



TOWN OF ATLANTA

Town Council Meeting
105 E. Main Street
December 29, 2022
10:00 a.m.

Present: Murry Dixon
Jody Price
John Phifer
Pam Van Hook

Absent: John Bengé

Others Present: Andy Emmert, Utilities and Street Superintendent, Building Commissioner
Jennifer Farley, Clerk-Treasurer

Minutes: December 12, 2022 – regular meeting- approved

REPORTS

Water, Wastewater, & Streets: Andy Emmert

Mr. Emmert gave a short update on the current sewer project. Mrs. Van Hook asked when the finished restoration will be. Mr. Emmert informed her, Watson Excavating will begin restoration in the spring.

Mr. Emmert recommend having the attorneys write a letter to the homeowner located at 750 W. 600 S. concerning having a well with a cross connection to our water system. Per IDEM and State Law, we are not allowed to have an untested certified water source connected to our water system. Mr. Dixon would like Mr. Emmert to provide the attorneys with all pertinent information.

Building Commissioner: Andy Emmert

(No report)

Clerk Treasurer: Jennifer Farley

attached

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 2022-12-01 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 73: Traffic Schedules, Schedule V: Weight-restricted roadways. After a short discussion concerning the title name and locations, Mr. Phifer made a motion to table for further review and clarification. Mrs. Price, Seconded and the motion passed.

Ordinance No. 2022-12-02 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 73: Traffic Schedules, Schedule III: Weight-restricted roadways. After Mr. Dixon had the first reading of the ordinance and a short discussion, putting up signage, Mrs. Van Hook made a motion to suspend the rules. Mrs. Price, Seconded and the motion passed. After the Second reading, Mrs. Price than made a motion to accept the Ordinance. Mrs. Van Hook, Seconded.

AYE: Mr. Dixon, Mrs. Price, Mr. Phifer, Mrs. Van Hook

Ordinance No. 2022-12-03 An Ordinance Amending/Adding Chapter 50.10 to Provide A Program For Protecting The Public Water System From Contamination Due To Backflow Of the Contaminants Through the Water Service Connection Into The Public Water System.

After Mr. Dixon had the first reading of the ordinance and a short discussion, Mrs. Van Hook made a motion to suspend the rules to pass the ordinance. Mrs. Price, Seconded and the motion passed. After the second reading, Mrs. Van Hook made a motion to accept the Ordinance. Mrs. Price, Seconded.

AYE: Mr. Dixon, Mrs. Price, Mr. Phifer, Mrs. Van Hook

Ordinance No. 2022-12-04 Election Districts- Redistricting. Mr. Dixon informed the Council; He was contacted by the County concerning balancing the voting districts for the town or if keeping them the same, they would need minutes from a meeting specifying this. After a short discussion it was decided to take the County's suggestion by balancing the districts out (map attached). Mrs. Price made a motion to suspend the rules. Mrs. Van Hook, Seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Phifer than made a motion to pass the ordinance. Mrs. Price, Seconded.

AYE: Mr. Dixon, Mrs. Price, Mr. Phifer, Mrs. Van Hook

Salary Ordinance No. S-2023 After a heated and lengthy discussion Mr. Phifer voiced his opinion on having the salary ordinance completed in a timely manner. He felt Mr. Dixon has not handled it correctly. It has been 3 years trying to revise the ordinance. He felt the board has operated as a one-man board and many things have been put on hold. He felt the current salary ordinance is not effective. He questioned the job descriptions, and the funds. He felt the council is not doing their job because they have not been correctly informed by the Clerk Treasurer of the town finances. He felt there is so much going on and he is tired of it! He is not setting still anymore! He will be contacting the attorney to speak with him concerning these issues. He would like for this to take place in a public meeting and have on public record. He insinuated the salary ordinance was not passed because of nepotism when Mrs. Farley hired Mr. Dixon's sister as Deputy Clerk. Mr. Dixon admitted not wanting Mrs. Farey to hire his sister and not signing the nepotism form the first year as council member. But when the attorney explained it to him, he has signed the form every year since. Mr. Phifer voiced his opinion on using ARP money for the Armory project. After reading the financial utility report from Mr. Brock and seeing the water utility (cash reserves) are in the red, he would have never agreed to use the money for that. The money was just thrown away. He said Mr. Dixon said the utilities were doing good and the town could us this to buy the library, Mr. Phifer felt the town could not afford the library. Mr. Phifer said; the council's job is to be financially responsible to the community. He felt not knowing the financials is the problem. When having a budget meeting, he felt like the council should be looking at not only the General budget, but also MVH, LRS, and Water & Sewer. He said "you cannot do it if you only see part of it and your responsible for everything". Mr. Dixon totally agreed. Mr. Phifer apologized for making the council mad or if they do not like what he is saying. He felt this was time to be said. He would like for council members to voice their true opinion and start resolving issues. He has felt like resigning but if he did, he felt he would be giving in and not doing his job so he will not be resigning knowing there are issues that need to be addressed. Mr. Dixon would love for the other board members to be in on this. Mr. Phifer said when he ran for reelection, he said he would not raise the water/sewer rates unless he had to. He would have never believed it has been 9 years since the last increase. He felt there would need to be a major rate increase since we are in the red. He felt it was not good business on our part. He does not want to be setting up here telling everyone the rates are going to raise because we are they are not doing are job. The rates will need to be raised to maintain the utilities. Mr. Dixon felt we need to be more aware of our numbers. He felt the utilities are almost out of debt and improvements have been done. Mr. Phifer questioned where the tap fees are from the new subdivision and questioned whether the money has been put in the right funds. He felt the rates were set to cover purchases. He questioned the depression fund and if purchases are being made from the right funds. Mrs. Farley informed Mr. Phifer, she spoke with Mr. Brock concerning the purchase of the new dump truck and utility truck, he told her to take the money out of the depreciation fund. Mr. Dixon would like to have a good accounting of the where the finances are. Mr. Phifer is not opposed to what has been done but would like to know financially know where we are. He would like to be more involved in the financial issues. After the lengthy discussion, Mr. Dixon ask for a motion to pass Ordinance No. S-2023 pending wording changes,

Mrs. Price made a motion to approve the ordinance with reassessing it after the first of the year. Mrs. Van Hook, seconded with the contingency to address it after the first of the year.

AYE: Mr. Dixon, Mrs. Price, Mrs. Van Hook

NAY: Mr. Phifer

Laptop: Mr. Phifer questioned the reason for buying a new laptop for the Code Enforcement Officer when we have already gotten one from the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Dixon explained to him, the laptop that was received from the county, was striped of all programing. It would cost the town more to obtain the license than it would to purchase a new laptop.

NEW BUSINESS

Utility Assistance: 240 W. County Line - \$191.15

Sewer Adjust: 230 E. County Line - \$ 72.01

535 S. Broadway - \$198.05


Public Comment: Mrs. Teal thanked Mr. Emmert for keeping the roads clear during the resent snowstorm.

With no further business to discuss the claims were signed and the meeting adjourned.



Murry Dixon, Council President

ATTEST:



Jennifer Farley, IAMC, CMC
Clerk-Treasurer

