

Town of Grottoes Workshop Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: The Town of Grottoes Town Council held a workshop meeting on Monday, February 10, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., with Vice-Mayor David Raynes presiding.

ATTENDANCE: Council Members present were: Jo Plaster, Mark Keeler, Tim Leeth, Joshua Bailey, C.W. Stephenson and David Raynes.

Other Town Officials present were: Town Manager Nathan Garrison, Town Attorney Nathan Miller, Town Clerk Tara Morris, Public Works Director AJ Hummel, and Police Chief Thomas James.

Town Manager Nathan Garrison stated that we only received one pool bid and that was from the Waynesboro YMCA. He said the cost for staffing came in at \$18.00 per hour for lifeguards and \$28.00 per hour for management.

Town Manager Nathan Garrison informed the Council that Randy Newman submitted a request to vacate the interior lot lines for the lots he owns. He said they are split up with four lots facing fifth street and four lots facing sixth street. Town Manager Nathan Garrison stated that the Planning Commission reviewed this and didn't see any problems with vacating these lines.

Town Manager Nathan Garrison stated that Christa Hall has submitted an application to serve on the BZA but is not able to attend the Council meeting due to her work schedule. Town Manager Nathan Garrison stated that Dayton Town Council meets the same nights we do but this would not interfere with her being able to make BZA meetings if she is appointed.

Town Manager Nathan Garrison and Public Works Director AJ Hummel went over the strategic plan for the public works department. The plan included items and equipment that they would like to purchase and projects that they would like to see done. Town Manager Nathan Garrison asked the Council to look over the plan and let himself or AJ Hummel know if you have any questions. Councilman Mark Keeler asked that they look at the comprehensive plan to see how this coincides and let us know when we look at it again.

Vice-Mayor David Raynes asked if anyone had a committee update. Councilman C.W. Stephenson stated he has a couple items that are not under parks but said that when you call the rescue squad your insurance company is billed for that service. He stated that

previously this cost was split between Rockingham County, Grottoes Rescue Squad and Grottoes Fire Department. He stated that now the county has cut the fire department out of those funds saying it is too hard to track. Councilman C.W. Stephenson stated that he would like the finance committee to look at possibly increasing the funding for the fire department. He stated that he has a copy of their budget and more importantly a copy of their ISO rating. He stated that Grottoes is currently one of only 28 localities in the state that has this low of an ISO rating. He stated that this is huge as far as your insurance and attracting businesses. He stated that the fire department still runs the calls and provides personnel to assist with transporting patients. Councilman C.W. Stephenson stated that he has all this information and would like everyone to look it over and have the finance committee, while looking at the budget, see if we can increase their donation.

Councilman C.W. Stephenson said the second thing he wanted to touch on is the fact that we are running out of land and there is construction going on everywhere. He stated that he feels we should look into annexing. Councilman C.W. Stephenson stated maybe we should start with Augusta County since we already have a waterline that runs up to Stonewall Lane. Councilman C.W. Stephenson said he would like to know how Council feels and to see if we should move forward or not. Councilman David Raynes stated that in the past Augusta County has not been in favor of us annexing their direction. Town Attorney Nathan Miller stated that it is a process, so he suggested we look at both counties to see if we want to expand in both directions.

Councilwoman Jo Plaster stated that she will be scheduling a street committee meeting very soon.

Councilman Mark Keeler stated that the Planning Commission met on January 28th and recommended the Shady Creek plan and on tonight's agenda the request from Randy Newman. He stated that we welcomed two new members to the Planning Commission Nathan Forester and Miriam Miller.

Councilman Tim Leeth said the Special Events committee met and everyone should have a copy of the dates for the scheduled events.

Vice-Mayor David Raynes stated that we are out of time and adjourned the meeting.

Vice-Mayor Raynes called the February 10, 2020 meeting of the Grottoes Town Council to order and welcomed citizens. Town Clerk Tara Morris called the roll. Mark Keeler, Joshua Bailey, Jo Plaster, David Raynes, C.W. Stephenson, and Tim Leeth were present. Also present were Town Clerk Tara Morris, Town Attorney Nathan Miller, Town Manager Nathan Garrison, Public Works Director AJ Hummel, and Police Chief Thomas James.

Councilman Mark Keeler made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Councilman Tim Leeth seconded the motion. Council members Mark Keeler, Joshua Bailey, Jo Plaster, C.W. Stephenson and Tim Leeth voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

FINANCE

Councilman Joshua Bailey made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report for January 2020. Councilman C.W. Stephenson seconded the motion. Council members Mark Keeler, Jo Plaster, and Tim Leeth voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

Councilman Joshua Bailey made a motion to approve the bills as of February 10, 2020 and the remaining bills paid in January 2020 totaling \$196,521.13. Councilman Mark Keeler seconded the motion. Council members Mark Keeler, Joshua Bailey, Jo Plaster, C.W. Stephenson and Tim Leeth voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

ORDINANCE, HEALTH AND PROPERTY

Councilman Mark Keeler made a motion to approve the request from Randy Newman to take his eight lots and condense them into two lots. Councilman Tim Leeth seconded the motion. Council members Mark Keeler, Joshua Bailey, Jo Plaster, C.W. Stephenson and Tim Leeth voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

PARKS, RECREATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

Councilman C.W. Stephenson made a motion to grant the request from the Grottoes Cardinals to use the park on May 2nd for a fundraiser. Councilman Tim Leeth seconded the motion. Councilman Tim Leeth asked if we are charging them for the use of the park. Councilman C.W. Stephenson amended his motion to grant the request at no charge. Councilman Tim Leeth accepted the

amendment. Council members Mark Keeler, Joshua Bailey, Jo Plaster, C.W. Stephenson and Tim Leeth voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

Councilman C.W. Stephenson made a motion to accept the pool bid from the Waynesboro YMCA. He stated that the staffing of lifeguards is \$18.00/per hour and management is \$28.00/per hour. Councilwoman Jo Plaster seconded the motion. Council members Mark Keeler, Joshua Bailey, Jo Plaster, C.W. Stephenson and Tim Leeth voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Councilman Tim Leeth stated that the new event cards will be coming out with the March water bills. He stated that on February 16th the Grottoes Fire Department is having Sunday lunch and on March 1st shelter reservations begin for both parks.

PERSONNEL, FIRE AND POLICE PROTECTION

Councilman Mark Keeler made a motion to appoint Christa Hall to the Board of Zoning Appeals vacancy. Councilman Tim Leeth seconded the motion. Council members Mark Keeler, Joshua Bailey, Jo Plaster, C.W. Stephenson and Tim Leeth voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

With no further business to discuss, Vice-Mayor David Raynes adjourned the meeting.