

Town of Triana Regular Council Meeting
Monday, June 27, 2022
6:30PM

The mayor called the meeting to order. Roll call, Council Members George Ragland, Jason Garstka, Casey Whitman, Levoneia Ayers, Mayor Mary Caudle. Members present constituted a quorum. Council Member Erica Hopkins arrived at 6:34pm.

Attorney Caleb Ballew and the clerk Sharron Humphrey were also present.

Approval of minutes: Motion by Council Member Whitman to approve the minutes dated June 13, 2022. Council Member Ayers seconds the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Caudle's Report: Has been working with Community Action trying to get the town registered with the state. She stated because we have our own Water Board a citizen can apply for assistance with getting their water utility paid if they qualify. She asked council if it was okay for her to continue working with Community Action. She has completed the supplication but has not submitted it wanted to get approval from council before doing so. Council gave the mayor their approval to proceed. Mayor stated once she submits the application, we will get the agreement back then she will give the official okay to move forward.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Fire & Police: Chairperson Ragland reported Fire Dept. responded to 1 outside fire, 1 structure fire, 4 alarms and 18 emergency calls.

Police Dept. traveled 2,254 miles, made 24 traffic stops, 18 warning citations, 13 citations, 36 calls for service, 1 arrest and 9 reports.

Mayor Caudle reported the new patrol car has been taken to be outfitted. The equipment and lights will also be installed. The patrol car should be on the road next week. We have received a total of \$15,000.00 to go towards another patrol car.

She met with Senator Orr on last week he stated he would be making a donation not sure of the amount. She has asked Chief Powell to go ahead and be looking for another patrol car like the one we just purchased.

Met with USDA on today asked Chief Hardon to join them. Still working on the grant loan application, it looks like \$50,000 in grant money is the most we could get the rest would be a loan. We are still working on the feasibility on if we will be able to afford it. Plans to give an update once she has more information.

She has sent letters to Senator Shelby, Senator Tuberville and Congressman Mo Brooks asking for some assistance from their direct funds. Commissioner Strong stated once we get going, he will help he didn't promise any money, but he would do something.

Finance: Chairperson Hopkins reported the Finance Committee met on June 23 to discuss the minimum prices for some of the items they wish to auction off. Three of the items are on hold waiting for a clearance. Discussed a resolution to sell the property.

The Committee came up with the following minimum bid prices that are available to sell through an auction, plan to use base prices from Kelly Blue Book:

2003 Ford F-150 Asset tag 2008 it has a salvage tag min bid \$500.00.

Yellow Backhoe Asset tag 2005 min bid \$2,000.00

2011 Ford Crown Victoria Asset tag 2086 minimum bid \$2,000.00

1977 Ford Tractor Asset tag 2026 minimum bid \$500.00

The proceeds from the sale of these items will go towards the respective departments.

Motion by Council Member Hopkins to accept the minimum bid price for assets the town is looking to auction off. Council Member Whitman seconds the motion. Roll call, Ragland-yes, Hopkins-yes, Garstka-yes, Ayers-yes, Whitman-yes and Caudle-yes. Unanimous consent, motion carried.

Utility: No Report

Park & Recreation: Chairperson Ayers reported they have had two successful weeks with the youth summer camp as well as with the senior lunch and learn program.

She has spoken with the Triana Warriors, they would like to utilize the restrooms here she had to let them know park restrooms are closed due to mold infestation. She informed them that we're waiting on the insurance adjuster to get back with us on how to move forward.

Mayor stated the insurance adjuster has been out twice, for the playground equipment and the bathroom they're working to finalize things.

Council Member Ayers stated she sent the Triana Warriors to the Town Hall and mayor to find out what they will need to do. Her suggestion would be for them to possibly do a port-or-potty rental. Mayor stated because of the leak and mold we cannot let anyone use the park bathrooms.

Mayor stated during the meeting with Senator Orr, he donated \$5,000 towards the library to help towards projects going on this to include painting or upgrades.

Streets & Cemetery: No Report

Mayor Caudle stated last meeting they had a discussion about graves, she stated the company that opens and closes for us has increased their prices.

Council Member Hopkins reported that the Finance Committee discussed at their meeting to increase the price of graves to \$1500.00 and to also do a contract with the current company. They also discussed having them do additional leveling of the dirt maybe 30-days after.

Mayor stated the reason we increased the cemetery fee is because the company that we currently use has increased their fee up to \$900.00.

Motioned by Council Member Hopkins to increase the price for cemetery upgrades up to \$1500.00 anyone that currently has an existing grave will be grandfathered in and the price would remain the same. Council Member Ragland seconds the motion. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, AND OTHER BUSINESS:

Mayor stated everyone has been sent a copy of the Ordinance on moratorium. She stated council has been discussing the possibility of placing a moratorium on large scale residential developments until we complete the second phase of the sewer project and evaluate whether we need a third water in-take. Council Member Whitman added when they last discussed the ordinance, he had stated we did not have anything pending but since that last meeting there has been.

He stated there is a developer that has been interested on and off. The property, 350 acres off Wall Triana Hwy is in the County. He has expressed an interest in purchasing it and annexing it into the town. They met with him several months ago. They have an issue with them about not having a plan to connect onto a sewer system with either the Madison or Huntsville system. There's limited water in the area. They have expressed an interest to move forward on the project. The town has not gotten any official application from the current landowner to annex that property in.

Mr. Whitman stated the developer had proposed a possible sewer solution using a private system, a miniature self-contained system for large sub-division. He is not familiar with this will bring information back to council. He stated again they have not received anything formal on this just wanted council to be aware of it
Mayor Caudle stated she is not in favor of a private sewer system, she stated we already have two sewer plants on the end. She is not in favor of putting a third one there. They are asking to put a private sewer system in the subdivision operated by their HOA.

Mr. Whitman stated he hates to close the door on development but it's something we need to do to get caught up. This will give them time to plan ahead. Public Hearing scheduled for July 11 at 5:30 to discuss placing a moratorium on large scale developments.

Attorney Caleb is still working on the cemetery deeds.

Council Member Ragland asked Mayor about the temporary help.

Mayor stated she is trying her best working with the temp agency, they had one person interested until he found out it was in Triana said it was too far. She stated if he knows anyone willing to work to send them her way.

Mr. Ragland stated in the past we've hired day laborers off the street to do work. He stated we have two people reading water meters and cutting grass they need help. It does not take 3 months to hire people.

Mayor stated she is trying to do everything she knows to do.

Council Member Ayers stated day laborers cannot drive city vehicles and they have to be supervised.

Mr. Ragland stated he can do the driving and supervise.

Mayor stated things have changed in the last 12 years.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Roy Seay stated at last council meeting he was challenged to bring something back to the council that will help the Fire Dept. He thanked Mayor Caudle for what she has done thus far, he asked the council if they have done anything individually.

Mr. Seay presented three options: Option 1, can the city take on the responsibility of the cost of mail and to produce brochure to present to each customer to ask for a donation to go towards the new fire station. Option 2, can we use a system on the utility bills such as what Huntsville do called round up which means rounding up the utility bill to the highest dollar. This would be used towards the new fire station and the ongoing billing needs. Option 3, can we impose a round up on the electric bills only for the Triana residents.
Mayor Caudle stated she does not see a problem with option 1. Option 2, we can do we just have to figure out the bookkeeping part. She stated the problem we might run in to, most of our citizens already pay more than their water bill for the credit to stay ahead. Option 3, we don't have any control over Huntsville Utilities electric bills. We can send out letters asking residents if they would be willing to round up bill to the nearest dollar.

Mr. Seay stated there is another option, he spoke with one of the firemen who informed him that he could not afford the insurance because its so high. If he's by himself he's good but if he adds his family, he cannot afford the insurance. If we didn't have the cost of that insurance, then we could put that cost towards the building.
Mayor stated the Town of Triana covers 100% of every employee's insurance the problem is that we do not cover dependent's insurance.

Council Member Ayers stated Mr. Seay is asking if the town could take payroll salary, payroll funds, payroll taxes and put it into something else. She stated she does not think that's possible in a Municipality based on fact those funds are allocated for that purpose.

Mayor Caudle stated the funds come out of General Fund we can't take out funds from that account because we've stated we need firefighter, so we need to continue to solicit to get paid firefighters.

Mr. Seay stated he will come back with other more things that they can do. We're here to work together not against each other.

Council Member Hopkins asked where the donations would go. Mr. Seay stated funds would be earmarked for the Fire Dept.

Council Member Hopkins stated she did do some preliminary research on grants on grants.gov looking for some fire department funding. There were over 900 hits that came back. It's going to take some time to find out what they qualify for. On Friday she may have some time to sit down with Shamond to go over some things.

Patsy Parvin stated she has some property in Madison and 72 on the weekends or holidays they charge more for grave opening/closing. She asked is that being considered or is it just a flat fee. Mayor stated right now they're just charging a flat fee no matter what day it's on.

Theresa Nelson asked if there was any reason why the street sign on Wall Triana & 6th was missing. Council Member Whitman stated there was one at both intersections. The storm came through and knocked it off. They had put in a repair ticket with Huntsville to come fix it. They put up one and not the other not sure why. Mayor stated we will check on it.

Ms. Nelson asked for an update on the filling in the pothole at the 2nd Landess Cir/Wall Triana. Mayor stated it on the list for repair with the County.

Beverly Love expressed concern over the gnats she stated her front vinyl is covered with gnats she can't sit on her porch because they're so bad. Mayor stated they have been spraying every other week. Madge Griffin stated there is something that the City of Huntsville can us before they flip the drying beds to help control, they gnats. She will give her the number to call.

Moved and properly seconded to adjourn.

Date approved July 11, 2022

Sharron Humphrey
Sharron Humphrey, Town Clerk-Treasurer

May La Lee
Mayor or Chair Pro Tempore