

Town of Lovettsville

Town Council Minutes of Regular Meeting July 9, 2009

Mayor Elaine Walker called the regular meeting of the Lovettsville Town Council to order at 8:10 PM on Thursday, July 9, 2009.

Present at Meeting

- Mayor Elaine Walker
- Council Members DiJon Jones, Shaun Staley, Robert Zoldos
- Town Manager Keith Markel
- Town Attorney Liz Whiting {*arrived at 8:40 PM*}
- Town Clerk Judy L. Kromholz

Absent

- Council members Charlotte Coleman, Scott Dockum, Mike Senate
- Treasurer Lance Gladstone

Audience

Among those present in the audience were Bing Lam, Frank Kromholz, Tiffany Carder, and Amanda Staley

Call to Order/Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation

Mayor Walker led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

Mayor welcomed Loudoun County Deputy Sheriff Vanessa Mertz-Myers. Deputy Mertz-Myers noted that she has been made aware of the traffic and speeding issues in Town and will continue to address these ongoing issues.

Comments from the Public

Mayor Walker called on public speakers in the order in which they signed up to speak.

Bing Lam stated that four months ago he came to Town Council and asked for a meeting. He stated that at that time Mayor Walker said they could meet if Elm Street Development was also included in the discussions. Mr. Lam stated that the joint meeting never took place, although he himself attended a meeting with Elm Street he felt was unsatisfactory. Mr. Lam stated that he had been promised a second meeting that had never occurred. He is asking for that meeting again.

There were no other speakers.

Additions/Deletions/Modifications to the Agenda

Mayor Walker suggested that minutes and the Treasurer Report be tabled until the next Council meeting because three Council members were absent. The Council agreed.

Presentations

No presentations were scheduled.

Approval of Town Council Minutes

The following minutes were tabled.

- Town Council Regular Monthly Meeting – January 22, 2009
- Town Council Public Hearing – January 29, 2009
- Town Council Reconvened Monthly Meeting – January 29, 2009

Report from the Treasurer

- Treasurer's Report – April 2009

Treasurer Gladstone had been excused from attending and the report was tabled.

Action and discussion Items

A. New Town Meadows – Sewer Tap Reservation Letter of Credit Release

Manager Markel presented the draft resolution that had been prepared by Attorney Whiting for review. He stated that the full bond reduction for New Town Meadows Phase I will be submitted later this summer. Manager Markel reviewed the procedure that will be followed for releasing this bond.

B. Cigarette Tax Ordinance

Manager Markel explained that Attorney Whiting had prepared these documents based on those used in other towns. The Town started collecting this tax on July 1, 2009 at the Mini-mart and the 7-11 and should receive its first tax receipts at the end of August.

C. Meals Tax Ordinance

Manager Markel stated that the Town hoped to have this in place by August 1, 2009 and reiterated that not for profit venues such as the Lovettsville Elementary School are exempt. Manager Markel explained that the delay in implementation will give businesses time to prepare, get their registers reprogrammed, etc. Councilman Staley asked about the applicability of this tax to outside vendors such as lunch wagons and the vendors at Oktoberfest. Manager Markel will research the question and report back to Council.

Information Items

No information items were presented.

Comments from the Mayor and Town Council

Councilman Staley stated that he had concerns about two zoning issues that he had already discussed with Manager Markel. Councilman Staley stated that he believes the deck ordinance may be too restrictive in its requirements for distance from the property line and that the requirements for fencing on corner lots may need to be adjusted to permit higher fences for security and privacy concerns, although the visibility issue needs to be factored in.

Councilman Staley stated that he would like to see the Town government mail out newsletters, perhaps in conjunction with water bills. He asked if any member of the Council would be interested in working on this project. It was explained that only one third of the Town receives a water bill each month and it would be difficult to address timeliness and consistency concerns under this system.

Councilman Staley also suggested posting a summary of the action items passed at each Council meeting on the website. Councilman Jones noted that this will not address the issue of citizens being informed about or involved with Town matters before a decision is reached; they need to be involved up front.

{Attorney Whiting arrived at 8:40 PM, during the previous discussion}

Councilman Staley also asked if the Town has a budget to address the fact the clover is growing in common areas and is spreading throughout the Town.

Councilman Staley noted that the Council has had another request to meet with Elm Street Development and Mr. Entsminger and asked if it is appropriate for Council to address this issue at this time. Mayor Walker suggested that it would be more appropriate to discuss the item when more Council members were in attendance.

Councilman Jones stated that he had received some reports that there are manhole covers missing in some communities, including about three in Kingsridge. Manager Markel said that he will investigate the reports and noted that any theft should be reported to the community sheriff.

Councilman Zoldos requested help from the Council in setting up for the Movie in the Park tomorrow night beginning at about 7:00 PM.

Mayor Walker reported the following:

- The Town Association of Northern Virginia held its quarterly meeting in Lovettsville today. The meeting went very well.
- She stated that she had a good meeting with Governor Kaine about the PATH power line issue. She noted that the first public hearing in Loudoun County on this issue will be on August 5th.

- She reported that she is working on the renewal of Comcast's' franchise agreement with the Town.

Adjournment

The Council went into Closed Session at 8:50 PM after confirming with Attorney Whiting that a quorum is not necessary to hold a Closed Session.

Respectfully submitted,


Judy L. Kromholz, Town Clerk

Date Approved: October 8, 2009
No Attachments