

Council Meeting
Town of Nutter Fort
08/22/17

Mayor Maxson invited attendees to join in prayer offered by Charlotte Link, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Maxson called the meeting to order in council chambers at 6:30 pm.

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

Also present: Treasurer Julia Foley, Fire Chief Jeremy Haddix, C. E. Keith Kesling.

Absent: Councilor William Benincosa and Acting Maintenance Supervisor Taylor Keith.

Guests: Jim and Charlotte Link, Nathan Rohrbough, Linda Griffith, Twyla Snodgrass, Linda Blake, Janet Conrad and Janet Pritt.

Minutes: Minutes from the August 8th meeting (attached) were approved by unanimous vote after a motion by Karen Phillips and second by Brenda Riley.

Treasurer's Report: The presentation by Verizon regarding programs they have to offer is rescheduled for the Sept. 12th Council meeting. The representative will be here at 10am on Sept. 7th to look at software we currently have. Bruce Kidd suggested dept. heads be present on the 7th to see programs available prior to the 9/12/17 presentation. Mrs. Foley will coordinate this.

Mrs. Foley called the Clarksburg Sanitary Board to make them aware of the decrease in our water usage following the repair of a major water leak since our last bill. The cost went from \$27,000.00 in July to \$11,000.00 on last week's bill. This is our lowest bill in 5 years. It was averaging between \$21,000 and \$27,000 monthly.

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

Yard of the Month: Mayor Maxson and Linda Blake congratulated Janet Pritt of 109 Ohio Ave. She was presented with a certificate and gift prior to a photo of the group.

Unfinished business: None

New Business: Mayor Maxson opened discussion of possible sources of revenue for paving. He proposed adding a fee to water bills. He said Stonewood has a \$7.50 monthly Municipal fee to use for paving and other projects. A fee of this type may need to be voted on by the residents. We will ask Johnnie Brown. We are limited to 6.25% on a levy, which is currently in effect for the fire dept. This cannot be altered until the current levy expires.

Bruce Kidd suggested talking to Jim Hunt for suggestions to increase revenue based on his knowledge of other cities. Mayor Maxson will call him.

- Council discussed amending two Ordinances in Chapter 3 to exempt Fairs, Festivals and Temporary Events from B&O Taxes: Article 745, Section 18; and also to exempt them from obtaining a license: Article 741, Section 7. Recorder Louk noted we should be hesitant about changing these ordinances, when we are looking for more sources of revenue. Other councilors made suggestions and emphasized working together, keeping open minds and recognizing we have to make changes to move forward. In regard to discussion of charging fees to Blackberry Festival (BF) vendors (for example \$10.00 per vendor),

Linda Griffith asked about the possibility of giving the city \$650.00 from the BF budget to the city in lieu of charging each vendor. This will be taken into consideration. Mayor Maxson said he and Mrs. Foley are meeting with John Cooper tomorrow on several issues regarding the Park. Council voiced concerns again about the fee charged for use of the park during the BF, while providing no assistance with trash, restrooms, etc. Council agreed to table action on these ordinances until more information is gathered and town officials meet with John Cooper.

- Council agreed on Wednesday, Sept. 6th at 4:30 pm for a work session with the Town Attorney and Code Enforcement regarding legalities for property maintenance issues and questions about revenue sources.
- Mayor Maxson would like to put together a promotional packet to publicize vacant buildings for business opportunities. Bruce Kidd recommended talking to Jamie Metz. Mayor Maxson spoke to Mr. Metz in the past and he didn't seem interested. The Mayor asked council to be thinking about this. Nathan Rorhbough added he had an impromptu conversation with the local owner of Wendy's. He may be interested in putting a Wendy's in Nutter Fort. He would need two acres of land.

Committee Reports:

Police Dept: No report

Fire Dept: No report

Maintenance Dept: Mrs. Foley read a report from Taylor Keith who is on vacation: He acknowledged the unfortunate passing of long-time maintenance worker Steve Winters. They are doing black top patching, repair and replacement of inlet drains, evaluating sanitary sewer problem areas, and replacing fire hydrants in certain parts of town. The 2008 truck and plow valued at \$10,000.00, brought \$9600.00 at auction on August 12th.

Code Enforcement: Mr. Kesling reported he has been processing a number of building permits and notices of violation, including one for 302 W.V. Avenue. Since we mentioned reviewing our current fees, he noticed our contractor license fee is \$40.00. The state maximum is \$100.00. He suggested we consider this when adjusting other fees.

Public Comment: 1) Jim Link advised we are flying the US Flag at half-staff without proper authorization. He urged we review flag etiquette. Only the Governor or President may make this directive. Mayor Maxson took responsibility for the decision to place the flag at half-staff and was not aware of the requirements. He thanked Mr. Link for making us aware of this. 2) Linda Blake updated council on the Community Garden. They now have a building and water system. Both of which are near completion. She shared cut green bell pepper, the garden's first produce with council members. Mayor Maxson thanked Linda for all her hard work.

3) Bruce Kidd announced they are moving in the near future. It was a very difficult decision, but they will be moving to Taylor Co. There was discussion on the process for replacing his seat on council. We will get clarification on this.

Meeting adjourned by acclamation at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Louk, Recorder

Sam Maxson, Mayor

