

TOWN OF GEORGETOWN
TOWN COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING
February 23, 2015

- I. Gary Smith, Town Council President called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Members in attendance were Chris Loop, Jim Tripure, Gary Smith, Patti Denison and Kathy Haller. Also in attendance, Kristi Fox, Richard Stiles, Bob Woosley, Julia Keibler, and Brenton Fender.
- IV. Approval of Minutes
 - A. A motion was made by Patti Denison to approve the minutes for the January 7th Special Meeting, January 12th Regular Town Council Meeting, January 26th Special Meeting, and February 5th Special Meeting. The motion was seconded by Kathy Haller and approved by all.
- V. People's Petition and Comments
 - A. Aaron Striegel spoke to the Council about his concern for some of the properties in town. He would like to see the town get grants or a partnership with Habitat for Humanity to improve some the properties. Mr. Striegel would like to see these properties condemned and demolished if they can't be improved. Mr. Striegel also believes it would be beneficial for the town to hire a code enforcement officer and hold a town court.
 - B. Todd Allen addressed the Council regarding his water and sewer bill from August of 2014. His bill was for 15,000 gallons which is considerably higher than normal. Mr. Allen stated that he had a plumber check for leaks and none were found. Georgetown Water Operator, Chad Smith, stated that meters slow down throughout their lifespan due to the buildup of minerals on the moving parts. Mr. Allen's meter was removed and tested and found to be reading slow and in the favor of Mr. Allen. Mr. Allen stated that he would pay for the water if he felt he used, however he felt he did not use it. The council mentioned crediting his sewer bill for the month of high usage. Clerk-Treasurer Brenton Fender stated that he could average Mr. Allen's usage for the previous 12 months and credit him the difference. Patti Denison made a motion to reduce Mr. Allen's sewer bill to the average of the previous 12 months usage and remove his late fees. Seconded by Kathy Haller and approved by all.
 - C. Elias Roman came before the Council to ask for forgiveness for his water lost after a burst pipe. The home was rental and the tenant had moved out. The utility employees discovered that there was leak and shutoff the water. Mr. Roman did not provide a bill from a plumber and the leak had not been currently fixed. Kathy Haller suggested that he check with his homeowner's insurance to see if they would cover this incident. Chris Loop made a motion that Mr. Roman should check his homeowner's policy, the Clerk-Treasurers office should calculate the average usage for the residence while occupied, there will be no late fees for this month, and Mr. Roman pays his fixed costs and makes a "good-faith" payment. Seconded by Patti Denison and approved by all.

- D. Connie Davis asked the council if they would consider naming an alley after her grandfather who was a town marshal in the 1960. His name was Clifford Lincoln Whitlock. The council was unsure on regulations for renaming an alley. It was decided to table the discussion for a later date.

VI. Department and Committee Reports

- A. Clerk-Treasurer Brent Fender reported that the January financial statement was nearly complete, but missing some interest statements. Brent stated that he would like to reduce paper usage and start sending PDF files to send out the lengthy financial reports.
- B. Police Chief Dennis Kunkel reported that state and FCC will be requiring a radio update. It will cost around \$800 to get this software upgrade. Some citizens have reported speeding and parking issues in local neighborhoods. Chief Kunkel has electronic speeding signs out and has taken steps to notify the public to not park in the road. Bill Powell has a bunch of Christmas decorations that he has offered to let the town use, but checking with Duke Energy, we may not put these decorations on the utility poles. There have been several narcotics arrests as of late.
- C. Richard Stiles from the Public Works Department reported that Rick stated that our crew has done an excellent job keeping the roads clear and that public probably doesn't realize how good of service they are getting. Due to cold temperatures and frozen precipitation on the ground, meters were read later than normal this month. Rick requested to meet with the board in order to better know his duties and powers as Public Works Director.
- D. Town Attorney Kristi Fox reported that in the Paul Powell v. Georgetown case, we have been sent discovery requests. Kristi stated she would be working closely with Gary and Brent on this case. Jeff Lowe the attorney working on the case has offered to have an executive session with the board to inform them of what is going on.
- E. Town Engineer Bob Woolsey provided a packet with information on the Maplewood Business Park sewer extension. The project will be reimbursed by the Floyd County Redevelopment Commission. Bob had a contract to be signed by Gary Smith. Chris Loop made a motion for Gary to sign the contract. The motion was seconded by Jim Tripure and approved by all. Bob alerted us that the state has been increasing their random MS4 inspections. He stated that he would get with the town inspector Jamie Schillmiller to make sure we are keeping up with our daily logs. Bob said he has continued to get calls regarding development that would be on Georgetown's sewer system. Bob reiterated that the town needs be looking forward to expanding our sewer treatment capacity and that Umbaugh and Associates has done analysis on our rates in the past. Their analysis could help us determine how to fund expansion. The Council planned an executive session for March 18 to meet Umbaugh and Associates. Bob notified the town council that Georgetown will be experiencing an MS4 audit by IDEM soon. Expansion of the Wymberly CTA needs to be approved by both Georgetown and New Albany

because the proposed area stretches in two both sewer districts. This expansion would help the homes in Scenic Valley facing condemnation due to failing septic tanks. Bob stated that he will going to Purdue Road School on behalf of the town but at his own expense.

- F. Kathy Haller spoke about the possibility of some grants for the Old Town Hall Committee. She is working closely with Georgetown Main Street and Erica from Office of Community and Rural Affairs in order get grants for the town.

VII. Old Business

A. G-15-02 Employee Raises

Chris Loop presented ordinance G-15-02 to give employee raises for 2015. The ordinance would include all town employees except the Public Works Director, Clerk-Treasurer, and Town Council members. Chris suggested that the town give a 2% raise. Patti stated she would like to see the employees get a 2.5% raise. Jim Tripure stated he would be with an increase of up to 3% and although he originally voted not to give the Clerk-Treasurer a raise, he believes the position deserves an increase due to the mess inherited. Brent Fender stated that he did not want a raise. Kathy Haller made a motion to G-15-02. The motion was seconded by Jim Tripure and approved by all. With unanimous decision the ordinance was eligible for a second and third reading. A motion to approve the second and third readings was made by Chris Loop. The motion was seconded by Kathy Haller and approved by all.

B. Status of Zoning Violation on Estate Drive

Kristi Fox notified the council that Lyndal Woosley had been served noticed on February 11, 2015 and that at this time the board can decide to file a lawsuit against him. Kristi asked that anyone with evidence pertaining to the case send the information to her. Kristi contacted the Health Department and a representative went to Mr. Woosley's house and did not find any violations. Chris Loop made a motion that we file a lawsuit against Mr. Woosley. The motion was seconded by Kathy Haller and approved by all. Chris Loop made a motion that the town decrees Richard Stiles as the Code Enforcement Officer for this particular zoning violation. The motion was seconded by Patti Denison and approved by all.

C. Status of Catalpa Ridge

Kristi stated that there has been no communication between the town and the owner of Catalpa Ridge. The owner has fired his attorney. Kristi will now be sending him written notice and he will have thirty days to respond.

VIII. New Business

A. Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with Floyd County Parks and Recreation Department

Richard discussed an agreement that allows the Floyd County Parks and Recreation Department to operate the Georgetown Ball Park. The only change to the previous agreement is that Georgetown will resume mowing at Ashley Mariah Park. Kathy Haller made a motion to approve the agreement. The motion was second by Chris Loop and approved all.

B. Updating Town of Georgetown Code of Ordinances

Brent stated he would like to have the town's ordinances codified. Brent stated that he was told the previous council had approved the money for this in the budget. Brent stated he

would start getting quotes. Patti Denison made a motion to allow Brent and Richard to get quotes for codification. The motion was seconded by Gary Smith and approved by all.

C. Promotion of Jeffery Bays

Gary Smith proposed that the council give Jeffery Bays a promotion to Class II. Gary Smith had a motion that Jeffery Bays be promoted to Class II. The motion was seconded by Kathy Haller and approved by all.

IX. Miscellaneous Business

A. NONE

X. Individual Council Member Comments

A. Patti Denison complemented the Public Works Department on their work in snow removal. She also was happy to see that Brent and Rick will be working on getting are ordinances codified and are finding ways to save paper.

B. Kathy Haller also complemented the snow removal job.

C. Chris Loop thanked the audience members that stayed for the entire meeting.

D. Jim Tripure made the observation that new council is much different than the previous. He stated that he would not be running again but he was glad to see the council headed in the right direction.

E. Gary Smith stated that he does not run meetings exactly to procedure but instead allows everyone to speak.

XI. Adjournment

A. *Kathy Haller made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Chris Loop. Approved by all.*