

**TOWN OF TALLULAH FALLS
STATE OF GEORGIA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
255 MAIN STREET, TALLULAH FALLS, GA 30573
WITH VIDEO CONFERENCE STREAMING AVAILABLE FOR THE PUBLIC
JUNE 4, 2020, 6:00 PM**

MINUTES

The Council meeting for June 4, 2020 of the Town Council of Tallulah Falls, Georgia was called to order at 6:16 PM by Mayor Mike Early after confirming technology streaming platforms were both functioning. Social distancing protocols were observed as required by an Executive Order issued by Governor Kemp in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A simultaneous live-stream view of the meeting was available through YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCytr3V3naaBwBwlzBlg-y8A> and had been previously circulated to the media and citizens through e-mail notification. The public was also able to participate in the meeting via Webex with Meeting #794 499 414.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Mike Early
Mayor Pro tem Larry Hamilton
Councilperson Joey Fountain
Councilperson Craig Weatherly
Town Clerk Linda Lapeyrouse
Police Chief Tonya Elrod

PRESENT VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE: Councilperson Deb Goatcher
Town Attorney Warren Tillery
Public at large – see attached list

Mayor Early welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for a moment of silence.

REGULAR MEETING:

A motion was made by Councilperson Weatherly to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Fountain and unanimously approved.

The Consent Agenda included minutes of the Council Meeting May 7, 2020, Executive Session May 7, 2020, department reports from Water, Police, Fire, and Finance, ratification of SPLOST project list and CD renewal with Oconee Federal Bank. Copies are attached hereto and made a part hereof. **A motion was made by Councilperson Weatherly to approve the items on the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hamilton and unanimously approved.**

REPORTS:

Attorney Report – Attorney Tillery reported that the Judge had approved the Town’s request to be removed from the Frye property litigation unless and until evidence is shown that the Town owns any of the lots with an interest in the “Park.”

OLD BUSINESS:

Following a thorough discussion of the parameters, tolerance, flashing hours, times of year, review procedure, education component and potential for negative consequences, a motion was made by Councilperson Weatherly to proceed with Blueline Solutions for the automatic speed enforcement system. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Fountain. The motion passed with Weatherly, Fountain and Goatcher voting in favor of the motion and Hamilton voting against. A motion was then made by Councilperson Fountain to have the Town attorney review the proposed contract. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Weatherly. The motion passed with Weatherly, Fountain and Goatcher voting in favor of the motion and Hamilton voting against. Attorney Tillery will work with Cam Reed at Blueline Solutions to finalize a contract for Council's approval.

The Charter Amendment approved by Council was re-drafted by legislative counsel which changed some of the original language. The draft bill was worked on by legislative counsel with input from the Town's attorney to make sure we were achieving the Council's desired results. Mayor and Council have reviewed the new bill language. **A motion was made by Councilperson Weatherly to approve the bill language as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Goatcher and unanimously approved.** There is still a chance that the bill will not be taken up this session, but if not, it will be ready for next session.

NEW BUSINESS:

Town Clerk Lapeyrouse reported on some of the document management systems she has been gathering information on. Councilperson Fountain had another contact he recommended. Lapeyrouse will continue to work on a suitable solution. No action was taken.

Councilperson Hamilton submitted a sign permit request for the restaurant on Main Street. As such, he recused himself from any vote on the matter. Hamilton explained that the signs would be the exact same signage that had been previously done and taken by previous tenants. The signs will be a part of the restaurant property and the building going forward. **A motion was made by Councilperson Fountain to approve the sign permit request as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Weatherly. The motion was approved by Fountain, Weatherly and Goatcher. Hamilton recused. Mayor Early also voted yes based on the will and intent of the Council. This was done in case of a possible legal deadlock interpretation. Attorney Tillery explained the deadlock verbiage in the Charter.**

The Downtown Development Authority provided a recommendation for Council to reappoint Dustin Rogers to the DDA. His current term is expiring, and Dustin has indicated a desire to be reappointed. **A motion was made by Councilperson Weatherly to reappoint Dustin Rogers to the DDA. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Fountain and unanimously approved.**

Dates for future work session was discussed. The first budget work session was agreed on by the Mayor and Council as June 18, 2020, at 6 PM. A tentative work session to review the Planning Commission's anticipated recommendation for a Short-Term Vacation Rental Ordinance was set for June 11, 2020, at 6 PM. If needed, another work session for the budget will be June 25, 2020, at 6 PM.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS: None.


PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Councilperson Hamilton said that the water report from EMS requested a flow meter on the backflush line to monitor water usage. Mayor Early said it would be on the next month's agenda since we did not know about it at the time of setting the agenda. Mayor Early also commented that the Fire Department had not done any flushing of hydrants and EMS would be notified if they do. We should have more information on the tank cleaning proposals by the July meeting as well as the Phase 1 tank work.

Keith Nelms said that the DDA will continue with the current members as suggested by the Town Attorney based on State law interpretation by Dan McRae and legislative counsel. If things are kept as is, any potential issues will be resolved with the Charter change. They will be electing officers at their next meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.



Linda Lapeyrouse, Town Clerk