

Town of Triana Regular Council Meeting
Monday, November 22, 2021
6:30PM

Mayor called the meeting to order. The clerk called the roll, Councilmembers George Ragland, Erica Hopkins, Jason Garstka, Casey Whitman, Levoneia Ayers and Mayor Mary Caudle. Members present constituted a quorum. Legal counsel Caleb Ballew and the clerk Sharron Humphrey were also present.

Motion by Councilmember Ayers to approve the minutes dated November 8, 2021 with the necessary corrections. Councilmember Hopkins second the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Caudle's Report: We did not get approved for the Cops Grant. Chief Powell was asked to still put the job announcement out to hire a Police Officer. We are having some work done to the building, mortar and bricks are being used to fill in the cracks. We received a one-time appropriation from the Madison County Commission District 2 in the amount of \$250,000 to go towards the sewer upgrades. Congratulated our Fire Chief Hardin on his first baby delivery in Triana and Officer Zivat who saved an infant's life by doing CPR. They both have received certificates.

Councilmember Hopkins asked if they gave a reason why we didn't receive the Grant. Mayor stated no reason was given. Two cities in Alabama received the grants the rest went to other states.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Fire & Police: Chairperson Ragland reported the Fire Dept responded to 2 fire alarms and 18 emergency medical services.

Finance: Chairperson Hopkins presented the Bank Statement ending October 31, 2021. Motion by Councilmember Hopkins to approve the Bank Statement as presented. Councilmember Ayers second the motion. Motion carried. Ms. Hopkins reported the Budget session held on Nov. 15th on the Administrative and Utilities went well they have some updates to plug into the budget. The next budget session will be held on Nov. 29th.

Utility: Chairperson Whitman reported street light installation is moving forward in Brookhaven. 811 came out and did the markings. Not sure if Rivers Landing has had their lines marked. Contractors still working on sewer project.

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Ayers reported the 6 & under Triana Warriors won the NAAFY League Championship and the 8 & under won NAAFY Eastern Conference. They will have their end of season banquet on the Dec. 5th.

The Park and Rec Coordinator informed her he had seven participants today at the day camp. The day camp will run from Nov. 22-24 from 7:30AM to 3:30PM. He is also working on some other ideas and activities that he will discuss with the mayor and they will be brought to the council to be added to the budget.

Streets & Cemetery: Chairperson Garstka reported he has submitted a quote for the traffic sign for 6th and Zierdt Road.

Resolutions, Ordinances, Orders and Other Business:

Mayor stated town had a Public Hearing on Nov. 8th on increasing the sales tax from 2% to 3.5% our attorney was asked to research the proper procedure for this.

Attorney Ballew reported in doing his research the procedure looked easy. He called and discussed the issue with the Alabama League and learned that it was easy. The tax increase can go into effect on the 1st day of the third month after the Ordinance is passed and the Dept. of Revenue receives notice. The Dept. of Revenue is notified because they collect taxes on the town's behalf charging a small fee.

Mr. Ballew stated there are two types of taxes in the 1996 Ordinances, the gross sales taxes and special taxes called the excise taxes on specific types of sales or goods (agricultural services mining, sale of automobiles and touch of tangible items). Everything about the method, frequency, the manner of the way taxes was collected should be left the same we should just increase the rate. Mayor Caudle stated everyone should have a copy for

their review. She stated they just wanted to introduce the ordinance tonight to see if anyone had any questions. It will be considered and approved at the next meeting. Attorney Ballew stated any questions can be directed to him personally anytime during the week. He did confirm with the league on the procedure. Mayor stated with the attendance at the Public Hearing they did not have anyone to oppose it nor did they receive anything in writing opposing it.

Councilmember Ragland asked if town was having a Christmas parade. Mayor stated we partner with the church. The last correspondence she received was that they were still afraid of Covid-19. As of right now she does not know but she will reach out to Miss Alexis and let him know. Mr. Ragland suggested having something in the gym for the kids. Mayor stated she will reach out to her and if she doesn't then the council will come together and figure something out.

Councilmember Hopkins asked if council does anything for the staff. Mayor Caudle stated Wayman is planning a breakfast on Wednesday if any of the council want to come and donate towards that then they are welcome.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Marvelene Freeman stated it would be nice if they did something for the community to bring some spirit back. Also, she would like for the town to get on the cemetery parking so the cars will not be parked on the graves. Mayor stated she totally agrees no one should be parking on any of the graves.

Bernetta Harris-Richardson asked how much money the city received from the County Commission District II for the sewer. Mayor Caudle stated \$250,000 for the sewer upgrade, a one-time appropriation we had requested for assistance. Councilmember Ragland stated to add \$162,000, Covid-19 money we received from the County. We are getting closer to the million needed to complete the sewer project.

Councilmember Ayers asked if we addressed the parking lot light and the street light at 6th and Record. Mayor Caudle stated we did; one needed a blub and the timing needed changing to come on.

Marvelene Freeman stated she would sure like for some action to be done at the cemetery so she won't have to be repeating herself. Mayor Caudle stated request has been heard.

Moved and properly seconded to adjourn.

Date approved Dec. 13, 2021

Sharon Humphrey
Sharon Humphrey, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Mary Caudle
Mayor or Chair Pro Tempore