

Town of Triana Regular Council Meeting
Monday, April 26, 2021
6:30pm

Meeting was called to order by the Mayor. The clerk called roll, Councilmembers George Ragland, Erica Hopkins, Jason Garstka, Levoneia Ayers, Casey Whitman and Mayor Mary Caudle. Members present constituted a quorum.

Attorney Caleb Ballew and the clerk Sharron Humphrey were also present.

Councilman Whitman made the motion to approve the minutes dated April 12, 2021 with correction. Councilmember Ayers seconds the motion. Motion carried.

Councilmember Ayers made the motion to go into executive session. Councilmember Whitman seconds the motion. Motion carried.

Councilmember Ragland made the motion to return to the regular order of business. Councilmember Garstka seconds the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Caudle's Report: Wanted to make sure it was okay and to let council know that she was sending the Chief of Police to a De-escalation course at UNA costing \$325.00.

Attorney Caleb Ballew has drafted a letter to the Ebony Club. There will be another update to the letter. The County Fire Marshall came out to assist our Fire Chief to do an occupancy number for the Ebony Club. Upon arriving at the club, he had to void his report because there were too many violations and listing them would have resulting in having to close them down.

Our Building Inspector submitted a listing of the violations which will be included in the letter. Because of the some of the violations listed we may have to close them down until they are fixed, discussion.

Councilmember Ragland stated some of the listed violations were nit-picky.

Councilmember Whitman made the motion to approve the letter to the Ebony Club. Councilmember Garstka seconds the motion. Roll call vote, Ragland-no, Hopkins-yes, Garstka-yes, Ayers-yes, Whitman-yes and Caudle-yes. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Fire & Police: Chairperson Ragland reported Fire Dept. responded to a structure fire, one alarm call, 8 emergency calls and traveled 19 miles.

Councilmember Ragland asked Mayor Caudle how many firemen responded to the structure fire we had on today.

Mayor Caudle stated she does not know.

Councilmember Ragland stated he has not had a chance to meet with his committee to discuss the fire department, he asked what are we doing about hiring part-time or full-time firemen and how many have joined since January.

Mayor Caudle stated we discussed hiring a full-time Chief and that's what has been done this will give him the time he needs to work on building the fire department. She stated the Fire Dept. has had two members to join and the one of them is already certified.

Police Dept. traveled 2751 miles, made 29 Traffic Stops, 19 Warning Citations, 16 Citations, and 69 Calls for Service, 0 Arrests and 7 Reports.

Finance: Chairperson Hopkins presented the Bank Statement ending March 30, 2021. Motion by Councilmember Hopkins to approve the Bank Statement ending March 30th. Councilmember Ayers seconds the motion. Motion carried.

Utility: No Report

Park & Recreation: Chairperson Ayers presented the job description for one full-time Recreation Program Coordinator, discussion. Councilmember Ayers made the motion to accept the job description for the full-time Rec Program Coordinator position for the Town of Triana. Councilmember Hopkins seconds the motion. 1-opposed, motion carried.

Council discussed the salary range for the Rec Program Coordinator to be from \$30,000 to \$35,000, (\$14 to \$17hrly). They are also requesting that this person have a degree in recreation or something along those lines or experience equivalent. Councilmember Ayers made the motion to accept the salary range of \$30,000 to \$35,000 for the full-time Rec Program Coordinator. Councilmember Garstka seconds the motion. Roll call vote, Ragland-no, Hopkins-yes, Garstka-yes, Ayers-yes, Whitman-yes and Caudle-yes. Motion carried.

Councilmember Ayers made the motion for the advertisement for the full-time Recreation Program Coordinator for Town of Triana. Councilmember Whitman seconds the motion carried.

Councilmember Ayers asked about the picnic tables under the pavilion near boat dock, she wanted to know if the boys' scouts were coming back to do the weatherization to the picnic tables. She asked could we contact them to see if they want to return. She's asking because she has a group that would like to volunteer, we just have to buy the stain and they would put it on.

Mayor Caudle stated they had said they would but with Covid-19 she does not know. They are the ones that donated the tables and said they would come back but they have not. She stated It shouldn't be a problem with anyone wanting to volunteer. We will buy the stain.

Ms. Ayers asked about having a port of potty down at the river, she stated we could share in the cost. Mayor Caudle stated the dock is not ours we share a lease with others. She doesn't think we need to take on the responsibility of taking care of one, the damage or the liability. The County did have one down there a while back.

Streets & Cemetery: Chairperson Garstka apologized for missing the public hearing. He asked if we were moving forward with purchasing the speed bumps, discussion.

Councilmember Garstka made the motion to proceed with the purchase of speed bumps on Ervin Lane to work with contractors on the installation, cost around \$13,500. Councilmember Hopkins seconds the motion. Roll call, Ragland-yes, Garstka-yes, Hopkins-yes, Whitman-yes, Ayers-yes and Caudle-yes. Unanimous consent, motion carried.

Motion by Councilmember Whitman to modify previous decision from council to put speed bumps at 255 and 284 Harold Murphy Dr. Councilmember Ayers seconds the motion. Motion carried.

Resolutions, Ordinances, Orders and Other Business:

Mayor Caudle stated at the work session they talked about the Business License and adopting the recommendation from the state.

Attorney Caleb Ballew stated there are some things in the draft Business License Ordinance that will have to be formatted; there were some things that applied more to larger towns and cities something that we may not need.

Mayor Caudle stated we will not vote tonight but asked the Attorney to have Ordinance ready at next meeting.

Mayor Caudle stated we have been going back and forth with the Liquor License, she stated there are a couple of things we do not have in our Ordinance. We do not have where we can suspend the license, we have where we can take license away. She stated we are not voting tonight. This is a draft recommendation to review. It is to bring our Liquor License in compliance so we can have control over it. Work Session scheduled for Tuesday, May 11th at 6:30.

Councilmember Ragland stated we got the Covid-19 money in and that other towns have given some of their employees money he asked how do we stand on getting our employees money.

Mayor Caudle stated we have already given our employee raises for the year. She further stated we are buying equipment and things like that. The Covid-19 money that we received is not for giving employee bonus, salaries raise its different pockets of Covid-19 money.

Councilman Ragland asked for a printout of what we can spend the Covid-19 relief money on.

Mayor Caudle again stated the money is to be used for equipment and supplies, we've already ordered laptops for patrol cars were getting things we need for the town.

Councilmember Ragland stated if we can't use the Covid-19 money to buy exercise equipment then we can use the money from the sale of land on 8th Street.

Mayor Caudle stated she would hope the council would not agree to spend money from the sale of land to purchase exercise equipment to bring on another liability to the town.

Councilmember Ragland stated he would like to have a work session in May to discuss employee raises this will give them five months before October to work with. We need to give our employees what they are worth. It's been said that we are compatible with Madison County and City of Huntsville but we are not.

Mayor Caudle suggests he have a committee meeting to discuss finance.

Councilmembers Ayers stated there are other ways to compensate versus always saying a bonus or one time pay. The town could give two floating holidays a year, a personal day or admin leave. It's a lot of other ways to compensate than giving a one-time bonus.

Councilmember Ragland stated its money out there to pay our employees it's up to the Mayor to distribute the money. He mentioned he has a friend working for the City of Fayette who informed him that they have given its employees two bonuses and working on another one and also the workers working in the offices keeping it open during Covid-19 also received bonuses. He asked council to check on it.

Councilmember Ayers asked has he seen any documentation; will he send it to you.

Councilmember Ragland stated he will ask how they did it and bring information back to town.

Councilmember Hopkins thanked everyone for the feedback for the comprehensive plan.

Councilmember Hopkins made the motion to approve the survey with the additional corrections so they can start distributing them. Councilmember Whitman seconds the motion. Motion carried.

Councilmember Hopkins stated she was asked to provide some cost to do the Survey Monkey Audience as opposed to doing Google Docks to send the survey out the least expensive one is called the Team Advantage. It cost \$25.00 per month and that will give you three licenses. See attached sheet.

Councilmember Hopkins made the motion to approve the purchase Survey Monkey License at the Team Advantage rate of \$25.00 per month.

Mayor Caudle stated the survey will be available hardcopy we will make it where everyone will have access to it. Councilmember Garstka seconds the motion. Motion carried.

Councilmember Garstka reported there a growing number of basketball hoops in the streets in Savannah and Towne Lakes.

Mayor Caudle asked if they were blocking the streets.

Councilmember Whitman stated not blocking the street but they're on the curve. A good number of Municipalities in Alabama have Ordinances against having basketball goals in the streets.

Mayor Caudle stated we always allowed it as long as they put them out of the streets at night. As long as they are not in the street or blocking it.

Councilmember Whitman stated he doesn't have a problem with it either it's just that they have them out at 8:30-9:00 at night with no one playing ball. It maybe something we may want to look at.

Mayor Caudle stated we will discuss this in another session.

Public Comments:

Mrs. Freeman stated she did get a call from Louis about the Bingo but he is not the one in charge of the building.

Mrs. Freeman asked can we do something about the entrance to the cemetery. She would also like to see repairs done to the end of Sherie Williams driveway on Ervin Lane and to the fire hydrant at Ervin & Carr Lane.

Mayor stated she received a text from Commissioner Haraway today regarding repairs to Ervin Lane.

Ms. Freeman stated she's still have not seen the plaque for Clyde Foster to go inside the gym.

Councilmember Ragland stated if we blacktop the entrance to the cemetery further out, we may damage some of the graves.

Theory Haywood gave an update on Triana Warriors football, he stated they started a little earlier this year. He has discussed the concern in the recruiting area with the Mayor. Sprayed the field with herbicide this should take place throughout the year. As of now they have double the number of enrollments from last year. Budgeting reason limiting 25 players for each team.

Working on advertising. Praying for some sponsorship this year. working on new uniforms. They will have to buy more uniforms with more kids coming in. Website up and running more people are registering. Protocol in place insuring safety of kids from the Covid-19. Demographics is running from Madison Blvd down Zierdt Road.

Councilmember Hopkins asked, about how many kids on the team were from Triana last year.

Mr. Haywood stated out of the 89 kids last year 50 of them were from Triana.

Ms. Freeman asked for an update out at Charity Bingo.

Mayor Caudle stated not at this time.

Moved and properly seconded to adjourn.

Date approved _____

Sharon Humphrey, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Mayor Caudle

Mayor or Chair Pro Tempore