

TOWN OF BAILEY

The Regular Meeting of the Bailey Town Board was held in the Bailey Town Hall on December 15, 2014 at 7:00pm.

The following members of the Bailey Town Board were present: Mayor Timothy Johnson, Commissioners Shelley Carroll, Harold Flora, Phillip "Rocky" Winstead, Troy Conner and Jerry Bisette.

Mayor Johnson opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance to the flag and welcomed the following guests: Gerald Coggin, Dean Holmes, McKenny Dixon, John Anthony and Ken Ripley.

The financial statement for November 2014 and minutes of November 17, 2014 were unanimously approved upon a motion by Commissioner Carroll and seconded by Commissioner Conner.

John Anthony was present to discuss the 2013-2014 yearly audit. Mr. Anthony stated that the cash had decreased by \$15,000.00, however he stated that the town had loan the Bailey/Middlesex Park \$25,000.00 and had not received reimbursement by the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Anthony stated that the water and sewer fund showed a profit (of about \$30,000.00) after depreciation. Mr. Anthony pointed out that all expenditures stayed within budget. Mr. Anthony also stated that the tax collection rate is at 96.64%. He said that this is good but not great (according to State standards). Mr. Anthony said that the vehicle tax rate has improved greatly since DMV begun collecting that tax. Mr. Anthony stated that the town had a "good solid year". He also added that the clerk was good to deal with. Mayor Johnson pointed out that the \$16,687.00 that was borrowed from the General Fund had been paid back. Mr. Anthony said that the State is really looking hard at towns that transfer money between funds. He said the State had talked about making it illegal but did not pass a bill as such. He did say that the State will make it hard to borrow money if transfers are made between funds. Mr. Anthony added that each fund needs to stand on its own. Mayor Johnson also pointed out that an enterprise fund should have been set up for the sewer rehab project.

Phillip Whitford was on the agenda to discuss the Wesley Privette Memorial Library. Mr. Whitford was absent from the meeting. Mayor Johnson stated that when the town entered into the agreement between the Braswell Memorial Library and the Wesley Privette Memorial Library the agreement said that the library would take care of minor problem but major issues would fall back to the town. Mayor Johnson said that there is a problem with the heating and air system. Commissioner Flora stated that the library was getting estimates for a new system. Ken Ripley said the heating and air system in the Wesley Privette Memorial Library is "shot".

Dean Holmes, representing Envirolink, was present to report to the board and answer questions. Commissioner Winstead stated that there are two more trees at the cemetery that should be cut down. He asked Mr. Holmes if Envirolink could cut the trees down. Commissioner Winstead felt that the trees may be rotten and could easily be taken down. Mr. Holmes said that they would look at the trees. Commissioner Bisette said let Envirolink look at the trees and get back to the board.

Public Comments section: At this time Mayor Johnson opened the floor for Public Comment.

Ken Ripley stated that the Braswell Memorial Library has expanded and has spent more money than what was expected. Mr. Ripley stated that the town board may need to consider contributing some funds to the operation of the Library as other towns are contributing to libraries in their towns. Commissioner Bisette asked if the other towns keep up the facilities. Mr. Ripley said that Spring Hope take care of the Depot (library), pays for the utilities and contributes other monies for operations. He stated that Middlesex owns their library so they keep up their building and funds the library as well. Commissioner Bisette asked how much money the county gives the library. Mr. Ripley stated that in each the small library's the county contributes \$13,500.00. Mr. Ripley stated it is an investment for the towns. He also stated that the libraries have computers and lots of people use the facility to find jobs. He added that the libraries are important to the citizens and the towns.

Old Business:

Edge St. repairs; Mayor Johnson stated that no estimates for repairs to Edge St. have been present for review.

Cleaning carpet in PD: Clean Sweep had given a quote of \$75.00 to clean an office in the Police Department. Commissioner Bisette made a motion to have Clean Sweep clean the office for \$75.00. Commissioner Carroll seconded the motion and the motion passed.

New Business:

Garbage pick-up; Mayor Johnson announced that trash pick-up for the week of Christmas will be on Friday, December 26.

Optimist Club: Mayor Johnson stated he had been approached by a member of the Optimist Club and asked if they could use the board room to hold a meeting, in February, to see if there is interest to open a chapter in Bailey. Mayor Johnson said, if the board approved the request, that he would agree to be at the February meeting. Commissioner Conner asked if this was just to recruit members and would the use of the building be only for one time. Mayor Johnson said that they have not asked for any money and just asked the board to allow them the use of the building for one time. All board members agreed to allow the Optimist Club to use the board room in February (only for one meeting).

Holiday Schedule; Mayor Johnson discussed the proposed Holiday Schedule for 2015. He stated that Veterans Day was added to the holiday schedule. Mayor Johnson stated that State, Federal and County offices are closed and the clerk is unable to get assistance on that day. He also stated that with those agencies closed the public assumes that the town hall is closed. He stated that this is a holiday that has never been on the schedule and asked the board's opinion on whether to add it to the holiday schedule or not. Commissioner Winstead stated that Veterans Day should be on the schedule. Commissioner Conner suggested advertising that the office is opened. Commissioner Bisette and Commissioner Conner agreed that the town hall should remain opened. Commissioner Winstead made a motion to close on Veterans Day and add it to the holiday schedule. Commissioner Carroll seconded the motion and the motion passed 3 to 2 with Commissioner's Carroll and Winstead voting in favor of the motion; Commissioner's Conner and Bisette opposing the motion; Commissioner Flora did not cast a vote, which in accordance with General Statues 160A-75 states "a failure to vote by a member who is physically present" "shall be recorded as an affirmative vote".

January 19, 2015 meeting; each year the January meeting falls on MLK holiday. The board was asked if they wanted to reschedule the January meeting or keep it as is. Commissioner Winstead was in favor of meeting on another night. After a short discussion the board decided to leave the meeting as is.

Commissioner's remarks:

Commissioner Bisette asked Commissioner Carroll if the surveyor had surveyed the last section of the cemetery. She stated that he has not begun and she was talking with him. Commissioner Bisette stated that they may have to get someone else to do the job. As relating to the cemetery, Mayor Johnson stated that signs are needed at the cemetery that say closed at dusk. It was also said that new signs are needed at each entrance that inform people of when the flowers will be removed from the graves. Commissioner Carroll made a motion to purchase four (4) new signs saying when flowers will be removed from graves and signs that say closed at dusk. Commissioner Conner seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Commissioner Winstead stated that he still does not have an estimate for Edge Street. He said that when Tyler Brock comes back to the board there may need to be more discussion on how they plan to fix Edge Street and what material will be used.

Commissioner Winstead stated that at the last meeting he had mentioned that the town recognize (or nominate) people that have done a lot for the community. Commissioner Bisette said that any time you signal out people you offend someone else. Commissioner Conner suggested that he should go to the people and personally thank them for what they have done. Commissioner Winstead asked for Mayor Johnson's opinion. Mayor Johnson stated that a committee would have to be selected, other than board members, and those people will have to be faithful to that committee. The committee would have to have a criteria set up, review and approved by the board, as to how the committee would do the nominating. Commissioner Bisette suggested that Commissioner Winstead go to the Chamber of Commerce and see if this is something they would be interested in doing. Commissioner Winstead said that when Ms. Marriott comes before the board, with a request, that Commissioner Carroll be excused from voting since Commissioner Carroll works under the supervision of Ms.

Marriott. Mayor Johnson said that Commissioner Carroll does not have a personal interest in what is being brought before the board and therefore cannot be excused from voting.

Department Heads:

The Town Clerk stated that she had received an e-mail from Betsy Kane with the charges, should the board approve using her for zoning issues. The board asked that this be placed on the agenda for the January meeting.

The second item from the Town Clerk was an issue with the use of the Maintenance building by the Bailey Chamber of Commerce. The clerk stated that when Beverly Marriott, President of the Chamber, came before the board she requested the use of the building on Wednesday's and Thursday's from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. She said that just before 9:00am on December 15 she found that the front door to the Maintenance building was opened (as in not shut) and the heat had been turned up. She stated that she called Ms. Marriott at the post office and asked if she had been in the building and was informed that she had. Ms. Marriott stated that she had opened up the building because the new assistant for the chamber would be working there that day. The clerk reminded Ms. Marriott that the chamber was told that they could not use the building on Monday's and Tuesday's reminding her that those days were set aside for WIC. Ms. Marriott stated she knew that but the chamber assistant would be in there and would not be in WIC's way. The clerk asked the board to define what days they will allow the chamber to use the building and if they plan to let the chamber and WIC co-exist on WIC's scheduled days. Commissioner Conner stated that they (the chamber and WIC) did not need to be in the building at the same time. The clerk again stated that Ms. Marriott was told up front that Monday's and Tuesday's was set aside for WIC. The clerk also stated that on occasion WIC has had to reschedule and when they do it has always been on a Monday or Tuesday. Ms. Marriott had a discussion with WIC's concerning their phone jack would need to be moved. Ms. Marriott moved the phone jack and did not tell WIC when it was moved. WIC came in on their schedule day and could not get their modem to work. They had their IT people from Nashville to come and check the problem out and in turn had to call CenturyLink. When the technician from CenturyLink came he said he had moved their jack to another wall. One of the ladies from WIC stated that she and Ms. Marriott had talked that morning and she (WIC) told Ms. Marriott that there was no communication. Commissioner Bissette said he thought WIC was only there for two days a week. The clerk stated that was correct adding that WIC comes on the third Tuesday and the Monday before the third Tuesday. The clerk stated that on a few occasions WIC has had to reschedule but it is always on a Monday/Tuesday combination. It was stated that the chamber has an employee now and the employee is paid through a senior assistance program through the Upper Coastal Plains Council of Government. It was stated that it is through a grant and it is assumed that the grant is for one year. At the end of that year the agency can renew the grant. Commissioner Bissette stated that the WIC program was already here before the chamber asked for the use of the building and stated that WIC should have priority. He stated those day should be set aside for WIC and the chamber should not be able to use the building while WIC is there. Commissioner Conner said that the chamber should provide the town clerk with a calendar each month of the days and hours the chamber plans to use the building. It was said that Ms. Marriott needs to be informed that on the days WIC is scheduled for the use of the building that the chamber cannot be there. She may be told that the chamber can use of it any other time except when WIC is there. Commissioner Conner said to add in that they keep the door closed. The clerk stated that other organization have used the building at night. This does not happen often. The clerk continued to say that now since Ms. Marriott has a key we do not know how often the chamber is using the building at night. It was stated they cannot go up there every night of the week. It was said that the chamber will have to give a schedule to the town clerk. It was said that the chamber moved everything and put a Christmas tree up in the building and things like that entice children. The town cannot be held liable for any damages that may happen to the chamber's property. It was also stated that Maintenance building cannot be used on days the Town Office is closed. It was said that Ms. Marriott, President of the Chamber would be notified.

Gerald Coggin, Chief of Police said there are no signs at the Bailey/Middlesex Park stating the hours the park is opened. It was stated that Lu Harvey Lewis would be contacted concerning the signs.

Closed Session:

Commissioner Carroll made a motion to go in closed session as permitted by NCGS 143-318 (a) (6) to consider the qualification, competence and performance of an employee. Commissioner Conner seconded the motion and the motion passed.

After the interview and discussion, Commissioner Carroll made a motion to return to the regular meeting. Commissioner Conner seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Regular Session:

Once back to the regular meeting, Mayor Johnson stated that there was one item addressed during the closed session and asked the town clerk stated such business. The clerk stated that the one item of business that was covered in closed session was to decide on the hiring of McCullen Wiggins for the position of full time police officer. The board approved to hire Mr. Wiggins at \$13.50 per hour with a 12 month probationary period. The motion was made, seconded and passed 4 to 1.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Commissioner Conner made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Flora seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Clerk

Mayor