

Town of Red Cross Town Council
Meeting At Town Hall
Minutes of
Monday, January 8, 2024, at 7:00 PM
(following the public hearing)

Present:

Mayor Kelly Brattain

Council Members: Melvin Poole, Trina Plowman, Lisa Lowder, and Andrew Smith

Planning and zoning officer: Mike Efird

Clerk: Shannon Alberta

Attorney: Jim Phillips

Mayor Kelly Brattain Called the meeting to order

Invocation was given by Trina Plowman

Welcome and Recognition of guests 8+

The agenda was approved; **Motion #1768**; to approve the agenda was made by Melvin Poole, second by Lisa Lowder Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

The Minutes of the Council Meeting of December 11, 2023, were approved **Motion # 1769** was made by Andrew Smith, second by Trina Plowman; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

The financial reports were presented by Trina Plowman for December 2023. Trina asked about 2 charges on the checking account, one being for A.M.T. for the Burleson development. Shannon Alberta explained this is something we pay to A.M.T. and then is reimbursed back to the town by Mr. Burleson. The second is South Point Surveying for Town Hall Property. Shannon Alberta explained this was the survey we needed to rezone the property into one zoning. Trina also stated an amendment may need to be made in the next few months as our professional fees are again getting close to budget. The financials were approved by council, **Motion #1770** was made by Andrew Smith, second by Lisa Lowder; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

Fire Protection was presented by Melvin Poole, there was a home this past month that was lost due to fire. Melvin reminded everyone to use safety and caution, especially with portable heaters.

Police Protection was presented by Lisa Lowder. There were 50 total events including 12 traffic stops, 5 traffic light malfunctions, 3 information referrals, and 3 business checks, the rest were small/minor reports.

Street Maintenance was presented by Melvin Poole there was no report, but Melvin did comment that he will be reaching out to the state regarding rather large potholes around town.

Waste Collection was presented by Lisa Lowder with no report, she did mention her recycles seemed to have been collected on Wednesday and wanted to confirm the day was still every other Thursday.

Zoning was presented by Andrew Smith; Andrew stated the most recent meetings the board had were very energetic and constructive. He also acknowledged there were quite a few members of the board in attendance for the council meeting, and that he appreciates the interest everyone is showing. Mike Efird presented an update on the subdivision ordinance, the board is working on getting a list together to show attorney Al Benshoff. Attorney Al Benshoff requested the change, as the current one seems out of date. The board discussed changing the smaller zoning districts and overall changes to the ordinance.

Mike Efird also discussed there is planning of a public park for Town Hall Property, they will be hosting a workshop on Monday, January 22, 2024 at 6pm at Town Hall. This is advertised for the public to attend and for everyone to discuss ideas about what they would like to see in a public park on the property. There is an interest in creating an entrance for the park off of South Oakridge Road possibly using money from the Powell Bill to pave the road, parking lot, and sidewalks. The board is looking into hiring a landscape architect to help with the design and planning of the park. Also, the board is researching grants to help with funding. Once ready the board will present their plan to the council for their consideration.

Mike Efird gave an update about the minimal housing complaint he received regarding the address of 151 Bear Claw Road. Mike Efird spoke with attorney Jim Phillips about a hearing regarding the property. He is thinking they will set a date for the hearing by the end of the month. Mike Efird will be able to chair the hearing, they will try to work with the owner to get everything up to code.

Mike Efird also reported the Planning and Zoning Board discussed appointing members for the Board of Adjustments which will be discussed later in the meeting.

Andrew Smith also commented he and Mike Efird visited the barn that is located on town property. He would like to discuss at the February meeting looking into preserving it and then restoring it in the future. Phil Love also volunteered to clean up the brush around the barn in the spring.

Old Business:

The Council discussed and voted on approving the proposed fee schedule **Motion# 1771** to approve the fee schedule, was made by Lisa Lowder, Second by Melvin Poole; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

New Business:

Laurie Harper was supposed to attend the meeting to present possible grants that may be of interest to the town, but was not in attendance. Mike Efird will reach out to see if she can come for the February 2024 meeting.

The Council discussed and appointed the members of The Board of Adjustment. The council approved the members as presented with one seat being open that was originally slated for Mr. Tucker. **Motion#1772** to approve with 1 open seat was made by Andrew Smith, Second by Melvin Poole; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

The council shared what they would like to see the Town accomplish in the year 2024. Lisa Lowder shared she looks forward to the plans of a park on Town Hall property, and seeing what could be done with the barn as well. Mayor Kelly Brattain expressed he would like to see what the Town could do with the white house on town property. Melvin Poole shared he would like to see the Town make some improvements to the entrance/exterior of Town Hall. Lights and reflectors installed on the driveway would make Town Hall safer and more aesthetically pleasing. Melvin Poole also shared he would like to see the town partnering with the local school for cross country to enjoy the future park. Andrew Smith shared the main thing for him is the park at Town Hall taking form. Trina Plowman shared she also looks forward to the park, she would enjoy seeing a gazebo and walking trail so people can enjoy the ponds and wildlife around the property.

The Council asked if there were any comments from citizens. Heather Britt Shared she is trying to talk to everyone about the park planning. She also spoke with the director at West Stanly who seems excited about the park. Family also shared they would enjoy fishing at the ponds would be nice as they used to many years ago. Heather also commented her and her husband discussed how they both felt it would be nice for the meetings to be live-streamed for the citizens to view the meetings being held when they are unable to physically attend. Lionel Hahn shared he agrees that the lighting for Town Hall should be looked into along the driveway and around the building. He also shared that the town has a lot of possible items to be displayed in a museum. The brick building could also be used as a satellite office for the county sheriffs. Elizabeth Smith also shared she would like to see Christmas lights for the holidays. Andrew Smith also commented that Town Clerk Shannon Alberta has been updating the website and Facebook page trying to get the backlog of minutes posted for review. He feels we could easily be able to get live video streaming going pretty easily if that is something we do decide to move forward on.

Comments from Council came from Lisa Lowder who thanked everyone for coming to show their support for the town. Melvin wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Motion #1773 to Go Into Closed Session, was made by Andrew Smith, second by Trina Plowman Vote: 4 Yea 0 Nay; for personnel matters and approval/discussion of closed session minutes (“**personnel/attorney client privilege**”, **G.S. 143-318.11.**)

Motion # 1774 to Adjourn the Closed Session was made by Melvin Poole, second by Andrew Smith; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

Motion# 1775 to Adjourn the Council Meeting was made by Andrew Smith second by Trina Plowman; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay, to Adjourn the Council Meeting