

Town of Triana Regular Council Meeting
Monday, August 9, 2021
6:30p.m.

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

Legal counsel Caleb Ballew was present via internet and the clerk Sharron Humphrey was also present.

Councilmember Whitman made the motion to approve the minutes dated July 26, 2021 as presented. Councilmember Ayers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Caudle's Report: We were approved for the grant submitted from the American Cares Act COVID Relief funds; we received the full amount of \$112,000.00.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Fire & Police: Chairperson Ragland reported Fire Dept., responded to 0 outside fires, 1 structure fire, 3 fire alarms, 14 Emergency calls and 1 motor vehicle accident. The Fire Chief responded to the structure fire and three other units were there. The town needs more firemen one person is not going to get it. Even though he asked for three to four part-time firemen they will need some assistance. Four people cannot put out a fire.

Police Dept., traveled 2,801 miles, made 43 traffic stops, 26 warning citations, 19 citations, 31 calls for service, 0 arrests and 5 reports.

Finance: Chairperson Hopkins reminded each department to submit their budget plans for the upcoming fiscal year. She has received a couple but still have a few outstanding. A link was sent out for everyone to review the Comprehensive Plan survey she has only gotten one response back. She asked could she assume it's good to go. Council response was yes.

Mrs. Hopkins asked a question about grants, she stated there's a program called Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) and it's to get funds through FEMA to hire additional staff for volunteer fire fighters. She asked have we ever applied for that in the past.

Mayor Caudle stated no, she has not.

Councilmember Hopkins asked if she was familiar with the program.

Mayor Caudle replied no.

Councilmember Hopkins stated they have \$351million dollars available. She stated after doing some research she found that we have already missed the window to apply this year. She stated she would like for the town to apply next year.

Councilmember Ragland stated based on balances from the towns Bank Statement it shows that we have more than enough money to hire firemen.

Mrs. Hopkins stated the grant that Councilmember Ayers sent from Alabama Power Foundation is due Oct. 15. She asked Mayor Caudle if she wanted to look into applying for, it has five different initiatives that they focus on.

Mayor Caudle stated anytime council finds a grant that looks good after researching and it meets our criteria bring it to the council and ask for permission to apply for it on behalf of the town. She stated it's not her decision to apply for grants it's the council's.

Councilmember Hopkins stated she thought she had seen in an email that we had applied for said grant but never got funded she wasn't sure which category we applied for.

Mayor Caudle stated Alabama Power always told us we were out of their service area they don't service Madison County. She further stated Councilmember Ayers stated City of Madison has been awarded 3 in the past and added it's good to reach out to them and ask questions.

Utilities: Chairperson Whitman reported they are still working on the sewer upgrade. The lift station on Wall Triana Hwy at Advent Dr. has been done.

Mayor Caudle reported the lift station on wall Triana in the Bingo parking lot has been repaired and up and running for three weeks.

Park and Recreation: Chairperson Ayers reported they need to set a work session to discuss the programs for the rest of the year. Meeting scheduled for August 23rd at 6pm.

Councilmember Ayers also reported the end of the year party held on Friday was a success. She thanked Ms. Hopkins for her donations and all others for their donations, time and assistance. We are looking forward to next year.

Streets and cemetery: Chairperson Garstka reported the speed bumps will be installed on Sept. 9th and he asked about the street sign post order.

Mayor Caudle stated they haven't come in.

Mayor Caudle stated we have got to figure out something with those big trucks traveling on Zierdt Rd and turning onto 6th Street. They take out the stop sign turning right; we've had to repair the sewer main top twice. She saw them on today driving on top of the barricade that's been placed around the manhole on Zierdt. We have got to do something to protect our sewer. She thought we had put up a sign saying trucks with a certain size no right turn.

Councilmember Whitman stated they wanted the County to put up a sign before they got to Beadle Lane directing large trucks to take Beadle to Wall Triana. The County were willing to do it but informed us that we would have to pass a weight limit on Zierdt. He stated that would be a problem with all the construction traffic going in and out of the subdivision areas. He stated council could look at doing something further down.

Mayor stated to at least have a sign that says no 18 wheelers turning right. Look at some other alternatives. She stated we need to send out letters to all companies letting them know they need to go down Wall Triana.

Resolutions, Ordinances, Orders and other Business:

Casey Whitman, Planning and Zoning Chairperson stated he has two items to present; the first is a request for council to approve some updated subdivision regulations he stated these have already gone through Planning and Zoning back in Dec. 2020. There are a couple of minor changes to the current regulations we have. Items they have seen, clarifying the requirements for developers to pay for street lights, requiring developers to purchase lots for fire hydrants for subdivisions, putting more scrutiny on cutting off private drives so we won't relive the Murphy Cir incident and clarifying the requirement for sewer infrastructure to be built to Madison Utilities constructions standards unless the council waives it. Mayor stated nothing has changed since the presentation was done.

Mr. Whitman stated this just makes a couple of administrative changes. If Council approves it then they will sign and record it in probate.

Councilmember Ragland asked if this applies to new development or the ones under development now.

Mr. Whitman stated these will apply to any new phases that come in and new phase that have not been submitted for construction.

Mayor Caudle state this will require developers to pay when they apply to have their electric boxes put in.

Mayor Caudle asked council if they were all in agreement with changes to the draft Subdivision Regulation in revision form for Dec 2020, Council in agreement.

Mr. Whitman stated the second item is that he wanted to make sure the Council was aware of the on goings with Planning and Zoning. The last meeting, they discussed two rezoning applications and had a public hearing. The 1st one was the Miller property on Ervin Cir., they are proposing turning their two acres or so into about 8 lots there was discussion on that in terms of sewer. In their request for rezoning, they had requested a variance for installing sewer. The mayor brought up about an existing Ordinance 2004, requiring residents to connect to sewer and more discussion was about the flooding that occurs therein the center. They are currently working with an engineer to figure out how to fix that drainage issue along with the potential of running additional sewer to support those lots. The other hearing held was on the Foster property located north of Towne Lakes. There wasn't anything negative from residents on that just some comments about city resources, Fire and Police, schools, water/sewer. He stated neither one of the two rezoning applications were voted on. They had a motion to table both of them. The Miller property was pending the discussion on water and sewer. The Foster property discussion does was on will the city be able to support Fire, Police and sewer etc. He would like to have happened a joint meeting with the Town Council and the Zoning Commission to sit down and talk through some of the recurrent issues. It would helpful to Planning and Zoning if they had some more guidance from the council in terms of things looked favorably on for rezoning or guides that say don't approve for whatever reason. He stated a lot of concern deals with city resources.

Councilmember Ragland asked what does the Foster property has to do with it can we afford fire and police.

Mr. Whitman stated it has to do more with when you bring in 140 new homes that brings more people with that the need for more fire and police protection.

Councilmember Ragland stated this is the first he's heard that when it comes to the Foster and Harris property, we need more fire and police protection. He stated he has mentioned before in the past that we need more fire and police protection and no one said anything then.

Mayor Caudle stated Mr. Whitman was listing out what was voiced at the public hearing. She stated that's why we're having a joint meeting to work things out. The council has the final approval.

Councilmember Ragland stated if the Fosters can't build then no one else can build.

Mayor's Caudle stated she hears him and that's his opinion he has one vote and everyone else has a vote no one has denied either. One is in the process of being developed. Those were some things that came up in the meeting. That's why the joint work session was discussed.

Mayor Caudle stated the first step was for rezoning, she thinks some of the members planning and zoning didn't realize that was the first step they could have approved or denied the rezoning.

Work session scheduled for August 13th from 6-7.

Public Comments:

Mr. Parks asked what some of the criteria were Fosters for applying for grants.

Councilmember Hopkins stated it just depends if it's a federal grant then it's all kinds of requirements. If it's a foundation grant then those are usually less stringent. It just depends on who you're applying for a grant with.

Mr. Parks stated the reason he brought this up is because we haven't gotten the census numbers yet and that may change things as far as applying for grants. His advice is anytime you see a grant available you may want to apply at once because the criteria probably going to change at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Mayor caudle stated Mr. Parks is referring to the fact most grants are based on number of residents and per capital.

Marvalene Freeman stated she would love to see the city get a true census for the Town of Triana. Mayor Caudle stated we did get that data; she stated the Chambers assisted her with that data.

Mrs. Freeman stated she would like to see the town go door to door to get this data and have an accurate number. Everyone does not have a computer.

Councilmember Hopkins stated we were doing a Comprehensive Plan that is being done through Survey Monkey to help with getting accurate data out along with mailers.

The Developer for the Harris property stated they understand there are a number of items that needs to be checked off and approved such as capacity for the police and fire to handle growth, infrastructure, water and sewer etc., at this time they would appreciate getting the rezoning accomplished so they can move through their own engineering to help come with a resolution on these issues. They are at a standstill until the rezoning gets approved. Everything is being taken under consideration.

Edith Foster stated they, (her Developer and Broker) are open to discussion of what they can do in helping the Town of Triana on their journey. They want to be allowed to rezone and help them to address those problems. She further stated she keeps hearing we don't have adequate fire and police protection they need to put on the table of what we need going forward.

Mayor stated we are in the process of looking into making sure we don't lose the funds we have from being a volunteer what it looks like to pay a paid department.

Bernetta Harris-Richardson stated she was unaware that the Mayor and Council were part-time. She stated we need a full-time mayor. The town cannot grow without a full-time mayor. They need to consider that. She stated she will look into what it takes to hire a full-time mayor.

Mayor Caudle stated it will not be this term it will be next term because everything has been set. She can help look into that but that the council sets the salary and there are other criteria for small towns with this number of people.

Moved and properly seconded to adjourn.

Date approved Aug. 23, 2021

Sharon Humphrey
Sharon Humphrey, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Mayor Caudle
Mayor or Chair Pro Tempore