

Town of Triana Regular Council Meeting
Monday, January 22, 2024
6:30PM

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pro Tempore Whitman. The clerk called the roll.

Councilmember Ragland – Present
Councilmember Hopkins-Present
Councilmember Garstka-Present
Councilmember Whitman-Present
Councilmember Ayers-Present
Mayor Mary Caudle – Absent

Members present constituted a quorum.

Legal counsel Caleb Ballew was present via zoom and the clerk Sharron Humphrey was present.

Motion by Councilmember Hopkins to approve the minutes dated Jan. 8, 2024. Councilmember Garstka second the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Caudle's Report: No Report

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Fire & Police: Chairperson Ragland reported Fire Dept responded to 1 outside fire, 1 structure fire, 7 fire alarms, 13 emergency calls and 1 HazMat.

Police Dept. traveled 1,666 miles, made 26 traffic stops, 24 warning citations, 11 traffic citations, 14 calls for service, 0 arrests and 2 reports.

Council Member Whitman thanked the fire and police officers for what they did for us during the ice storm.

Finance: Councilmember Hopkins presented the Bank Reconciliation Statement ending Dec. 31, 2023. Motion by Councilmember Hopkins to approve the Bank Reconciliation Statement. Councilmember Ayers second the motion. Motion carried.

Councilmember Whitman stated Mayor Caudle discovered that in other nearby municipalities they give their essential workers a 5% pay incentive for working during hazardous, emergency or state of emergency like we had last week. The mayor is asking the council to adopt this going forward and to make it retroactive for last week for those that worked during the winter shutdown.

Councilmember Hopkins asked, "Do we know who worked during the shutdown. Councilman Whitman stated police and fire. Chris our maintenance worker was out checking on water issues and Sharron was working from home.

Ms. Hopkins asked do we know what the estimated cost will be. Councilmember Whitman stated he does not but that it would be 5% of their hourly rate.

Motion by Councilmember Hopkins to approve a 5% incentive for critical workers working during emergency or a disaster. Councilmember Garstka second the motion carried. Motion carried.

Utility: Chairperson Whitman reported we had a couple of issues due to the cold weather. He stated Madison Utilities came out and got the issues resolved. We had several customers that had pipes to freeze up on their side.

We are waiting for valves to come in for the new sewer project. We are also still waiting on several streetlights for Huntsville Utilities to install.

Parks and Recreation: No Report

Streets & Cemetery: No Report

Councilmember Garstka thanked Councilmember Whitman for using his truck to pull a vehicle out of the ditch in Towne Lakes. He also went around and checked for water leaks. He also thanked the mayor for coordinating with Commissioner Haraway on various potholes that needed to be addressed.

RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS AND OTHER BUSINESS:

Philip Jordan, Communications Director at the Alabama Humanities Alliance addressed council on the Smithsonian coming to Triana. Mr. Jordan stated they have a project called, museum on main street which is a part of the Smithsonian Institution. They select host sites around the states to host these exhibits. Triana is just 1 in 5 communities hosting the current Smithsonian Exhibit. The grand opening is Feb. 15th. The exhibit from the Smithsonian has a natural prospective. He stated Friends of the Library, and the Historical Society are bringing the local programing the celebrates the history, the culture, and the communities Triana needs. He stated they provide lots of grants for humanities around the state. They are looking forward to being here on the 15th of Feb. He stated if the council needs anything from them that they would be happy to collaborate.

Councilmember Hopkins stated she is excited to see it coming to Triana she asked, have we invited other elected officials. Councilman Whitman stated he does not know. She stated it would be great to get others around communities to support it.

Chief Powell thanked Fire Chief Hardin and Fireman Jonathan Bush for their help on last week during the ice storm. He also thanked Commissioner Haraway.

The Chief stated there were a few issues that came up during the ice storm. He is recommending the town purchase all-wheel drive vehicles because the rear wheel vehicle does not work well on snow/ & ice. Other agencies parked their rear-wheel-drive vehicles because they did not respond well during the ice storm. Also, we need an alternative method of purchasing fuel and something put into place for tire safety.

Council Member Whitman suggested Fire & Police and Admin need to work on procedures, figure out what is needed and bring them back for council approval. He stated the only thing to be approved is purchasing temporary gas cards and gas storage. He will talk with Shamond and ask about gas storage.

Next Monday, Jan 29th at 6:30 a work session is scheduled to discuss Bingo.

Public Comments:

Roy Seay asked does the town has a budget for non-emergency situations when the Police and Fire Dept have to go out. Councilmember Whitman stated the town has already passed the budget this year for salaries.

Mr. Seay stated there was a resident that passed away on the last evening, he heard the call on his radio but no one from Triana responded. He asked what we are doing to get more help. He knows the Fire Dept hrs. have been cut, so he asked if there was a budget to hire more firemen. We do not want to lose the firemen that we have. We have made great progress since these two guys have been hired, he would hate for us to lose them.

Councilmember Ayers stated the town is advertising and the town does have the funding to hire.

Betty Williams stated the Smithsonian is coming to Triana. She thanked Philip Jordan for coming out to visit Triana. She also thanked Raden Rush, Laura, and Philip. She stated the setting-up for the exhibit is hard work. She thanked Humanities for selecting the Town of Triana to display this exhibit.

Mrs. Williams announced that they have another workshop, the Teachers Workshop scheduled for Feb 23rd from 9:30-3:30 at the St. Paul UMC.

Councilmember Hopkins asked how they were marketing the event. Mrs. Williams stated they have sent mailers, posters sent to all church around neighborhood and schools our kids attend.

Councilmember Hopkins suggested doing a bulk mail-out, mailing it out to everybody and challenging the council to invite 10 people.

Roy Seay thanked everyone that came out to Juanita's Toy Drive.

Moved and properly seconded to adjourn.

Date approved Feb. 12. 2024

Sharon Humphrey
Sharon Humphrey, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Mary C. C. C.
Mayor or Chair Pro Tempore