

Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Saltville Town Council held on September 10, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall

Council: Tom Holley, Hiram Robinson, Eugene Call, Bryan Morris, Steve Surber, and Ron Orr

Mayor: C. Todd Young

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

Councilman Morris made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2019 regularly scheduled meeting, and Councilman Call seconded. All were in favor.

Citizens' Time

Gerald Arnold, Sr. told the Council he had recently had a yard sale that was used as a fundraiser for the students at Saltville Elementary School and Rich Valley Elementary School. Thirty percent of the proceeds went to each school's fund and twenty percent went to each school's bible study group equaling one hundred percent of the proceeds. A total of \$634.75 was raised with each school's fund getting \$200 and each school's bible study group getting \$117.37. Mr. Arnold hopes to have further yard sales to be planned by a committee, and he hopes to make this a county-wide endeavor. Each community in Smyth County will get 33 1/3 percent.

He asked the town to purchase treats for the students and teachers at Saltville Elementary and Rich Valley Elementary with the school Board's approval when the checks are delivered to each school. Lastly, he invited the Council to join in the check presentation.

Approval of the Agenda

Councilman Call made a motion to approve the agenda, and Councilman Morris seconded. All were in favor.

Northwood Baseball recognition

The Mayor presented plaques for Tyler Waddle and Austin Barlow (who was not in attendance) in honor of them being selected to the first-team all-district baseball team during the 2019 season.

Old Business

1. Fourth Avenue traffic flow

Police Chief Erik Puckett told the Council that the town could not make a street a one-way route for half of its length and two-way for the other half. Following the letter of the law, it is a violation for the people who live on Fourth to drive to Fourth's intersection with Easy Street, but it is also the officer's discretion whether or not to issue a citation. Councilman Morris said there were no signs for the property owners when they leave their houses telling them specifically not to go to Easy Street since Fourth is one-way even though they know not to enter Easy Street from McKee Street. Town Attorney Trent Crewe continued on that line of thought and said he did not think someone who received a ticket would be convicted in court since there are no signs saying one-way only. There's no one-way sign, so it is not prohibitive.

The Council decided to maintain the current status quo without any changes.

New Business

1. Northwood High School Principal Jerad Ward

Mr. Ward was unable to attend the meeting.

2. Sale of the Police Department Humvee

Assistant Chief Bryan Lynch said a replacement title for the Humvee has been obtained, so if the Council wishes, it can put out for bid. Councilman Morris made a motion to put it out for bid and suggested that its market value be available to help the Council make a better informed decision about whether or not to sell it. Councilman Call seconded, and all were in favor.

3. EMS, Inc. report

Gary Johnson spoke on the following:

- 1) The weekly meetings continue with the EMS staff and the town's staff.
- 2) The DEQ report for August was submitted, and pump #2 at the headworks was repaired.
- 3) The VDH report for August was submitted, and samples were collected for the annual VDH analysis.
- 4) The water accountability was a little higher in August due to several leaks but, overall, is still projecting down.
- 5) There was a meeting with the town's engineers to discuss water improvement projects.
- 6) The gravity sewer line across the river needs to be addressed eventually.

Committee Reports

There were no committee meetings in August, but Councilman Robinson said that next year's Labor Day Festival will be the 50th, so special plans are already in the works. He thanked Tammy Carter, Jacky Colston, Bill Haynes, Councilman Orr, the police department, and everyone who helped with this year's celebration.

The Mayor mentioned that it was *Constitution Week*, and he showed everyone a proclamation signed by the Mayors of Saltville, Marion, and Chilhowie, and the Chair of the Smyth County Board of Supervisors.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Brian Martin spoke on the following:

- 1) The town's staff worked with the Civil War Trust to obtain new signs for the Salt Park to replace the weathered signs currently there.
- 2) The town completed the annual insurance review with VML and attended their fraud/ethics workshop in Marion.

- 3) The property on Court Street has been demolished, and the area has been graded and seeded.
- 4) All elected officials are required to undergo ethics training since the Legislature passed a new law. It involves a fifty minute online video. The Mayor set a special-called meeting to view this video for September 18th at 5:30 p.m.
- 5) The litter grant application from DEQ has been completed and submitted.
- 6) The lumber has been procured to replace the rotted boards on the trestles on the Salt Trail.
- 7) The Smyth County Chamber of Commerce will have the annual Town and Country Dinner on September 26th. Those wishing to attend need to RSVP by September 16th.
- 8) Letters of support for the Northfork Sportsman's Club were signed. They are trying to get grant funds for safety equipment and trap/skeet equipment.
- 9) The SWVA Legislative Breakfast will be in Marion on October 26th.
- 10) On September 22nd the DAR will perform their wreath-laying ceremony at the Broady Cemetery.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Puckett spoke on the following:

- 1) The annual Civil War Reenactment went as scheduled with no incidents reported.
- 2) He and Assistant Chief Lynch attended the annual chief's conference in Norfolk. While gone, the department had a female TDO that went to the outskirts of Washington, D.C., and Smyth County provided a female deputy for the trip at no cost to the town.
- 3) Regarding TDO procedures in general, on October 7th all departments will go online with TDO Transport. On September 5th, Chief Puckett and Assistant Chief Lynch attended the alternative transportation meeting at the Abingdon Higher Education Center where the aspects of this program were explained. If a TDO is violent or combative, they will not be transported. Southwest Virginia has one transportation vehicle and the northern part of Virginia has two.
- 4) On September 24th, Chief Puckett, Assistant Chief Lynch and Mr. Martin will attend an open house in Marion. This facility will allow those who are borderline ECO to stay there and partake

in activities or just relax in a quiet space or watch TV. This is a pilot program that will, hopefully, cut down on the TDO time issue. It is being run by Mount Rogers Community Services.

5) Randy Surber from the Smyth County Sheriff's Office has been hired for part-time work.

6) Labor Day weekend was a success with no major incidents.

Board of Supervisors Report

Saltville's representative on the Smyth County Board of Supervisors, Roscoe Call, was absent for the meeting.

Public Works Director's Report

R.B. Henderson was working on pump repairs in Edgewood and couldn't attend the meeting.

Fire Department Report

Bryan Lynch said the Fire Department had 9 calls last month with 7 being in town and 2 in the county.

Rescue Squad Report

No one was present from the Squad. Councilman Surber mentioned that the Squad was wanting the money that was budgeted to them by the town on a monthly basis instead of on an as-needed basis. Councilman Robinson said there was supposed to have been a meeting last week of the Board, but it was cancelled. He said he was going to meet with Captain Joe Arnold in the next couple of days.

Lastly, Councilman Call made a motion to adjourn, and Councilman Morris seconded. All were in favor.

