

Council Meeting
Town of Nutter Fort
10/10/17

Recorder Louk invited attendees to join in prayer offered by Councilor Haddix, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recorder Louk called the meeting to order in council chambers at 6:32 pm.

Attendance: Recorder Charlene Louk, Councilors Natalie Haddix, Bruce Kidd, Karen Phillips and Brenda Riley.

Also present: Treasurer Julia Foley, Fire Chief Jeremy Haddix, Chief Ron Godwin and Public Works Supervisor Taylor Keith.

Absent: Mayor Sam Maxson, Councilor Benincosa, Code Enforcer (CE) Keith Kesling.

Guests: Linda Blake and Janet Conrad.

Minutes: Minutes from the Sept. 26th Workshop and Sept. 26th Council meeting (attached) were approved by unanimous vote after a motion by Natalie Haddix and second by Brenda Riley.

Treasurer's Report: Mrs. Foley reported the *homes past* list was sent to Charter Communications (formerly TWC) to make the corrections. She has not heard back from them. We are close to getting the discrepancies corrected after a two-year process.

- Bruce Kidd moved to accept accounts payable (attached). Motion passed after a second by Brenda Riley.

Unfinished business: Regarding the Sidewalk Project: photos were sent for review to a representative from DOH, with a meeting to be scheduled. Mrs. Foley asked the meeting not be scheduled until the Mayor returns from vacation.

- Chief Haddix advised Halloween in Harrison County will be observed on Tuesday, Oct. 31st beginning at 6 pm ending at 7 or 7:30 pm depending on the municipality. Bruce Kidd moved to observe Halloween on Oct. 31st from 6 to 7 pm. Motion passed after a second by Karen Phillips. The Fire Dept. Halloween Party will start at 7 pm.
- Councilor Kidd reviewed the ongoing pension discrepancy involving Treasurer Foley and Chief Godwin. The discrepancy occurred during the probationary period for a number of employees when the Town did not pay into their pension. They were listed as part-time and/or on a probationary status, even though they were working 40 hour per week. Mrs. Foley and Chief Godwin were told some time ago this could be corrected, but it was never taken care of. The discrepancy was corrected for all the other employees a number of years ago, but was overlooked for said employees. In fairness, this needs to be corrected and has been an ongoing discussion over the past few months. The town owes the money or SL days. We could buy back the lost days, but with interest over the years, giving SL days is much better for the city and the employees. The state allows employees to apply unused SL towards their pension. The only option for Nutter Fort employees to use remaining SL under the state system is to apply it towards their pension. Both Treasurer Foley and Chief Godwin were present and agree adding SL days in lieu of a monetary amount is their best option. At the time of the discrepancy, the employee's portion of their pension was 4½% and the employer's portion was 9½% equaling 14%. Mr. Kidd has done the calculations to

determine the amount of time owed to both employees. $9\frac{1}{2}\%$ (town's portion) \div 14% = 68% . $4\frac{1}{2}\%$ (employee's portion) \div 14% = 32% . 10 days of SL = one month of pension. Mrs. Foley is short 9 months. 90 days = 9 months of SL. The town's portion of this is 61.2 days ($90 \times 68\%$). Chief Godwin is short 6 months. 60 days = 6 months. The town's portion is 40.8 days ($60 \times 68\%$). Mrs. Foley is owed 61.2 days. Chief Godwin is owed 40.8 days. Adding SL days is done by our office staff and costs the town nothing. When someone retires, the state asks the town for the employee's number of sick days to calculate their pension. The pension then comes solely from state funds. Council was in agreement with this decision and determined a motion was not in order, as all past discrepancies / buy-backs were handled without Council approval.

New Business:

- The first reading on updating ordinances to coincide with the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC), was tabled until we receive information from Attorney Johnnie Brown. He was unable to complete the updated wording by tonight's meeting.
- Town water bills were mailed out Sept. 15th and lost by the postal service. As a result, penalties normally assessed will be waived for September. Past due notices were not sent out as they would coincide with the new bills, scheduled to be mailed the end of this week. The Town went above and beyond to notify residents via newspaper and social media. Most residents finally received their bills between Oct. 5th and 10th.

Committee Reports:

Police Dept: Chief Godwin reported Shane Richardson graduated Sept. 29th. He has been on duty and very busy. There has been a resurgence of bath salts. The dept. has been busy with several cases where CPS had to be involved.

Fire Dept: Chief Haddix reported being very busy with programs for Fire Prevention month. The special election on Oct. 7th, held in council chambers went very smoothly.

Maintenance Dept: Taylor Keith reported Wade Keith and Kenny Friend are in class this week to obtain Water Distribution (WD) Certification.

Code Enforcement: None.

Public Comment: *Community Garden:* Janet Conrad gave attendees zucchini bread she made from zucchini grown in the Community Garden. All were very appreciative.

Incidental business: Recorder Louk read Councilor Kidd's letter of resignation effective October 11th, 2017. She presented a plaque to Councilor Kidd in appreciation for his service to the Town Council over the last 12 years. Family members were in attendance. A reception in his honor was held immediately after the meeting. All were invited to attend.

Meeting adjourned by acclamation at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Louk, Recorder

Sam Maxson, Mayor

