

Minutes of the Altamont Town Council Meeting
January 9, 2020

Present:

Clyde Watkins
Brent "Ole" Olsen
Sommer Arnold
Melba Markham, Town Clerk
Craig Kettle, Town Employee
Josh Phillips, Altamont Fire

Glen Jessen was excused

Also present was Kimberly Layton, taking minutes.

Clyde Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Minutes Approved (7:05 p.m.)

A Motion was made by Sommer Arnold to approve the minutes of November 14, 2019. Motion seconded by Ole Olsen. Motion carried unanimously.

Oath of Office for Council Members, Glen Jessen & Sommer Arnold (7:05 p.m.)

The oath of office was given to Sommer Arnold by Melba Markham.

Discussion about changes on the Road Cutting Resolution (7:07 p.m.)

Mayor Watkins stated that the Town has a resolution to do road cuts. Some changes may need to occur due to the sidewalk project. The original resolution stated that any road cut must be repaired within 30 days of the cut, and that the type of repair (hot mix or cold mix) must be approved by the Town of Altamont. That resolution was passed on November 29, 2007. That was before curb and guttering, so that issue was never addressed. We need to add some description with regards to replacing curb and gutter in case of a road cut. Upper Country Water does not feel that it should be their responsibility to bear the costs of putting the sidewalk back in when a water line is installed. Mayor Watkins is not even sure if the costs should be passed along to the residents. This item needs to be discussed and agreed upon soon. The council discussed putting secondary water into property lines, but it is not really possible to put in water lines or sewer lines prior to the homeowner making those decisions. Melba asked what the current cost is for installing a secondary water line. Craig will look into this so he can provide the council with an amount. The Town does not make a profit on a secondary water connection install. Melba and Mayor Watkins both stated that they were leaning towards making it the resident's responsibility. The Town may need to have a public hearing to pass a new resolution.

The sidewalk project already went to drawing. After it is bid, we could do a change order with the contractor, but that may increase the cost of the project.

Capital Improvement List (7:31 p.m.)

Melba reviewed the capital improvement list with the council. She stated that on the 1-year list, the Town currently has Street Improvements for \$250,000. The request is for a \$200,000 grant and a \$50,000 loan. This would be to take care of dirt roads and other street repairs. The 1-year list also includes an Equipment Maintenance Building for \$150,000. The Town would come up with \$30,000 and would ask for a \$120,000 grant. However, some work has been done to the existing maintenance building, so this may not be necessary right now.

On the 2-5 year list, the Town has included a Fire Truck for \$250,000 which would include \$75,000 from the Town and \$175,000 grant; Streets chipped and sealed for \$125,000 with the Town contributing \$6,250 and requesting a grant of \$118,750; Cemetery Improvements for \$30,000 on a 100% grant.

The council asked if we needed to move the request for the fire truck up to one year. Melba stated that the list must be submitted by the end of January. The council agreed to leave the list as prepared. *A Motion was made by Ole Olsen to accept the capital improvement lists as prepared. Motion seconded by Sommer Arnold. Motion carried unanimously.*

2018-2019 Audit – Aycock, Miles and Associates (7:42 p.m.)

Cameron reviewed the audit with the council. He stated that the Town had a solid year on revenues. The Town's long-term debt was \$588,000 with a \$26,000 payment. The outstanding long-term debt is \$562,000 and the payment will remain steady for several years. The Town has \$66,606 reserved for road expenditures from the B&C road money. The audit included a review of internal control and they found that there were proper approvals and no findings. The audit also looked at various requirements from the state including open public meetings act and other items and there were no findings. All necessary documents were signed by Mayor Watkins and Melba.

Sommer Arnold left the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Mayor Watkins stated that we should run an ad in the paper for a council member to fill our vacant seat.

Fire Department (8:03 p.m.)

Chief Phillips was not at the meeting, but Melba may talk to him about the fire truck on the capital improvement list. No other items were discussed with regards to the fire department.

Sidewalk Project (8:06 p.m.)

Mayor Watkins stated that if Melba has any question on the paperwork for the sidewalk project she should talk to Glen. He further suggested that the council hold a discussion on the sidewalks as it will impact the whole town, including roads and utilities.

The next council meeting will be held on February 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Town Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Read and approved this 6th day of February, 2020.

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January 21, 2020