

Town of Talking Rock Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2022

Mayor Pro Tem and board member, James Bryant called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

I. ATTENDANCE

Board:

James Bryant
Tony Hawf
Steve Lewis
Mary Bregantini
Lynda Cagle

Town Clerk: Dawn Carver

Town Attorney: Jeff Rushbridge

Others in attendance:

Mary Livsey, Dan Pool, Mary McDonnell, Mark McDonnell, Michael Carver, Joe O'Bryant and his daughter, Justin Howe, Dan Bregantini, Curtis Clark, Joel Neighbors, Janelle Childree, Larry Keener, Tim Prather, Glen Payne and many others were in attendance.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of September's Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Tony Hawf, seconded by Steve Lewis to approve the meeting minutes from the September 8 regularly scheduled meeting. All voted unanimously in favor.

IV. Approval of September's Financial Report

A motion was made by Mary Bregantini, seconded by Steve Lewis to approve the September Financial Report. All voted unanimously in favor.

V. Maintenance Report

Jerry Wright was not present yet. Dawn Carver updated with repairs and replacements of: men's faucet at park, soap dispensers in park and town hall, photo cell for lights at park, round up everywhere, and repairing benches at town hall to be done by Heritage Days.

VI. Old Business

Heritage Days Update - Mary Bregantini announced we now have 61 booths with 14 being food vendors. We are now full and turning vendors away. Sponsorship is approximately \$6825 between cash and in kind donations. Mary listed the many performers and events happening for Heritage Days. She said we were doing well on volunteers. Mentioned ads we have placed in Pickens Progress and Gilmer Times Courier and the ad that the Pickens Chamber has placed for us in Pickens Progress Fall Festival Guide. We also have an ad in the Pickens County Activity Guide, and we have shared on social media. Mary mentioned the duck race will be determined by the weather because of dryness and no water in the creek. She thanked committee members and volunteers, pointing out her co-chair, Tony Hawf and how much work he is doing to get the grounds ready. He and Dan Bregantini installed more circuits and outlets for all the vendors which has saved the town thousands of dollars by not having to hire it out. Mary also mentioned Dawn as her right-hand in organizing and details. Mayor Bryant praised all the volunteers and is excited on this year's success.

VII. New Business

- A. Mayor Bryant introduced Pickens County Fire Chief, Tim Prather and Talking Rock’s Volunteer Fire Chief Larry Keener. Mr. Prather gave a brief history of Pickens County fire department and Larry Keener gave a brief history of Talking Rock’s fire station. The information given by the two relating to our dropping of the ISO rating to 10 was due to lack of volunteers, small water lines and 20 something chicken houses that are large commercial buildings. They do have 4 new recruits, 2 from Cherokee county. The inspectors need to come back and inspect water lines. Problem is our water comes from Gordan county so our pressure is down. If they had to open a fire hydrant locally to put out a fire, “it would suck out all the water and nobody is gonna have any water,” according to Mr. Keener. They are looking into tapping into a Gilmer County line that would be closer than Gordan County. Only way to really fix water problem would be to install a million dollar tank that they didn’t think was gonna happen. There are tankers that shuttle water from withing Pickens county. Mr. Prather said the points were there, but we got hit on staffing. They’ve been working on it and have 6-8 more recruits. That’s the quickest way to get ISO up is to show they are increasing volunteers and training. Key thing is to get trucks out the door when there are fires; so getting the personnel in will help with that. Training records and deployment was what gave us the lowest numbers. Hopefully by September next year we’ll get the numbers reversed.
- B. Variance for Joe O’bryant’s lot. Mr. O’bryant is requesting a variance to our 5 acres zoning ordinance to accept his 2 acre lot. This variance will be contingent on the purchase of 2 acres from a neighboring lot. Tony Hawf made a motion to accept the variance and Lynda Cagle seconded it. Vote was 4-1 with Mary Bregantini opposed.
- C. Millage rate approval for 2022. Steve Lewis made a motion to approve the 2022 millage rate of 2.002, seconded by Lynda Cagle. Approved unanimously.
- D. Building Inspector, Tony Hawf said there wasn’t anything really to update, but he and Dawn talked briefly on how they were going to work together to streamline the entering of permits into the system after all the HD stuff was over.
- E. Mayor Pro Tem James Bryant stated there was really nothing else to talk about regarding town improvement updates because it was discussed in the working session.

VIII. Adjourn

A motion was made by Tony Hawf to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lynda Cagle to adjourn the meeting at 8:06pm. All voted unanimously in favor.
The next meeting will be November 3, 2022 at 7pm with the working session beginning the same day at 5:30pm.

James Bryant Jr. Mayor Pro Tem

Lynda Cagle

Tony Hawf

Mary Bregantini

Attested by:

Steve Lewis

Dawn Carver