old key pad and install it on the south door.

Sidewalk Project (7:12 p.m.)

Glen stated that they are waiting for the weather to improve prior to beginning this project. They did hold a kickoff meeting last month and reviewed the plans. A UDOT representative attended that meeting and stated that there is funding to assist with asphalt down the side of the road. They can meet with Shawn and the council to make final decisions. Glen has not heard from CIVCO this month.

Mayor Watkins asked Glen to review the bills to make sure that the Town is not being billed for things that have not yet been done. He encouraged Glen to keep track of things that have been done and approved throughout the project.

Mayor Watkins stated that while he is not against having sidewalks poured in Town, the council needs to take into consideration the maintenance that comes along with those sidewalks. If they need to be plowed in the Winter, there could be a significant cost increase in maintenance. The council should also consider necessary changes to the ordinance including who should be responsible for care of the sidewalks.

Glen suggested obtaining prices on a side-by-side with a blade on it to use in the Winter. Mayor Watkins suggested also getting quotes on a utility vehicle. Glen had a discussion with Brett about funding and if there is money left on this project, Glen will ask if those funds could be used towards maintenance or equipment expenses.

The council discussed snow removal in the Town. Shawn stated that he talked to the State about it and was informed that the State pushes the snow onto the sidewalks because it is a liability for the State to have it on the road. If the Town wants to accept that liability, the State will leave the snow off the sidewalks.

Mayor Watkins added that if we put sidewalks in, will have to survey property lines which could bring up some other issues. The council needs to be prepared for those issues as they come. Council members will need to be compassionate with those that it will affect.

The Town does not currently have a GIS on the Secondary Water System. As we do projects, we may come across some sewer laterals and it may be a good time to mark those lines. Those expenses could come from another fund.

Glen asked what the budget is for road funds this year, and Melba stated that the budget is a little over \$9,000. Glen stated that the road by the park needs some more gravel. Shawn stated that he also needs to talk to Kirk Christensen about the water line that was recently installed at the Thompson residence. They need to haul in some filler.

Melba asked about the utilities on the west side of Asa Jessen's home. The lot has been purchased and they are building a home there. Shawn stated that the water is on the north side of the road, but the sewer and secondary water are on the south. The telephone line has already been run.

Wastewater (7:40 p.m.)

Shawn reported that the wastewater is still frozen. Cell 2 is filling. It has melted off, but the main pond is still iced over. Shawn stated that we put the chemical in the pond in September. He will take some readings in the summer to see if it is making a difference.

Mayor Watkins stated that the Town did not run any cameras on the lines last year because there was no ground water. If we have high ground water this year, then we should contact Val Cotter to camera some of the lines and find where the infiltration is.

With regards to the rates on secondary water, Mayor Watkins stated that the council needs to educate themselves on what is happening in the legislature. If changes are made requiring metering secondary water systems, they may allow funding packages to assist with the expense of that change. Shawn is attending a class to gather more information on the possibility of these changes. If it is necessary to increase our rates, a public hearing would be necessary.

Discussion (Compensation for Planning and Zoning Board meetings; payment for mileage for training meetings) (7:57 p.m.)

Mayor Watkins stated that the Town will need to hold a public hearing to make decisions with regards to compensation for planning and zoning board members. He encouraged council members to gather some ideas prior to scheduling a public hearing. Currently, council members get paid a lump sum per month. For the planning and zoning board, it may be easier to pay them for each meeting held. There will not be a lot of meetings held.

Sommer suggested paying the board members for each meeting held, and cover travel expenses if they are traveling for a meeting. The Town should just follow the State's rate for mileage expenses.

Glen suggested paying the board members \$50.00 per meeting. The council agreed with this suggestion. Melba will prepare an ordinance and a public hearing will be held next month.

Mayor Watkins stated that these rates could be adjusted in the future if necessary.

Park (8:07 p.m.)

Mayor Watkins stated that we need to make sure that if we hand over the park, they are aware of what costs are associated with the park, including water, surveys, etc. The Town takes about a \$9,000 loss a year. It is difficult for the Town to make plans for the park without knowing how long the park will remain in the Town's control. The Town has just been trying to sustain the park. Glen suggested looking for funding to do park upgrades because the recreation district is not progressing.

Serena Brotherson will be doing Longhorn Days. They may need the Town to do the garbage and the portable toilets for Longhorn Days.

Sommer Arnold stated that the Town needs a plan for baseball if they plan to use the park this year.

The next council meeting will be held on April 11 at 7:00 p.m.

A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Glen Jessen at 8:25 p.m. Motion seconded by Derek Mecham. Motion carried unanimously.

Read and approved this _____ day of _____, 2019.

e-mailed to

altamonttown@gmail.com

Date: April 3, 2019