

Town of Triana Regular Council Meeting
Monday, May 8, 2023
6:30pm

Mayor called the meeting to order. Roll call, the following Councilmembers and Mayor were present.

George Ragland-Present
Erica Hopkins – Present
Jason Garstka – Present
Levoneia Ayers – Present
Casey Whitman – present
Mary Caudle – Present

Members present constituted a quorum.

Legal counsel Caleb and the clerk Sharron Humphrey were also present.

Motion by Councilmember Whitman to approve the minutes dated April 24, 2023. Councilmember Ayers second the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Caudle's Report: A request to the council on merit increases. She stated our Chief is now a certified Chief and Officer Zivat has completed his training, he is now a certified criminal investigator. With both having their certification she is requesting a merit increase. A dollar for the Chief which will bring him up to \$64,480.00. For Officer Zivat, a \$2.00 increase will bring him to \$52,000. Motion by Whitman to approve the mayor's merit increases. Hopkins second the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor stated this will not affect what they will look at in October.

Renewal contract for inmate housing with Madison County Sheriff Dept. Prices have not changed, still \$5.00 for booking and \$55.00 per day.

Motion by Whitman to approve the housing agreement with Madison County Sheriff Dept. Hopkins second the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Fire & Police: Chairperson Ragland reported Fire Dept responded to 1 Outside fire, 4 Alarms, 8 Emergency calls, 2 Motor vehicle accidents and 1 other.

Police Dept. traveled 1,997 miles, made 32 Traffic Stops, 17 Warning citations, 14 Traffic citations, 39 Calls for service, 2 Arrest and 9 Reports.

Mayor reported take home cars going well, no issues. She stated we had one officer who drove upon an accident coming in to work. Also, our EMT has reported 1 death in town and 1 outside on Swancott. Our EMT was first on site and our criminal investigator was also called out on both incidents.

Councilmember Hopkins asked did we get any applicants to apply for any positions. Mayor reported we have had 1 applicant to apply for police officer, but it was not a good applicant they're checking other

things. We had an applicant that's not certified to apply. They're looking at the cost to send them for certification. She stated all municipalities are having a hard time recruiting.

Councilman Ragland stated since the Chief and the Investigator received raises will the new officer we hire get a raise also.

Mayor stated not until October if they do anything, those raises given were merit raises not a regular salary increase.

Finance: Chairperson Hopkins presented the Bank Reconciliation Statement ending April 30, 2023, for approval.

Motion by Hopkins to approve the Bank Reconciliation Statement ending April 30th. Ayers second the motion. Motion carried.

Utility: Chairperson Whitman reported they met with DR Horton and their plumbing subcontractors today regarding some issues with sett water meters, meters being moved and flipped around. He feels like they had a productive meeting. Going forward they have some potential ways to address some of the issues. One is putting seals on water meters and making sure Madison Utilities are installing meters the correct way.

Park & Recreation: Chairperson Ayers reported that Older Americans Month kicked off with an exercise program on last Wednesday. They're hoping that this continues. They had one request for Towne Lakes walking trail. The request is that they put up a walking trail around Towne Lakes. She let them know that would be a great attribute for the town but at this time not sure if the budget would allow it. She stated the mayor informed her that there was a gravel trail there, but the grass has since grown through.

Streets & Cemetery: No Report

Mayor asked Councilman Garstka and Whitman to have the trees around town looked at before summer.

Councilman Ragland reported there was a Dollar General truck driver on Zierdt road that got confused he had to help him get on the right road. Mayor stated she was out when a trucker come through on Zierdt she flagged him down and sent him to Record St. that was helpful. She thanked Mr. Ragland for looking out and helping.

Resolutions, Ordinances, Orders and Other Business:

Councilman Whitman reported Planning and Zoning had their meeting Monday. P&Z made a recommendation to the council on the rezoning request that was presented by Mr. Bracey. He stated this is for a 2-acre parcel on Landess Cir, 636 and 658 Landess Cir the same tracked land. 636 Landess is classified as a workshop garage type facility and 658 was at one point operated in a commercial manner. There's paperwork that shows a license to operate as a club in 2013. The request is to change if from a R-1. residential to B-1 Commercial. They received the request by email letter on March 14th.

Mr. Bracey presented his request to the Planning Commission with an intent to open as a Restaurant. Then a Public Hearing was scheduled on the 18th, notices were sent out to all residents in that area. There were mixed feelings from the residents that showed up, some were in favor others were not in favor of that rezone. Last Monday P&Z took a vote to recommend approval or denial. They had 4 votes to recommend approval, 1 against and 3 abstentions.

He stated the Council should have a standard rezone ordinance in their email for review for the next council meeting. Mayor stated the Ordinance is there if the council decides to vote in favor of the rezone.

Councilman Ragland stated also at the last meeting they had 99% of the people that were okay with the rezone. Mayor stated it was at the P&Z Committee meeting.

Discussion: Town policy on opening and closing of restaurant business. Something to look at this point is to change the status to a commercial establishment. She stated if property is changed to commercial it would still have to go through the other ordinances, liquor license and other things. Look at having a work session to discuss setting a time for businesses to close.

Councilmember Hopkin reported that the O'Neal Cancer Center has an awareness campaign. She stated this month, May is Brain Tumor awareness and Menthol awareness month. She information that can be given to seniors or anyone.

Mayor stated the president of the Historical Society wants everyone to know the Smithsonian is coming to Triana. She's asking for a donation from the Town to go towards sending someone to D.C. to be trained on presenting the exhibit and then possibly some volunteers to help with loading and unloading the truck. She's asking for \$2500.00.

Motion by Ragland to give the Historical Society \$3,000.00 for the trip to D.C., for training and to be used to help with loading and unloading once the stuff gets here. Garstka second the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

Roy Seay expressed his concern over the infrastructure on Landess Cir. He asked the council for help in getting funds to get the road done.

Mayor stated she's always looking for funds and ways to help.

Councilman Ragland stated we'll get the mayor to write the Governor a letter asking for funds. Mayor stated you must apply through where they have funds available for those things.

Councilmember Hopkins stated she has looked for grant opportunities but that she has not come across anything specific for streets and roads. She will continue to look.

Patsy Parvin stated she counted a little different from Councilman Ragland's count the other night. She doesn't have anything against the restaurant, but he wants to sell alcohol and have pool tables in it. To her that's more like a club and she does not think we need another club here. The building could be used for something else. Another thing is that P&Z board is looking at this property here in Triana, she stated if they rezone for this club to come then the next time it is going to come closer to your house. She stated those residents have already got 2 sewer plants down there, a shooting range and now more racket with music. She stated this has nothing against Mr. Bracey. This will put more people on the road drinking and driving.

Ola Ayers stated at the P&Z Committee meeting she spoke against the rezone, and she heard two other residents speak against it. She does not see where Councilman Ragland got his 99% in favor at the meeting. She stated when she first learned of the restaurant, she liked the idea, but she asked, would they want to have a business right there in front of your house on a narrow street. She stated the votes will win but that and she will live with it.

Mr. Bracey stated he was looking at the growth of Triana as his reason for purchasing the property. He leased the property years ago and had a Bingo Business there. He does not recall any anticipated actions that have surfaced during these meetings. People driving intoxicated. He's looking at the growth and how far people must travel to get food. He stated it's 9 miles. You're sending them outside on the dangerous road. Have to make some adjustments. Adjustment for people moving in. He's asking for support from the community.

Madge Griffin stated she is against the area being rezoned. She stated they do not need that establishment on Landess Cir in the Collier area. Until you put in a more of whatever to help the Collier area out, to make sure their roads are done, the roads are cut and that everything is going the way it's supposed to go then you should not have anything to say.

Mr. Bracey stated the housing development were experiencing difficult trying to get the sewer to the housing area. Ms. Griffin accommodated them. along with someone else to allow this to happen now she is fighting for the only place to accommodate 15 to 20 people. She allowed them to use her property and she got paid for that. As long as it's working in her favor it's all good but when it's for someone else is looking out for the community it's a different attitude.

Mayor stated the Planning & Zoning had approved that once it was approved and they could not get sewer she went to talk with Ms. Griffin and Mrs. Ayers to see how they could accommodate them. She did not go and solicit anything. They were upset with the council for going ahead and approving it.

Moved and properly second to adjourn.

Date approved _____

Sharron Humphrey, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Mayor or Chair Pro Tempore