

Minutes of the special-called meeting of the Saltville Town Council held on June 28, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall

Council: Tom Holley, Sandra Wyatt, Eugene Call, Steve Surber, and Ron Orr
David Smith was absent

Mayor:C. Todd Young

Staff: Brian Martin, Town Manager
Chris Wilcox, Police Chief
Tammy Carter, Front Office Clerk

New Business

1. Vote on the 2018-19 budget

Before the vote, the Mayor said there was misinformation floating around town concerning the resource officer at Saltville Elementary School. Even if the budget doesn't pass tonight, there will still be a town-funded officer at the school. It has never been discussed in an open meeting or a closed meeting to eliminate that position since child safety is the Council's main concern. For anyone to use child safety as an excuse for an extra officer is appalling and disappointing. He said he had received several phone calls from school administrators and the Smyth County Sheriff's Department, and that's a problem.

Last year the town had six officers, and the Council still put a resource officer in the school, and no member of the Council complained about any overtime that occurred. This played on people's emotions, and it was a bad play. With the school shootings going on today, for someone to say that if we don't have an eighth officer we won't have a resource officer, is wrong. That is the Council's decision alone. They care about the safety of the kids and teachers in the schools and, additionally, the community as a whole. This is important for people to know, so he wanted this to be part of the official record of tonight's meeting.

Councilman Surber made a motion to adopt the 2018-19 budget, and Councilman Orr seconded. The motion failed 2-3 with Councilmen Surber and Orr voting yes and Councilmembers Holley, Wyatt, and Call voting no.

The Mayor asked for authorization from the Council to have bills paid until the budget is passed. Councilwoman Wyatt made that motion, and Councilman Holley seconded. All were in favor.

Councilman-elect Bryan Morris was in the audience and asked that a special-called meeting be held on July 3, 2018 to have another vote on the budget. The Mayor set that meeting for July 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

Town Manager Brian Martin informed the Council that the shed structure at Palmer Mill was a danger to the public and needed to come down. Also, the far shelter in the Wellfields needed to come down too. There is still enough money in his discretionary account to pay for these demolitions, and the cost will be under \$500. The Council concurred this needed to be done.

Lastly, Councilman Holley made the motion to adjourn, and Councilman Call seconded. All were in favor.