

Minutes of the Altamont Town Council Meeting
September 10, 2020

Present:

Clyde Watkins

Brent "Ole" Olsen

Glen Jessen

Josh Phillips, Altamont Fire Chief

Melba Markham, Town Clerk

Craig Kettle, Town Employee

Sommer Arnold was excused.

Clyde Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes Approved (7:00 p.m.)

Mayor Watkins noted one correction to be made under the Park category. The sentence should read "Mayor Watkins stated that we may need to work with Upper Country Water to make decisions including having someone check standards to see what distance we would need to be from the water well to install a sewer line."

With said correction, a Motion was made by Glen Jessen to approve the minutes of August 13, 2020 as written. Motion seconded by Ole Olsen. Motion carried unanimously.

Park (7:03 p.m.)

Mayor Watkins stated that the council was going to discuss issues at the park with regards to the Recreation District. With Sommer being absent, this item will be discussed further at next month's meeting. Glen Jessen asked if the Town would need to have a survey done at the park prior to turning things over to the Recreation District. Glen can check with Civco to see if their surveyors could perform a survey on the park and to get an estimate.

Melba reported that there would be a public hearing held on September 21 at the high school.

Glen Jessen stated that the council would need to make a decision as to what part of the property to turn over to the Recreation District as well as any necessary rights of way or easements. Ole recommended that the Town keep ownership of all property outside the white fence.

Glen suggested having someone from the Town Council sit on the board for the Recreation District so that the Town of Altamont would have a voice on the future of the park.

Fire Department (7:15 p.m.)

Chief Phillips asked Melba if she had received the billing from Shades for the engine rebuild on 153. If they send a second billing, he asked Melba to let him know. The turbo seal went out on that truck so he took the truck back to Shades for repair again, but they should not bill for those repairs. The truck is still under warranty for a year. They have been using the truck on the wildland fires, but have had to add a gallon of oil to it so once there is a break on the fires they will take the truck down again to have them check everything.

Chief Phillips stated that with regards to truck 154, EP donated a 2012 Supercab Ford F350 Diesel. The department should have it within about a week so that will give the department a new brush truck. He asked for the council's approval to get the truck painted and get the bed sandblasted and treated so that it matches the rest of the department's trucks. They may also need a new set of tires for the new truck. The council approved that request. Chief Phillips also stated that EP asked for a picture and article in the paper recognizing the donation. Josh would like to have the picture taken after the truck is painted so he will propose that to them.

Chief Phillips reported that he is also working with Newfield on a truck donation. They also have a 2012 diesel that they may donate to the department. If the donation is made, Chief Phillips suggested utilizing that truck as a rescue truck for extrication, road rescue, and other rescue purposes.

The department will be selling the Dodge so Chief Phillips asked the council for their recommendations. It is a 1-ton 1985 truck. Glen Jessen suggested selling the Dodge and putting any funds from the sale back into the fire department.

Chief Phillips stated that the department will be getting some income from the Moon Lake Fire and the East Fork Fire that should offset the cost of work on the trucks. The department is on a 14-day contract for those fires so that should be a good source of income.

Chief Phillips reported that he currently has 23 firefighters, but only 17 positions are filled as some are junior firefighters. He asked what the limit would be. It is his understanding that there can be 18 paid positions on the department. He has informed his junior firefighters that they will not get paid for attending meetings, but they could get paid for responding to a County fire. Some of the junior firefighters will be turning 18 soon. Melba stated that she did not know what the limit was but could find out.

Gary Brinkerhoff has shown interested in joining the department and he would be an incredible asset. Chief Phillips stated that he could take the 18th spot.

With regards to red cards, Chief Phillips reported that the Altamont Fire Department is the only department on the East Fork Fire with all red cards. If Gary Brinkerhoff joins the department, he would need to obtain his red card, as well as any of the junior firefighters that stay on the department.

The fire department would like to hold an Oktoberfest as a fundraiser. Chief Phillips asked for permission to use the park for that event. The council approved this request. There would be a festival as well as some raffles. This may turn into a yearly event depending on the outcome.

Secondary Water (7:36 p.m.)

Craig Kettle reported that the secondary water is still available, but it will probably take a cut on Monday. Mayor Watkins stated that it may become necessary to put a water meter on the park property.

Jode Wall contacted Melba and asked if the Town council would sign a letter stating that his 9 shares of BIA irrigation water are stored in Altamont City's irrigation pond for his use and there are no plan to change this in the future. Melba clarified that the company doing Mr. Wall's sprinkling system wanted something in writing stating that the water would be available. Craig Kettle stated that the Town does not store water in the pond for Mr. Wall. The council stated that the only thing the Town could say is that Mr. Wall's BIA water goes through the Town's pond. The council suggested that the letter be as detailed as possible to protect the Town. Mr. Wall owns 9 shares of BIA water, is allowed 4 hours

13 minutes of delivery, the water goes through the Town's pond but it is not stored in the pond, and the Town does not deliver the water to him. The water is just delivered through our system. Mayor Watkins suggested having legal counsel review the letter prior to signing it for Mr. Wall.

Mayor Watkins reviewed some minutes which included past discussions with Mr. Wall including the cost of impact fees to be charged to new customers. The impact fee discussed was \$3,280 per share, although it did not specify whether that was for residential or agricultural users. The council had previously stated that the minimum impact fee should be a yearly assessment for each share for each year the water system has been in place. The cost was determined to be \$371.88 per year for each year system has been in place. Melba estimated that the decision was made in 2012 and the system had been in place for approximately 8 years at that time. Mr. Wall had previously stated that he pays assessments for tribe and was concerned about the need to pay additional assessments to the Town.

Mayor Watkins suggested preparing a letter and letting Mr. Wall decide if it would be feasible for him to keep his water running through the Town's pond. Glen suggested waiting for Mr. Wall to ask the Town for information on costs to join the Town's water system rather than approaching him with that information.

Sidewalk Encroachment discussion (8:00 p.m.)

Mayor Watkins stated that the council was going to discuss a policy with regards to sidewalk encroachments. Glen Jessen stated that he would get some information from the County on this for future discussions.

Glen stated that he was contacted by Civco and they plan to be up in November to take pictures of the sidewalk project and get things ready for a new application.

Old Business (8:03 p.m.)

The council discussed the two trailers that are parked by the storage units. Melba has had several complaints. Glen Jessen stated that Joe Haslem had parked those trailers there but plans to move them.

Melba stated that there have been complaints about dogs barking in the subdivision by the park. She has encouraged residents to call animal control.

Ole asked about the flowerpots that the Town is no longer using. Craig Kettle stated that some of the pots are broken so it would be hard to put them up for sale or bid. Ole is interested in some of the pots and is willing to pay for them. Mayor Watkins cautioned the council members about making decisions that would appear to benefit council members over any other resident.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on October 8 at 7:00 p.m.

A Motion was made by Ole Olsen to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion seconded by Glen Jessen. Motion carried unanimously.

Read and approved this 8th day of October, 2020.

e-mailed to
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09/28/20