

**Town of Triana Regular Council Meeting**  
**Monday, September 13, 2021**  
**6:30p.m.**

The mayor called the meeting to order. Roll call, Councilmembers George Ragland, Erica Hopkins, Jason Garstka, Levoneia Ayers, Casey Whitman and Mayor Mary Caudle. Members present constituted a quorum.

Motioned by Councilmember Whitman to accept the minutes dated August 23, 2021. Councilmember Ayers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Mayor Caudle's Report:** No Report

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**Fire & Police:** Chairperson Ragland reported Police Dept. traveled 2459 miles, made 26 traffic stops, 20 warning citation, 8 citations, 42 calls for service, 2 arrest and 16 reports.

Fire Dept. responded to 1 structure fire, 3 fire alarms, 11 emergency calls and 1 motor vehicle accident.

Mr. Ragland stated even though we are waiting on the PD grant response, we should announce for the two police positions now and work on getting two cars. Mr. Ragland also stated that he thinks we need 6 firemen.

**Finance:** Chairperson Hopkins discussed the AL Power Grant and recommend we apply under Arts/Culture category. We can implement a program through Parks and Rec. Grant is due Oct. 15, needs the most recent audit. Asked if the 2019 audit was the latest, Mayor said yes. Ms. Hopkins stated we also need other tax information, EIN, etc.

Moton by Councilmember Hopkins to apply for the AL Power Grant. Councilmember George Ragland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Scheduled a work session for Tuesday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> at 6PM for Mr. Whitman to go over his retail sales tax analysis. Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> at 7PM to review the budget.

**Utility:** Chairperson Whitman reported on the possibility adding additional fire hydrants to 3 locations, between Zierdt Rd and 9<sup>th</sup> Street, South of Landess Cir near Cowan Rd and on Carr Lane near Ervin. Whitman plans to get with the Fire Chief to finalize list and to find out the cost. Plans to bring info back. Mr. Whitman also reported we're still working on pumps.

Mayor Caudle stated Huntsville Utilities will come and change out some things at two of the lift stations scheduled to be completed in Sept. & Oct this is a part of the sewer upgrade.

**Park & Recreation:** Chairperson Ayers reported Triana Warrior football sent information regarding their games, it was a blessed day. All Triana warriors won against Madison Academy. 6 and under black won 24-12, 6 & under blue won 25-25, 8 & under won 42-0, 10 & under 36-12, 12 & under won 53-0. Mr. Haywood wanted to tell everyone he was proud of the association as a whole. He wanted to invite everyone out to the game on Saturday. They're playing the Madison knights @ Palmer Park this Saturday beginning at 9AM and the last game stats at 4PM.

Discussion: Park & Rec. would like to have a work session to discuss purchasing equipment for the activities they will be having. Need to decide if it will be feasible to put removable lines down for pickleball and scheduling staff, making sure we have enough people to cover. Possibly getting AED (Automated external defibrillator) or having access to the AED the entire time gym is opened. They had questions about having a block party in Oct. & Nov. Ms. Ayers asked about the town joining an association. Mayor stated town would have to vote on it.

Ms. Ayers stated as an affiliate it would cost \$25.00 annually. She further stated she recommends that we become a part of ARPA (Alabama Recreation & Parks Association) that way he can begin networking with other parks & recreations and they can assist him with growth. Work session scheduled Sept 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00PM-6:30PM.

**Streets & Cemetery:** Chairperson Garstka reported speed cushions have been delayed due to staffing issues he was notified this week we're on standby.

**RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS AND OTHER BUSINESS:**

Attorney Caleb Ballew stated he will look at sales tax on a legal stand point plans to also contact the Alabama League of Municipalities.

Councilmember Hopkins asked if they were required to submit a copy of the Statement of Interest to the town. Mayor Caudle stated no town does not have to have a copy.

Councilmember Ragland asked if the town employees were receiving a 3% salary increase per the mayor's suggestion if so in his opinion that's not enough. He stated we have an assistant secretary that has been her two years making \$14.00hrly. Mayor Caudle stated we do not have an assistant clerk we have a water clerk. Mr. Ragland made the suggestion that she should be making \$17hrly. Councilmember Ayers asked is that not going to be discussed at the work session. Mayor Caudle stated salary increases take place in October the new fiscal year. Councilmember Hopkins asked what her title is. Mayor Caudle stated she worked for the water department part-time for a year collecting money now she's full-time. She went from \$12.00hrly to \$14:00hrly. Councilmember Hopkins asked if we have a comparison for the clerk's position from another city or town that does the same work. No response.

Motion by Councilmember Ragland that we pay the assistant clerk \$17hrly. Councilmember Garstka seconded the motion. Roll call, Ragland-yes, Hopkins-no, Garstka-yes, Ayers-no, Whitman-no and Caudle-no. Motion did not pass.

Councilmember Ragland stated there was a good write up in the paper about the Mayor of Triana and her town's growth. He stated it's growing in population and houses it's not growing for the workers or nothing. Mayor Caudle asked Councilmember Ragland what was he bringing to the town to help with growth.

Mr. Ragland replied himself.

**Public Comments:**

Patsy Parvin asked the Council to look at adding additional fees to the water bills and have it earmarked for the Fire Dept only. She stated she would like to see ground turned for a new fire department while we're still under the County. She further stated the citizens of Triana needs a Fire Dept.

Councilmember Ragland stated he does not think the residents will pay the increase the water bills are high as it is.

Theresa Nelson stated the clinic building needs power she stated it's important that this is done as part of their grant requirement for the clinic building, they are running out of time grant deadline is Oct 31st. Mayor Caudle stated the wiring for the clinic building has been inspected and CO sent to Huntsville Utilities. The clerk was asked to contact Huntsville Utilities about the deposit.

Roy Seay stated he would like to see council come up with suggestions to building a fire department. He challenged Council to get with the Fire Chief and himself to see what can be done.

Marvalene Freeman stated this city has always supported the Recreation Dept through volunteers but that she has not heard but one Councilmember to be in support of the Fire Dept. or hiring anymore Policemen.

She stated Ervin Lane was blocked on last Saturday the County was called out to assist with the crowd. She stated if we had more policemen, they would not have had to call the County. She further stated she was a victim to a fire her shed burned down had there been more firemen her building could have been saved. Council needs to stop discussing it and start doing something about it. We need more protection. She doesn't see a lot of concern. City Officials are to protect. Councilmember Ragland is the only one that shows concern. She asked how many additional homes are being built. Councilmember Ragland stated about 900. Ms. Freeman stated we don't have the protection to serve them. Councilmember Hopkins stated she does not think the council is not in support of getting additional fire and police it's something they have been discussing for some time. They are trying to figure out how to get sustainable revenue so that we can continue to pay the firemen and police officers. Their number

one priority right now is fire protection we have one Fire Chief. She has been talking about and looking for grant funding to support bringing in additional firefighters. Ms. Freeman asked what the balance in the General Fund is. Ms. Hopkins stated she does not have a recent Bank Statement. Mr. Ragland stated we have \$3.5mill. Ms. Hopkins stated that does not show the true story. That money is already allocated.

Alicia Glover asked the Council does the budget allows for additional firemen and police officers. Mayor Caudle stated they are working on finalizing the budget. Ms. Glover asked about towns last census. Mayor Caudle the last census shows town's population to be 2890 we are the third in the County.

Ms. Glover stated in reference of this clerk who is working full-time and Mr. Ragland feels she needs to be making more than \$14:00hrly, she asked what is he basing it on. Mr. Ragland stated skills, work and labor. Ms. Glover stated you have to look at her duties. She suggested to Mr. Ragland that when you bring in a recommendation that you need to have those things in mind based on some other municipalities with similar size and duties that particular clerk is doing. Mr. Ragland stated that was not done when hiring the building inspector or the Park & Rec. Coordinator. He also stated council got a 100% raise. Ms. Ayers stated that was done through the prior council.

Ms. Glover asked about the AL Power Grant, how much is it and what will it be used for. Councilmember Hopkins stated it would be used under the Arts and Humanity through Parks & Rec. it would be submitted to do a community type mural. We applied previously but it did not get approve. The project has to be sustainable and revocable for other communities and it needs to incorporate all of the communities, the seniors and young people need to be engaged in doing the mural. They don't specify the amount of the grant it will be based on the budget they come up with for that project.

Patsy Parvin made the statement that none of the grants have been funded. Ms. Hopkins stated the AL Power Grant has not been submitted but that she bought another grant to the table that the mayor wrote for \$112,000 that grant did get funded. We applied for a grant through AARP that did not get approve. Mayor stated we are still waiting on the Police Grant which we should know something in early October or November. Ms. Hopkins stated there is another grant we're working on called Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) that is specifically for Firefighters.

Moved and properly seconded to adjourn.

Date approved Sept. 27, 2021  
Sharron Humphrey  
Sharron Humphrey, Town Clerk/Treasurer

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Mayor or Chair Pro Tempore

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