

Council Meeting
Town of Nutter Fort
08/08/17

Mayor Maxson invited attendees to join in prayer offered by Councilor Benincosa, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance The Mayor called the meeting to order in council chambers at 6:30 pm.

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

Also present: Treasurer Julia Foley, Fire Chief Jeremy Haddix and Maintenance Supervisor Jim Wolfe, Acting Maintenance Supervisor Taylor Keith and Police Chief Ron Godwin.

Guests: Linda Blake, Linda Griffith, Twyla Snodgrass, Jim and Charlotte Link, Jim Wolfe and Nathan Rohrbough.

Minutes: Minutes from the July 25th meeting (attached) were approved by unanimous vote after a motion by Bruce Kidd and second by Brenda Riley.

Treasurer's Report: Mrs Foley reported a new dentist is taking over the office of Dr. Davis on Rt 98 in Medwood Plaza. There will be a ribbon cutting this Friday at 11:30. Verizon has been talking with Mrs. Foley about programs/tools, etc they have to offer municipalities. They will make a presentation at the next council meeting on 8/22.

Accounts payable (attached) were approved after a motion by Bruce Kidd and second by Karen Phillips.

Unfinished business:

- Council reconsidered a license approval requested by Kaylene Klein of Southwestern Advantage for door-to-door sales of educational material. The company seems to be reputable. Bruce Kidd moved to offer a Solicitor's license if Ms. Klein returns. Motion passed after a second by Karen Phillips.
- There is a recommendation to repeal the business license for K&R Family Flea Market following problems requiring Police and Code Enforcement intervention. So moved by Bruce Kidd. Motion passed after a second by Karen Phillips.
- Sources of revenue in the park and other venues in the Town were discussed. These include licenses for contractors providing new construction, licenses and possible fees for vendors. Councilor Kidd stated this would help defray costs of the Black Berry Festival (BF) absorbed by the Town, therefore assuring the Festival can continue in the future. Attorney Johnnie Brown confirmed the Town can pursue these licenses and/or fees and is supported by Ordinance 741.01. Members of the BF Committee in attendance are opposed to charging vendors any type of fee. They presented a list of area fairs and festivals showing types of assistance from the respective town/city. The five festivals listed exempt vendors from registration/B&O tax. Vendors at the Buckwheat Festival do pay \$25.00 to the City of Kingwood. Vendors and carnival on Fire Dept. property pay a fee to the FD. Councilor Haddix proposed charging a nominal fee to vendors at the BF as a compromise. There was much discussion on possible future vendor fees and assuring the Town is collecting appropriate revenues from park construction. There were also questions about the \$1800.00 fee for the park rental. Why does the BF get nothing from the Park Board in return for the fee? It was also

noted the Town gets no revenue at this time from shows at the school such as *Bunnyland*. No further action was taken, but we will revisit this topic.

- Update on hiring of Public Works employee: Jim Wolfe hired Wade Keith as the new Maintenance worker. Councilor Kidd noted this hiring was discussed explicitly at the last meeting in regards to nepotism. Councilor Riley quoted a portion of the handbook stating, “no person will be hired if such hiring would result in a direct or indirect supervision conflict due to a relationship between the prospective employee and a supervisor which falls within any relationships described”. Councilor Phillips and Recorder Louk also voiced opposition to the hiring based on nepotism and possible problems for the new supervisor Taylor Keith; and potential ill feelings among maintenance workers. Mayor Maxson noted the situation was explained to Attorney Johnnie Brown, who said Mr. Wade could be hired. Mr. Wolfe gave his reasoning for hiring Mr. Keith. No further action was taken.

New Business: There was discussion on the ordinance passed 2/24/15 establishing pay incentives for certifications, etc. At the last council meeting, it was noted the ordinance does not include supervisory staff. For clarification, the ordinance *does not* include that specific wording. After discussion, Natalie Haddix moved to add a sentence to exempt supervisory staff from these increases and re-visit the ordinance to include all departments. Motion passed after a second by Mrs. Riley.

Committee Reports:

Police Dept: Chief Godwin noted this was the busiest Blackberry Festival as far as problems. His officers and everyone working together were able to handle the issues.

Fire Dept: Chief Haddix reported \$720.00 for recent flood victims was collected at the BF. They are working with Wayne Worth to be sure funding is used for the most needy.

2) Tickets are available for the vacation package raffle worth \$6000.00. Tickets are \$20 each. The winner will be based on the Daily 3 on Oct. 31st.

Maintenance Dept: Taylor Keith reported the new truck has been ordered. The old truck will be auctioned this Saturday at 12 noon. They’ve been working on crosswalk prep for the start of school. There’s nothing new from JF Allen on a date for paving.

Code Enforcement: A number of *Notice of Violations* have been sent out. Several building permits have been approved. The mortgage company for the house on Burton Ave. with the collapsing retaining wall is supposed to have it repaired. Mr. Kesling is also working through problems at Advanced Auto and the 302 WV Ave. property.

Public Comment: None

Meeting adjourned by acclamation at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Louk, Recorder

Sam Maxson, Mayor