MINUTES

GREENVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

Regular Session, June 12, 2017, 6:00 PM

CITY HALL, 154 SW OLD MISSION AVENUE, GREENVILLE FL 32331

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Calvin Malone, Council Member Joi Collins, Council Member Brandi Seabrooks, and Council Member Barbara Dansey

ALSO PRESENT: Jim McCroskey, Town Manager

Kimberly Reams, Town Clerk

Hakili Washington, Public Works – Fire Chief

Jim Parrish, Grants Consultant

Kovacherich Arnold

1. Call to Order

After prayer by Pastor Jeff Bailey and the pledge, Mr. Malone called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Mayor then passed the gavel to Vice-Mayor Brandi Seabrooks to run the meeting.

1. Citizens Participation: Ms. Teresa Harville and Mr. Bobby Hutchinson stated they had been participating in the newly formed Neighborhood Watch Group. Ms. Harville stated that they were proposing that the city designate funds to employ the Sheriff’s Department for an additional number of hours weekly that would be in addition to what the Sheriff already has in place. Mr. Hutchinson stated that he believes that this would be more feasible than the COPS grant. Ms. Hinton stated that the investment would be around $18,000 to $20,000 per year.

MOTION: Ms. Collins moved to amend the agenda to allow for discussion of off-duty law enforcement; second by Ms. Dansey. Motion passed 3-1.

YEA NAY

Mr. Malone X

Ms. Collins X

Ms. Seabrooks X

Ms. Dansey X

Ms. Brown stated that over the last few meetings the council had been discussing procedures. She went on to ask if there were plans or would there be a workshop to address these issues. Ms. Brown stated that she wanted to in some way encourage the council to continue its efforts to improve the Town of Greenville. She went on to say that regarding the absences and attendance she hoped that council would show compassion and forgiveness and get that issue resolved.

Ms. Lula Fead stated that she had a concern. She stated that on Saturday (sic) morning she hardly had any water pressure and she wanted to know what the procedure was for reporting after hours. Town Manager, Jim McCroskey stated that the Public Works Director would address this during his report.

Mr. Billy Tolar stated that his mother and grandfather were resting in the cemetery and he just left there and there was no water on. Mr. Tolar stated that they tried to keep it mowed, watered etc. Mr. Tolar just wanted to know how to get access to the water. Mr. McCroskey, Town Manager stated that if he would just call City Hall ahead the water would be turned on.

1. Review of Council Member Joi Collins Charter Issue (Absences) Town Attorney Opinion: Mr. Schnitker stated that the council had asked him to do a study and give a report on absences of council members with respect to the Town Charter. Mr. Schnitker went on to say there had been previous discussion about attendance by phone and it is his opinion that if a council member attended a meeting by phone they were not absent. Mr. Schnitker stated that his study was based on minutes provided by the Town Manager and Town Clerk. Mr. Schnitker stated that he had given a chart to council and to summarize, Mr. Arnold’s seat automatically became vacant October 17, 2016 based on the Town Charter. He went on to state that Mr. Malone had missed three meetings and his seat would’ve become vacant in February 2017 but was re-elected in March 2017 so he is validly existing as a council member. He went on to say that Ms. Collins has 2 absences. Mr. Schnitker stated that this was his opinion. Mr. Schnitker stated that the Charter allows for the council to appoint someone to take the vacant seat and that person would serve until the next election. No action was taken at this time.
2. Council Member Dansey request for Attorney General Opinion: Mr. Schnitker stated that at the last meeting he was asked to draft an attorney general opinion. He went on to state that Ms. Dansey had called him and requested two other attorney general opinion drafts. Mr. Schnitker stated that a memorandum of law had to be submitted with each attorney general opinion and that would be at a cost to the Town. Mr. Schnitker stated that the Attorney General would probably not give an opinion on the Town Charter. Mr. Schnitker stated that council may or may not want to pursue this at this time. Ms. Collins asked if a Special Session could be scheduled to discuss some procedures going forward. After brief discussion the following motion was made.

MOTION: Ms. Dansey moved to table the three attorney general opinions at this time and to schedule a Special Session to discuss rules going forward regarding absences and the three attorney general opinions; second by Ms. Collins. Motion passed unanimously.

YEA NAY

Mr. Malone X

Ms. Collins X

Ms. Seabrooks X

Ms. Dansey X

A Special Session was scheduled for June 19, 2017 at 5:00 PM.

1. Consent Agenda: The following motion was made.

MOTION: Mr. Malone moved to approve consent agenda items a through d; second by Ms. Collins. Motion passed unanimously.

YEA NAY

Mr. Malone X

Ms. Collins X

Ms. Seabrooks X

Ms. Dansey X

1. Proposed Millage Rate and Budget: Mr. McCroskey stated that council had been given a draft of the budget and proposed millage rate in their packets. Mr. McCroskey stated that it was a balanced budget. MR. McCroskey stated that he was proposing the millage rate go to 10. He went on to state that he felt an increase in the millage rate was in the best interest of the Town. After brief discussion the following motion was made.

MOTION: Mr. Malone moved to accept the tentative budget and millage rate of 10; second by Ms. Collins. Motion passed unanimously.

YEA NAY

Mr. Malone X

Ms. Collins X

Ms. Seabrooks X

Ms. Dansey X

1. Discuss and possibly approve COPS Grant Application for Police Officer: Mr. McCroskey stated that it was his understanding that this item was to be tabled. The following motion was made.

Motion: Ms. Dansey moved to strike the COPS Grant Application from the agenda; second by Ms. Collins. Motion passed unanimously.

YEA NAY

Mr. Malone X

Ms. Collins X

Ms. Seabrooks X

Ms. Dansey X

1. Discuss and possibly establish Town Policy on Storage of personal items in Town Buildings: Ms. Seabrooks stated that in touring the town property she has seen personal items stored in some of the buildings. Ms. Seabrooks asked Mr. Schnitker if we could come up with a policy to address this issue. After some discussion it was decided that Mr. Schnitker will put something together and bring it back at the next meeting.
2. Resignations of Town Manager and Town Attorney: Mr. McCroskey stated that he had already resigned but that he would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to work for the city. Mr. Schnitker stated that he has enjoyed being the attorney for the town but he did not enjoy the issue of the absences and the council not getting along. He went on to say his opinions are unbiased. Mr. Schnitker stated that he would stay on until they hired a new attorney or until August 31, 2017. He went on to say that if things got back to where things were a year ago he would be happy to stay. No action was taken at this time.
3. Greenville Neighborhood Watch Proposal for Law Enforcement: Ms. Collins stated that she had attended some of the meetings and thinks it is a good thing for the community. Ms. Patricia Hinton asked if Council had a chance to look at their proposal. Ms. Hinton stated that they had initially looked at the COPS grant and saw where it would go away in three years. She went on to say the basic idea is that the Town of Greenville needs to step up as a community. That means that we will have someone here under the supervision of the Madison County Sheriff’s Office and they could be here a set eight hours and the rest would be flexible. Possibly up to 12 to 18 hours a week. Ms. Hinton stated that it could be $30/hour. Ms. Hinton went on to say that it was a realistic, affordable plan. Ms. Hinton stated that what they were proposing is to commit for now and then work out the details. Mr. Schnitker stated that if this is the route the Town wanted to take the way to do that would be to enter an Interlocal Agreement with the Sheriff’s Office. After some discussion the following motion was made.

MOTION: Ms. Dansey moved to have Town Attorney and Town Manager prepare an Interlocal Agreement with the Sheriff’s Office; second by Mr. Malone. Motion passed unanimously.

YEA NAY

Mr. Malone X

Ms. Collins X

Ms. Seabrooks X

Ms. Dansey X

Department Reports

* Public Works: Mr. Washington stated that the low water pressure yesterday morning was due to both wells running at the same time and it caused an air lock. He stated that the pressure was back by 8:15 am. The Chatterbox was hooked up but it did not work. Mr. Washington stated that he didn’t know what was wrong but would have someone come check it out. The emergency contact number will be the number for City Hall. Calls will be forwarded to the appropriate on-call staff for after hour emergencies.
* Fire Department: No report.
* Recreation Board: Mr. Bell reported that the “Be Out” day was successful and the first game is this weekend.
* Grants Consultant: Written Report attached. Mr. Parrish stated that the WWTP project was coming along well. He went on to say that rain had caused some delays. Mr. Parrish stated that we are on schedule to finish by the end of October. Mr. Parrish went on to state that this was the last project he would be working on for the Town. He went on to say that it was time for him to start slowing down.
* Town Manager: Mr. McCroskey thanked the staff for working with him and that they have been very supportive of him.
* Town Attorney: Mr. Schnitker stated that he had enjoyed working with both Jim’s and the city staff.
* Town Clerk: No report.

Mr. Malone moved to adjourn; second by Ms. Collins.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kimberly M. Reams

Town Clerk