

Minutes of the Altamont Town Council Meeting
May 13, 2021

Present:

Clyde Watkins

Brent "Ole" Olsen

Sommer Arnold

Melba Markham, Town Clerk

Craig Kettle, Town Employee

Josh Phillips, Altamont Fire Chief

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

Minutes Approved (7:01 p.m.)

A Motion was made by Sommer Arnold to approve the minutes of April 8, 2021 as written. Motion seconded by Ole Olsen. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Department (7:02 p.m.)

Chief Phillips stated that he contacted Bulldog Insulation and they will repair the roof of the fire station for about \$600. Once the department makes sure it isn't leaking, they will repair the inside insulation and ceiling tiles. Chief Phillips reported that trucks are all working well and in good shape. He is waiting on some paperwork to complete cards on the new firefighters and then they will be up to 19 firefighters. The County is still working on a new radio system so when they need to transition, they will need to purchase some new radios. A new handheld radio for the County's system would be \$3,000 and a mobile/handheld unit would be around \$800. He is hoping to find something for a lower cost than that. They will need five radios. The system they have now is working. Chief Phillips believes there may be some grant monies available when the new radio system is in place.

The department will begin getting ready for summer events including their car show. The County has also asked the department to do some fire mitigation. They are looking at doing some work behind the church and other fields in the area. They keep track of all mitigation efforts so if there is a fire, they can show the County the efforts they had made to help minimize threats.

Secondary Water (7:16 p.m.)

The Town water is in. Craig Kettle stated that he has not had any concerns. If the BIA duty goes down, we will just need to make sure residents are aware and adjustments are made accordingly. Craig stated that there may come a time when the users have to go on turns.

Budget Items (7:26 p.m.)

Mayor Watkins stated that council members need to let Melba know if they have plans that would include items to be included in the budget. Mayor Watkins asked the council how they felt about selling the mower to the Recreation District. Craig stated that

he wouldn't mind selling them the old mower. They have had problems keeping the mower going in the heat so it may need some maintenance and repair.

Craig stated that he would be interested in having the Town obtain a backhoe. He spoke with Shawn Keel about it as well as the Town has been paying Shawn for backhoe use. Shawn stated that he would be fine with the Town using their own backhoe. He spoke with Century Equipment about some options. The estimates were around \$30,000. Craig asked the council what the maximum cost could be so that he can have Century Equipment keep an eye out for us. Mayor Watkins suggested telling them we are looking for something from \$25,000 to \$35,000. Mayor Watkins stated that there would be grants available for a new purchase, but not for a used backhoe. Ole agreed that the Town should look into getting their own backhoe.

Longhorn Days Celebration (7:46 p.m.)

Melba stated that the Town will provide the dumpsters and the port-o-potties. Melba will make the necessary phone calls to get that arranged.

Mayor Watkins asked how things went with free dump week. Craig stated that the extra dumpsters got used, but nothing got dumped in the dumpster behind the Town building so things went as planned.

Altamont Trailer Park (7:50 p.m.)

Melba has received correspondence from the owner of the trailer park stating that he is planning to do the work necessary to bring the trailers up to code so that the County will pass an inspection. Melba stated that she provided him with the Town's ordinance when he first purchased the trailer park, and our ordinance states that any trailers brought into the Town need to be from 1976 or newer. He did not have a permit to even bring the trailers into the County. He claims that when he purchased the trailers, he purchased them with a commitment that the trailers would be brought up to County code. The County's ordinance states that trailers must be brought up to code prior to bringing the trailers into the County. Melba called and asked the County if the Town needed to follow the County's ordinance or if they could enforce the Town's ordinance. She was told that the Town can enforce their own ordinance. She also contacted the Town's attorney to confirm that, and he also stated that the Town can stand by their own ordinance or could make a variance if they desired. Any decision needs to pass through the zoning and planning board and a public hearing would be necessary.

Craig stated that he has been unable to find tags on the trailers, and Melba stated that the County could not find tags either. Ole asked if we could have them condemned.

Sommer stated that inasmuch as they are already in violation of the County's ordinances, they shouldn't be allowed to come into the Town at all.

Mayor Watkins stated that we should respond that the two trailers in Town that are from the 1970s need to be removed from the Town as they do not comply with the Town's ordinances. The Town will need proof that the third trailer is from the 1990s before it can be moved into the trailer park.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on June 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

A Motion was made by Ole Olsen to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Motion seconded by Sommer Arnold. Motion carried unanimously.

Read and approved this 10th day of June, 2021.

e-mailed to

altamonttown@gmail.com

June 2, 2021