

**TOWN OF TALLULAH FALLS
STATE OF GEORGIA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
February 13, 2020, 6:00 PM
MINUTES**

The meeting for February 13, 2020 of the Town Council of Tallulah Falls, Georgia was called to order at 6:27 PM by Mayor Mike Early following a public hearing.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Mike Early
Councilperson Joey Fountain
Councilperson Deb Goatcher
Councilperson Larry Hamilton
Councilperson Craig Weatherly
Town Clerk Linda Lapeyrouse

PRESENT VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE: Town Attorney Warren Tillery

OTHERS PRESENT: Public at large - see attached sign-in sheet

Mayor Early welcomed everyone to the meeting. The invocation was given by Reverend Turpen.

REGULAR MEETING:

Mayor Early requested that the agenda be amended to consider Old Business Item A (Charter Amendment) and New Business Item B (Police SOP) during the attorney's report. **A motion was made by Councilperson Weatherly to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Fountain and unanimously approved.**

A motion was made by Councilperson Goatcher to approve the minutes of the January 9th Council Meeting and Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Fountain and unanimously approved.

REPORTS:

Attorney Report – At the last meeting, Charter Amendments were discussed. Attorney Tillery reported that it would not be subject to crossover which gives us a little more time but not much. **A motion was made by Councilperson Goatcher to accept the Amendment as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Weatherly. Attorney Tillery suggested a Code of Ethics down the road but confirmed that with the change, a family member could serve as an unpaid volunteer with the consent of the Council. Section 5.12 was also discussed. Councilperson Weatherly made a motion to amend the original motion to change Section 5.12 so that in the event that such vacancies result in there being no remaining council members, then the mayor shall make the appointments of said interim council member(s) until the next election or special election, whichever comes first. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Fountain and unanimously approved.**

A motion was made by Councilperson Fountain to table the Police SOP until everyone has had an opportunity to review. The motion as seconded by Councilperson Weatherly and unanimously approved.

Water Report – Attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Additional estimates were requested by the Mayor and Council before considering the proposal of Warren McKay.

Public Safety Report – Attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Street Report – Councilperson Weatherly reported that the rain has created some ditch and culvert issues. He requested some part-time help to clean out the culverts. He will get pricing from Bill, Manuel and Pro Turf. There is money budgeted for road maintenance that can be used, but nothing in salaries without a budget amendment. Once done, Councilperson Weatherly will do an assessment of each road and suggest a priority ranking.

Town Clerk/Financial Report – Attached hereto and made a part hereof.

DDA Report – Keith Nelms, Chairman of the DDA will discuss the possibility of a joint work session with Council after their next meeting.

Mayor's Report- Mayor Early read a proclamation for Arbor Day February 21, 2020.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None remaining.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Early explained the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreements. **A motion was made by Councilperson Fountain to approve the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement for Rabun and Habersham Counties. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Weatherly and unanimously approved.**

Town Clerk Lapeyrouse explained the letter of support for Rabun EMA's grant application from FEMA to fund the cost of updating the County's Multi- Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The local match can be met with staff and volunteer time working on the plan. **A motion was made by Councilperson Fountain to ratify the sending of the letter of support for the Rabun EMA grant application. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Goatcher and unanimously approved.**

A motion was made by Councilperson Weatherly to approve the 2019 Rabun County Joint Comprehensive Plan. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Goatcher and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilperson Weatherly to approve Joely Mixon of Mixon, Mixon, Brown & Tench as the auditor for the year ending June 30, 2020 and accepted their proposal of \$6500.

DDA appointments are being addressed with the Charter Amendment. **A motion was made by Councilperson Goatcher to table the DDA appointments. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Weatherly and unanimously approved.**

Mayor Early recommended Stan Griffis for nomination to fill the unexpired term on the Planning and Zoning Commission. He has talked to him and he is willing to serve. Stan has attended some of the prior meetings and has shown interest in the community. **A motion was made by Councilperson Weatherly to appoint Stan Griffis to the Planning and Zoning Commission to fill the unexpired**

term of Mike Early. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Goatcher and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

David Hart asked about the water withdrawal permit. Mayor Early reported meeting with Jeff Jackson of Georgia Power on where they think we are in the process. He also talked to EPD and they referred him to two documents which he is still reviewing, but it is helping to eliminate some of his concerns. He has a couple of more people to talk to before coming back to Council to decide on whether or not to continue moving forward.

David then asked about a recent water outage. Town Clerk Lapeyrouse stated that Scott with EMS said it was possibly a power surge. The pump was off.

Teri Dobbs asked if the water commissioner would be involved in the water withdrawal permit meetings. Mayor Early stated he had been meeting the players and would be getting back to team meetings soon. No negotiations have been going on.


Teri asked about the current Fire Chief. Mayor Early stated that the Acting Fire Chief is Paul Marsteller. Elections will be in June. Teri asked if the Charter changes would affect anything. Mayor Early said he would get with Attorney Tillery and get his opinion on it. The Fire Department is still in need of volunteers.

Van Knighton, Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Commission reported working on a Short-Term Vacation Rental Ordinance. There is a bill currently being considered that would restrict cities from being able to regulate these rentals. P & Z will be working on a draft at their next meeting.

Mary Beth Hughes asked about hotel motel tax. Town Clerk Lapeyrouse reported that there are two that pay. One business and one STVR. She also asked about the tree on the lake. Mayor Early reported that he just got back but they would be getting it in and will be burning the wood someone has put out at the burn pile.

There being no other business before the Council, a motion was made by Councilperson Fountain to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hamilton and unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.


Linda Lapeyrouse, Town Clerk