

# Town of Talking Rock Monthly Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2023

Mayor Pro Tem and board member, James Bryant called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

## I. ATTENDANCE

Board:

James Bryant  
Tony Hawf  
Mary Bregantini  
Lynda Cagle

Town Clerk: Dawn Carver

Town Attorney: Jeff Rusbridge

Others in attendance:

Mike Carver, Mike Dietzel, Max Calor, Janelle Childree, Mark McDonnell, Mary McDonnell, Mary Hawf, Dusty Eaton, Lt. Musgraves, Keith Glantz, Jerry Wright, Casey

## II. Pledge of Allegiance

## III. Appointment of Caleb Gay to fill Steve Lewis' council seat

A motion was made by Tony Hawf, seconded by Lynda Cagle to appoint Caleb Gay to Steve Lewis' council seat. All voted unanimously, in favor.

## IV. Approval of June's Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mary Bregantini, seconded by Lynda Cagle to approve the meeting minutes from June's regularly scheduled meeting. All voted unanimously, in favor.

## V. Approval of June and July's Financial Reports

A motion was made by Tony Hawf, seconded by Lynda Cagle to approve the June 2023 and July 2023 Financial Report. All voted unanimously, in favor.

## VI. Maintenance Report

- A. Pick up limbs from the recent storms
- B. Sprayed weeds
- C. Mowing
- D. Pavilion was painted and rails stained
- E. Pressure wash front of town hall and sidewalk there

## VII. Old Business

- A. Heritage Days – Mary Bregantini gave the HD update – we have 29 vendors, 6 of which are food vendors. Sponsorship – 10 committed totaling \$1800 cash and \$1700 in-kind (returning, coke, Anderson tent and event, Talking Rock Brewery, The Old Mule House, Stahlman Portables, I-think Bank, Community Bank of Pickens, and a few new ones – Home Depot, United Bank, and Woodbridge Inn). We have a full line up of bands that Mary Hawf has secured. Saturday: American Legion will start with the Color Guard, Rusted Melody, The Shetlands, and The Loose Shoes Band. Sunday: Max Calor will start with prayer, Brewsters, Orange Walls, and Cat & Childers. Mary said we are in really good shape. We'll be doing the duck races again. James asked how the stats looked compared to last year. Mary said it's been a lot easier since we have been through it once. As far as the vendors are concerned, she said she thought we were a little ahead, expecting it to increase after summer.

**VIII. Swearing in Caleb Gay as new Council Member**

- A. Town attorney, Jeff Rusbridge swore in Caleb Gay as new council member, replacing Steve Lewis.
- B. James acknowledged Steve Lewis' resignation and thanked him and his wife Audrey for everything they had done in Talking Rock.

**IX. New Business**

- A. Parcel 020A 016, 2.24 acres to Pickens County – Pickens County has approved to build a new fire station. James spoke with Kris Stancil who stated it would be better for the county to buy the property so they would have to maintain it rather than the town just allowing the county to use the footprint of the fire station. An appraisal has been done setting the value at \$37,000. James said they are looking at starting the building next summer and are looking at having at least one full-time employee with a 2 bay station. Mary Bregantini made a motion, seconded by Lynda Cagle, to move forward in the negotiations with Pickens County for the fire station. All voted unanimously, in favor.
- B. Compensation for council members and mayor. James wants to give compensation of \$100 a month to all town council members and \$150 a month for the mayor beginning January 2024. Jeff explained that this proposal had to run in the paper for 3 weeks, then voted on, all PRIOR to when the qualifying week begins August 21<sup>st</sup>. We will have a special meeting August 17<sup>th</sup> at 7PM to vote on this.
- C. RV park proposal update. The county disapproved the annexation of the property into the town. Some of the county's concerns are erosion and fire support. James stated we need to do what's right for the residents, the area, and the support that we have with the county. If after the builder builds his park and decides that he wants to annex into the city, then he can at that time. Jeff said that if at some point the applicant decides that he definitely does NOT want to annex into the city then we will need to vote to withdraw the application.
- D. Grant writer, Janna Shacklet – it was tabled for later. James wants to speak to her. He will eventually bring it to the council for a vote on how it will affect the budget.
- E. Asphalt the park parking lot – James stated that we have one bid so far. Tony Hawf made a motion, seconded by Lynda Cagle, to approve a \$25k cap to asphalt the park parking lot. 4 voted in favor. Caleb abstained, as he was not part of the discussion.
- F. GMA to manage delinquent Insurance from insurers doing business in Talking Rock – Dawn explained that when a company sells insurance in the town they have to pay \$15 for a business license to sell here. GMA will track down those that have not been paying and collect past funds. They will receive half, but after we find out who it is, Dawn will contact and have them pay us directly in the future to avoid losing half. Tony Hawf made a motion, seconded by Lynda Cagle, to approve the agreement to work with GMA and to pass the appropriate revisions to our ordinance. All voted unanimously, in favor.
- G. Tony Hawf made a motion, seconded by Lynda Cagle, to add Mary Bregantini to all our bank signature cards, and to remove Steve Lewis. 4 voted in favor. Mary abstained.
- H. Town signs for the downtown district – Mary Bregantini made a motion, seconded by Lynda Cagle, to spend \$1000 on signs for the town. All voted unanimously, in favor.
- I. Mary Bregantini made a motion, seconded by Lynda Cagle, to approve a new budget line item for donations for 2024 budget. All voted unanimously, in favor.
- J. Road repair of 2<sup>nd</sup> street – Decided to table this for now until we get more information regarding building a curb to direct the water run-off.

- K. Building Inspector – Tony had taken over the duties when the last man left, but we need to look at hiring company to do the building inspections. We will table this until 2024. There is currently a line item for this in the budget, but it may need to be increased.
- L. James announced that we will have a special session on August 17<sup>th</sup> to vote for the compensation of the council members and mayor. He also recommended having a meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup> because of Heritage Days coming up. He thanked the business owners and residents for taking the time to come out to the meeting and all the efforts that everyone has been putting forth. In addition, James announced the ribbon cutting for Blackwater Station on August 10 at 4PM, and applauded the efforts of the new owners of Petticoat Junction, and Dusty Eaton on the progress they have been making on their respective buildings.

**X. Adjourn**

A motion was made by Tony Hawf to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lynda Cagle at 7:35pm. All voted unanimously, in favor.

The next regular council meeting will be September 7, 2023, at 7pm with the working session beginning the same day at 5:30pm. In addition, there will be a special meeting on August 17, 2023 at 7pm.

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James Bryant Jr. Mayor Pro Tem

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Lynda Cagle

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Tony Hawf

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Mary Bregantini

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Caleb Gay

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Attested by: Dawn Carver