

Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Saltville Town Council held on January 14, 2020 at 5:00 p.n. in the Town Hall

Council: Tom Holley, Hiram Robinson, Eugene Call, Bryan Morris, Steve Surber, and Ron Orr. Councilman Holley arrived during Citizens' Time.

Mayor: C. Todd Young

Staff: Brian Martin, Town Manager
Paul Cassell, Town Attorney
Erik Puckett, Police Chief
R.B. Henderson, Public Works Director
Tammy Carter, Front Office Clerk
Steve Johnson, Clerk/Treasurer

Councilman Call made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2019 regularly scheduled, and Councilman Orr seconded. All were in favor.

Councilman Morris made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2019 special-called meeting, and Councilman Call seconded. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Councilman Orr abstaining since he was not present for that meeting.

Citizens' Time

Lisa Bryant, Pastor of the Madam Russell United Methodist Church, told the Council about a group she and others are going to start, Mountain Movers. It would be a branch of the Appalachian Substance Abuse Coalition. The Mountain Movers are community members who come together and discuss issues that may be under-addressed regarding substance abuse and how everyone can work together to alleviate these problems.

The first meeting will be on January 30th at 5:30 p.m. in the Lions Club concession building, where dinner will be served and several people will speak. Additionally, so-called revived training will be performed. This is training for people who witness an actual overdose and the processes they need to go through to provide help to those who actually overdosed.

Jeff Johnson, who lives on Easy Street, said he received a letter from the town's attorney that stated the town was not responsible for the deteriorating condition of his driveway. Mr. Johnson had originally approached the town a couple of months prior and asked it to fix the

issue. He stated this area was not his driveway but was actually three and one half feet of town property. He has this area surveyed and it showed this particular three and one half feet was on town property, and his deed says he can't go on town property to fix it. Therefore, the Council can vote to not fix this, but he can't fix it either. He finished his discussion by saying he didn't want any special treatment but wanted the town to do what's right.

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Martin said the personnel issue that was supposed to be on Closed Session has been delayed, so he asked the Council to remove it from the agenda. Councilman Call made the motion to approve the agenda with the Closed Session removed, and Councilman Morris seconded. All were in favor.

Old Business

1. Humvee bids

The Council previously voted to put the sale of the town's Humvee back out for bid. The three newest bids were as follows:

\$3277.00 \$2526.32 \$3188.00

Police Chief Erik Puckett said those bids were lower than the original bids a couple of months ago. Councilman Morris made the motion to reject all three bids and keep the Humvee. Councilman Call seconded, and all were in favor.

2. Gillenwater property bids

The town had recently acquired the property on Court Street that was previously owned by Mary Gillenwater and put it out for bid. The bids were as follows:

\$2500.00 from Alvin Simpson \$3000.50 from Marshall Jones

Councilman Morris said he would like to see this property transferred to the SIDA and have them sell it, but Councilman Orr (the Chair of the SIDA) said it was not really a business property and would probably have to be re-zoned. Councilman Call then made the motion to accept the bid from Mr. Jones, and Councilman Surber seconded. All were in favor.

New Business

1. EMS, Inc. report

Gary Johnson spoke on the following:

- 1) The weekly meetings with all parties involved are continuing.
- 2) The DEQ report for December was submitted. The annual report detailing chloride in the river was also submitted.
- 3) The VDH report for December was submitted, and the water accountability has come down a few percentage points.
- 4) The Phase I water project is moving forward with regard to all of the meters eventually being replaced. This will help with the water accountability and should probably increase revenues, too.
- 5) The Phase II portion of the water project involves motor and pump replacement and procuring backups of the motors and pumps. Town Manager Brian Martin said this was projected to be a \$150,000 job, but the lowest bid was \$300,000. Our engineering consultants worked with VDH, so the town received an extra \$160,000 in VDH grant funding to get this project started in the next few months.
- 6) Regarding the interconnect with Washington County, Mr. Martin said that the monthly engineering meeting will be on January 27th. The Crossroads engineers have reached out to the Washington County Service Authority to provide further information on their end.
- 7) The PER that the engineers have put together through a USDA search grant will be used to prioritize projects. The gravity line across the river will be an expensive (six figure) undertaking. The town's bridge inspectors, Schwartz & Associates, have said they will inspect the abandoned one-lane bridge where that gravity line is to see if it will last another thirty or forty years. Instead of building new pilings in the river, the bridge may be able to be used to hold this gravity line. Their quote to inspect this bridge was \$2900.

Councilman Orr made the motion to have Schwartz & Associates inspect this bridge for the \$2900, and Councilman Surber seconded. All were in favor.

Committee Reports

There were no committee meetings during December.

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Martin spoke on the following:

- 1) The demo has started for the Wellness Center at the old GCS Building. He will meet with the United Way next week to discuss a feasibility study regarding a possible Phase II daycare center.
- 2) He attended the county-wide broadband meeting and the census meeting.
- 3) The 2020 boundary adjustment survey has been completed for the Census Bureau.
- 4) The two Conex buildings will arrive next week and will be placed near the salt shed.
- 5) Councilman Surber asked about road patching in Edgewood. Mr. Martin said he would contact a local contractor about this and also wanted to have patching done on the other side of the Pike and near the elementary school.
- 6) The annual Woolly Day Breakfast will be on February 1st. Councilman Orr said that Woolly is currently being given new hair and is having hydraulic issues that will, hopefully, be fixed soon.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Puckett spoke on the following:

- 1) The three recently hired officers passed their run and law-fit challenge at the Academy, but the part-time scholarship participant hurt his knee and can't start the Academy. He has been to the doctor and may see an orthopedic specialist.
- 2) He attended the DMV grant workshop in Bristol with Assistant Chief Bryan Lynch.
- 3) The new school semester has started, and Officer David Frye is the SRO at the elementary school.

- 4) The First Responders Shop-with-a-Cop at the Marion Wal-Mart took place in December. Each child got \$100 to buy whatever they wanted.
- 5) The department participated in No-Shave November and each officer donated the \$40 to the Santa's Elves First Responder Toy Drive.
- 6) Two officers could possibly be put on the U.S. Marshal Task Force. Matt Davis, the head of this body in the area, is due to call him back. There will be more information on this coming up.
- 7) There were several non-working street lights turned in to AEP for repair.

Public Works Director's Report

Public Works Director R.B. Henderson spoke on the following:

- 1) When the truck hit the pole at the Dollar General, the generators at the Town Hall and at the station on Farm Road kicked in properly.
 - 2) The vacuum purchased last summer was used a lot this month. A bunch of leaves were able to be removed from all over town.
 - 3) The town will help Little League repair the backstop at the field.
 - 4) Timers for the digesters at the wastewater plant had to be ordered, and the lights are now working at the headworks.
 - 5) The final inspection for the salt shed had been completed. The pavement will have to be sealed before the salt is placed inside. Councilman Morris asked if the town had enough salt for the rest of the winter, and Mr. Henderson said yes since the town currently had about 800 tons. But there is money in the budget to purchase more salt if it is needed.
 - 6) Lately, the lights have been on at the ballfields. Apparently, there is a softball league using the fields. Councilman Morris said he had spoken to Preston Frye, the Little League President, who has asked them to stop using the fields until the fencing is placed back. He also suggested locking the light switch box.
- Chief Puckett said he had been asked about the train bathrooms being closed. Mr. Henderson said he thought the police department opened these in the morning and closed them at night, so the Chief said they would do that.

7) Since the cleanup and remodel for the Wellness Center has started, Mr. Henderson asked what would be done with the cabinets, counters, and sinks in the kitchen area. Mr. Martin says the contract states that the contractor is entitled to any scrap metal, but everything else is town property. Councilman Morris expressed concern about this stipulation in the contract, and Mr. Martin said that the project manager, Bob Watkins, was at the Town Hall today to discuss this and also left a copy of the feasibility study for anyone to peruse.

8) There were no real issues with the storm that came through last week.

Board of Supervisors Report

There were no Supervisors present for the meeting.

Fire Department Report

Chief Jimmy Davidson thanked the town crew for helping with some damage on the Pike during the storm. The truck is in Abingdon right now after it was involved in an accident. And during last month, there were twelve calls in the county and eleven in the town.

Rescue Squad Report

The Squad had eighty six calls last month. An anonymous donor helped the books to be in the black for December, and the town contributed some of its budget allotment as well. For the last year, call volume is up over two hundred calls from the prior year. And the fire department is to be thanked for assisting the Squad with a few calls last month.

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

