

Mayor Emily Holloway called the Meeting of the Grottoes Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 8, 2018 and welcomed guests. Town Clerk Tara Morris called the roll. Members present were Mark Keeler, Mark Sterling, Emily Holloway, Marjorie Funk, David Raynes, and Tim Leeth. Also present were Town Clerk Tara Morris, Town Attorney Nathan Miller, Town Manager Jeff Nicely, Tourism and Parks Director Nathan Garrison, and Police Chief John Painter.

Councilwoman Marjorie Funk made a motion to approve the minutes from the workshop meeting and the regular meeting on December 11, 2017. Councilman Mark Keeler seconded the motion. Council members Mark Keeler, Mark Sterling, Marjorie Funk, David Raynes, and Tim Leeth voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

Mayor Holloway stated that under new business, she would first like to publicly thank the former Planning Commission members Stephen Morris, Dinah Watson, and Jim Justis for the time they served on the Planning Commission and tonight we are going to accept the recommendation from the committee for Justin Morris, Kevin Campbell and David Bradley to join the Planning Commission. Mayor Holloway stated at this time she would entertain a motion from the Council to accept the committee's recommendation. Councilman David Raynes replied so moved. Councilwoman Marjorie Funk seconded the motion. Council members Mark Sterling, Marjorie Funk, David Raynes, and Tim Leeth voted in favor of the motion, Councilman Mark Keeler voted against the motion, motion carried.

Councilman Mark Keeler stated that since we are losing some experienced members of the Planning Commission he would like to ask the Town Staff to inform all new members of training that is available and encourage them to participate in that as we have in the past. He also stated that he would like to add his personal thanks to Steve, Jim and Dinah for their leadership, commitment and service to our community. He stated that it has been a pleasure working along with them and that their absence will be missed.

Mayor Holloway recessed the Town Council Meeting.

Mayor Holloway called the joint public hearing to order on Monday, January 8, 2018 beginning at 7:15 p.m.

Council Members Present were: Mark Keeler, Mark Sterling, Emily Holloway, Marjorie, David Raynes, and Tim Leeth.

Planning Commission Members Present were: Mark Keeler, David Bradley, Justin Morris, Kevin Campbell, Jen Smith, and Rebecca Holloway.

Town Council Members Absent were: Joshua Bailey.

Planning Commission Members Absent were: Justin Neitzey.

Other Town Officials Present were: Town Clerk Tara Morris, Town Attorney Nathan Miller, Town Manager Jeff Nicely, Tourism and Parks Director Nathan Garrison, and Police Chief John Painter.

Town Clerk Tara Morris determined that a quorum was present for the Town Council and the Planning Commission.

Mayor Holloway stated that the joint public hearing is to amend the Land Development Regulations to provide for short term rentals of property in the Zoning Districts R-1, R-2, and R-3 by Conditional Use Permit and related fees in Chapter A171, including an amendment to Chapter 144- Taxation, to impose a 2% transient occupancy tax.

Mayor Holloway stated that we would hear from citizens in support of this amendment.

Karen Michael addressed that Council stating that she was in support of this change. She stated that she has decided not to sell her dad's property because he loved this community so much that she wanted to use his home to bring people to the community he loved. She stated that she doesn't want to rent his house out long term because of the abuse that houses tend to take and feels this would be perfect for them.

Roger Michael stated that he was in support of this change. He stated that this would allow them more control of who is staying in their house and that it's being taken care of.

Ron McMullen addressed the Council and stated that he has been doing this for two years before he was informed this wasn't allowed. He stated that in his two years he has never had any problems and he decides who can stay. He stated that he does not want someone that may cause a problem or damage something to be staying on his property. He feels that this is a good way for people to connect with Grottoes. He also stated that most people that have stayed with him visit Grand Caverns. He said that this is a good way to get Grottoes on the map. He stated that it may not generate a lot of revenue but these people are eating here,

buying gas here and visiting our shops. He stated that he feels this will give people a way to come to us and not just travel through us. Mr. McMullen stated that if anybody had any questions he would be happy to answer them.

Mayor Holloway asked if the Planning Commission or Town Council had any questions.

Mayor Holloway adjourned the public hearing.

Planning Commission Member Rebecca Holloway asked if the Planning Commission had any questions or if they were ready to make a recommendation to Council.

Commission Member Mark Keeler made a motion to recommend to the Council for their consideration of amending the Land Development Regulations, related fees in Chapter A171 and Chapter 144 - taxation to impose a 2% transient occupancy tax. Commission Member Jen Smith seconded the motion. Commission Members Mark Keeler, David Bradley, Justin Morris, Kevin Campbell, Jen Smith and Rebecca Holloway voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

Commission Member Rebecca Holloway adjourned the Planning Commission.

Mayor Holloway reconvened the Town Council meeting at 7:25 pm.

FINANCE

Councilwoman Marjorie Funk made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report for the month of December 2017. Councilman David Raynes seconded the motion. Council members Mark Keeler, Mark Sterling, Marjorie Funk, David Raynes, and Tim Leeth voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

Councilwoman Marjorie Funk made a motion to pay the bills as of January 8, 2018 and the remaining bills from December totaling \$368,108.31. Councilman David Raynes seconded the motion. Council members Mark Keeler, Mark Sterling, Marjorie Funk, David Raynes, and Tim Leeth voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

WATER AND SEWER

Councilwoman Marjorie Funk stated that we have a request for two sewer connections. She stated that this is on C Street in Augusta County and that we already have three connections on that street. Councilwoman Marjorie Funk stated that she checked with Town Manager Jeff Nicely and he stated that there is a six inch sewer main so there shouldn't be any problems to add two connections. Councilman Marjorie Funk made a motion to approve the request for two sewer connections. She stated that the contractor would be responsible for paying the connection fees and the occupants would pay the sewer bill. Councilman Tim Leeth seconded the motion. Council members Mark Keeler, Mark Sterling, Marjorie Funk, David Raynes, and Tim Leeth voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

ORDINANCE, HEALTH AND PROPERTY

Councilman Mark Keeler stated that based on the recommendation from the Planning Commission he would like to announce the first reading to amend the Land Development Regulations to provide for short term rentals of property in the Zoning Districts R-1, R-2, and R-3 by Conditional Use Permit and related fees in Chapter A171, including an amendment to Chapter 144- Taxation, to impose a 2% transient occupancy tax.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Councilman Tim Leeth announced that the events card is being finalized and should be mailed out with the next billing.

PERSONNEL, FIRE AND POLICE PROTECTION

Councilman David Raynes made a motion to accept the 2018 Officers of the Grottoes Volunteer Fire Department. Councilman Tim Leeth seconded the motion. Council members Mark Keeler, Mark Sterling, Marjorie Funk, David Raynes, and Tim Leeth voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

Town Manager Jeff Nicely stated that he wanted to make Council aware of the registration fee on the proposed short term rental ordinance. He stated that the fee will need to be set between the first and second readings or we can decide not to have the fee at all. Councilwoman Marjorie Funk stated that we can discuss it at the Workshop Meeting before we have the second reading.

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Holloway adjourned the meeting.