

**Town of Triana Regular Council Meeting**  
**Monday, July 10, 2023**  
**6:30pm**

The mayor called the meeting to order. Roll call:

Councilmember George Ragland – Present  
Councilmember Erica Hopkins – Present  
Councilmember Jason Garstka – Present  
Councilmember Casey Whitman – Present  
Councilmember Levoneia Ayers - Present  
Mayor Mary Caudle – Present

Members present constituted a quorum.

Legal counsel Monica Jayrov and clerk Sharron Humphrey were also present.

**Approval of minutes:** Motion by Councilmember Whitman to approve the minutes dated June 26<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Ayers second the motion. Motion carried.

**Mayor Caudle's Report:** Presented Resolution 2023-03, Authorizing the mayor to apply for the CDGB grant for the park bathroom.

**REPORTS OF STANING COMMITTEES:**

**Fire & Police:** Chairperson Ragland reported Fire Dept. responded to 2 outside fires, 5 fire alarms, 8 emergency calls.

Police Dept traveled 1,906 miles, made 24 traffic stops, 20 warning citations, 8 traffic citations, 38 calls for service. 0 arrests and 6 reports.

**Finance:** No Report

Chairperson Hopkins stated she would like to set up a work session to start preparing for the 2023-24 budget. The work session was scheduled for Friday July 21 at 6PM. She asked that everyone, if possible, to have a draft for their budgets.

**Utility:** No Report

**Parks & Recreation:** Chairperson Ayers reported Community Action Partnership wanted everyone to know they are updating their website to be more interactive. They are encouraging everyone to go to their websites to give feedback and to also submit a request for a free tablet if they have not already done so. Studio 60 , Huntsville Madison County Senior Center located on Drake Avenue has reopened. The newly renovated portion of their center after 200 days of being closed from the busted pipes. The Friends of the Triana Library are planning their end of the year reading program on Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. They are asking for permission to block the entry between 5<sup>th</sup> Street & Record and 5<sup>th</sup> & Stone from 12:00noon until 4:00PM for their activities. The library is also needing repairs to their mailbox or a replacement for one.

Ms. Ayers also reported renovations are taking place in Flamingo Park, we're getting ready to add the new piece. Hopefully construction will be completed before the week is out.

Veterans Park is looking good, they're looking at completion to be when weather permits.

**Streets & Cemetery:** Chairperson Garstka stated he would like to schedule a committee meeting to discuss the ordinance for speed limits in town. This would include making additions and modifications to the existing ordinance.

Mayor asked which streets he had in mind. Councilman Garstka stated Wall Triana from Harold Murphy to the Church areas on Swancott. Mayor reminded him that we can only look at our size , areas in the city limits of Triana. A S&C Committee meeting is scheduled for August 14<sup>th</sup> at 6PM.

**RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCE, ORDERS:**

Motion by Councilmember Whitman to approve Resolution 2023-02, Authorizing the mayor to apply or a Community Development Block Grant to upgrade the bathrooms in the park. Councilmember Garstka second the motion. Roll call, Ragland-yes, Hopkins-yes, Garstka-yes , Ayers-yes, Whitman-yes, and Caudle-yes. Unanimous consent, motion carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Stacy Tanner presents her proposal to the council, asking for support to start a Farmer Market in Triana. This will allow the residents access to fresh fruit, vegetables, crafts, and baked goods at a lower cost than a grocery store.

Councilmember Hopkins asked how often the Farmers market would take place. Ms. Tanner started every Saturday from Mid-July to around the 28<sup>th</sup> of October from 7AM-11AM.

The mayor stated Ms. Tanner wants to get started next year. This will give them time to decide on the license fee.

Councilmember Ayers asked will there be restrooms/port o potty on the outside. Mayor stated that will be something they will have to decide on.

Councilmember Hopkins asked would the vendor applications go through the town or Ms. Tanner? Ms. Tanner stated it can go either way, depending on whether they want to do this. She stated it can be emailed to her or she has them fill out the application then given for us to have on file. It all just depends on how much Triana wants to be involved with it.

Councilmember Hopkins asked Ms. Tanner if she has done this in other areas? Ms. Tanner stated she has not done farmers market but that she has a business selling plants and vegetables every Saturday at her home.

Councilmember Ayers asked would Triana be responsible for the insurance on the Farmers market. Ms. Tanner stated the way the insurance would be every person would oversee their own insurance for the 1million occurrence per two million aggregates on every vendor.

Mayor stated we would have liability insurance for our property but that this is insurance the vendors would have been for something they cook or if someone gets sick from their canned preserves.

Councilmember Hopkins asked in the event of an emergency, and we need to use the storm shelter how would that work. Mayor stated they would have to shout down. Ms. Tanner stated they will not open if there's inclement weather predicted. They will cancel for that day; she stated the vendors would be responsible for providing a valid email or phone number.

Mayor stated everyone has her number if they need to contact her to discuss the proposal further. She also stated they will meet later to discuss fees.

Councilmember Hopkins asked where this would fall from a committee standpoint.

Mayor stated they will all be responsible for it. The council agreed that this is a good idea.

Councilmember Ragland asked the mayor to explain a statement she made in the minutes regarding, she voiced her opinion on what's best for the town.

Mayor stated she made the stated she voiced her opinion during the Public Hearing and the way she would vote if she voted would be in the best interest of the town. She asked isn't that how he votes, what's best for the town. Councilman Ragland stated abstaining is not voting your opinion.

Mayor stated they all should vote in the best interest of the town. Councilman Ragland asked has she had a meeting with the council to explain and she what's the best interest for the town. Mayor stated no more than the meeting held here and the Public Hearing.

Councilman Ragland stated he's here to discuss the zoning. He stated he's been to the Public Hearing and the zoning meeting. The people spoke and the majority stated they were okay with having a restaurant. He stated next, they had a zoning meeting and most of the members voted to change the zoning from a R-1 to a B-1 now it's up to the council to approve the rezone. He stated he made a motion at the council meeting last month and did not get a second. He stated since the mayor does not know what the best interest of the town is he will speak on what's best for the town.

Mr. Ragland stated raise time is coming up, we have a \$3million dollar grant/loan coming up. We have two policeman and two firemen we have been waiting over two years to hire a more fireman/policeman. He stated we will not get a policeman to work here for \$20hrly . We have a property owner on Landess Cir who wants to generate money for Triana by opening a restaurant. He stated the restaurant will bring in a few thousand dollars. That money can be put on the police/fireman salary. Two fireman/two policeman will not give the town 24hr 7 days a week protection.

Motion by Councilmember Ragland to recommend the rezoning of the property on Landess Cir. to commercial. Councilmember Whitman second the motion. Roll call vote, Ragland-yes, Garstka-no, Hopkins-no, Ayers-no, Whitman-no and Caudle-abstain.

Councilman Ragland stated he has never seen a Mayor and Council that you cannot work with.

Mr. Ragland stated when Mr. Bracey came done and presented his report the mayor and Council did not say anything but when the discussion about the vegetable garden was presented Council was nice and in support of. Mr. Ragland stated everyone agreed about bringing revenue into the town now that there's a chance to bring revenue into the town, they don't want it. Mr. Ragland stated when they go to the bank to borrow money, he's going to take the minutes up with him to let them know they have a chance to bring money into the town, but they don't want it. He stated we are not going to get a policeman to work for \$20hrly, we had one employee working for \$20hrly he left and went to Madison now making \$23hrly. We could have given him \$23hrly. Right now, we don't need additional policeman or fireman until something happens, and you don't know when something will happen. He stated the County is going to get tired of coming-out here. The HSV Fire or Martin Road FD is coming out now; sooner or later they will get tired. We're growing in population and houses, nothing else. He stated the town turning a few thousand dollars he asks can anyone elaborate on that.

Councilmember Ayers asked if all the actual statements in our council meeting in the minutes were verbatim because they need to be.

Councilmember Ragland stated the following: we have a man that wants to generate money for the town it does not make a difference if you're red or black because he's black you all are setting the civil rights movements back 50 years. You all are putting the black man at the back of the bus. The council has the right to vote and free speech, none of y'all said nothing. This has been going on for 6 months.

He was in the Town Hall and Mr. Bracey came in, he stated to him that he was meeting with the mayor and Casey. He told Mr. Bracey he did not know anything about it. He stated they met with the man they should have told him they want no part of it. Mayor stated she has never met with Mr. Bracey.

Mr. Ragland stated as mayor of the town she has members of the council intimidated. Everything that she says the council goes along with it.

Councilmember Ragland left the meeting at 7:05PM

Councilmember Ayers presented model resolution ACT 2023-107. Motion by Councilmember Ayers to adopt model resolution ACT 2023-03 for the local unit Retirees and beneficiaries of deceased retirees . The estimated cost is \$816.00 for the one-time bonus. Councilmember Garstka second the motion. Roll call, Hopkins-yes, Garstka-yes, Whitman-yes, Ayers-yes, and caudle-yes. Motion carried.

Councilmember Hopkins stated she received notice that the Survey Monkey account was expiring. She stated the last prescription she paid it out of pocket. She stated the new subscription is \$1400.00. Mayor stated they can discuss the need, plans of use and what we will do with it during the work session.

Ms. Hopkins stated, FYI, we may use the assess to do data that's in there.

**PUBLIC:**

Roy Seay asked if the Boys and Girls Club was active in Triana.

Mayor stated no, we have our youth camp. She stated there's a Boys and Girls Club active in Williams School.

Mr. Seay asked why the Boys & Girls Club moved out of Triana. Mayor stated for larger space.

Ms. Monica Jayrov, with Martinson & Beason filling in for Caleb Ballew apologized for being late.

Moved and properly seconded to adjourn.

Date Approve July 24, 2023

Sharron Humphrey  
Sharron Humphrey, Town Clerk-Tres

May Caudle  
Mayor or Chair Pro Tempore