

**Council Meeting  
Town of Nutter Fort  
09/08/2015**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Mayor Sam Maxson in council chambers with Councilor Benincosa asking prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance: Mayor Sam Maxson, Recorder Charlene Louk, Councilors William Benincosa, Natalie Haddix, Karen Phillips and Ryan Roberts. Absent: Councilor Bruce Kidd. Also present: Police Chief Ron Godwin, Fire Chief Jeremy Haddix, Maintenance Supervisor Jim Wolfe and Julia Foley, Treasurer.  
Guests: Donald L. Sinclair

- Fire Chief Haddix asked council to consider partially funding re-installation of the roof top siren. It was removed during the fire dept. renovation. The cost would not exceed \$4000.00. The siren can also be used for public service and safety announcements. Since it can be used for community warnings, it will help their ISO rating. Chief noted funding would not have been an issue, but they have spent a lot on unexpected repairs this year. William Benincosa made a motion that the town pay half the expenses for mounting the siren. Second by Karen Phillips. Passed by unanimous vote.
- Mayor Maxson gave an overview of the workshop prior to this evening's meeting regarding potential sale of 1405 Buckhannon Pk. The Harrison Co. Development Authority can sell the property for us without an auction. Council members would like assurance that we can set a minimum bid. Councilor Kidd is on the Development Authority, but was unable to attend tonight. Mayor Maxson will discuss this with Councilor Kidd and update council via email or at the next meeting. A work session prior to the 9/22 council meeting may be scheduled with representatives from the Development Authority.
- Mayor Maxson reviewed information from the workshop prior to this evening's meeting considering possible business tax incentives. Samples from other municipalities were reviewed. Council is considering a B & O tax exemption for new and expanding businesses. Mayor Maxson recommended a 60/40/20 tier over three years with a minimum investment of \$100,000.00 for expanding businesses to qualify. He is hopeful this could be retroactive to July 1, the start of our fiscal year. After discussion, Ryan Roberts made a motion to implement an exemption of 60% the first year, 40% the second year and 20% the third year and to send onto the attorney for drafting. Second by William Benincosa. Passed by unanimous vote.
- A motion to approve the building permits (attached) was made by Karen Phillips, second by Natalie Haddix. Approved by unanimous vote.
- Accounts payable (attached) were approved by unanimous vote after a motion by Karen Phillips, second by Natalie Haddix.
- Minutes of the 8/25/15 meeting (attached) were approved by unanimous vote following a motion by William Benincosa. Second by Karen Phillips.

**Old Business:** Karen Phillips asked if the community service group was finished for the season. Ruby Carpenter's back porch needs attention when they return. Chief Haddix noted the group told him to keep a list of those who need assistance for future work dates. Mayor Maxson noted some of the churches in town may be working together in the near future on this type of community service. Mayor Maxson advised there is a Code Enforcement Officer's report attached for review.

**New Business:** Ryan Roberts asked if there is an existing ordinance to require some degree of upkeep on vacant businesses/dwellings. Mayor Maxson states there is an ordinance addressing this. General consensus of Council is to enforce the ordinance and related fines. Mayor Maxson will ask the Enforcement Officer to be more aggressive in enforcing the ordinance.

**Police Dept:** Chief Godwin reported he spent a considerable amount of time with phone calls to the state to get traffic lights repaired at Rt. 20 and Rt 98 and on Rt 20 near the school. These are now both repaired. He is also trying to get the old caution light removed on Rt.20 near the foot bridge. It is no longer used, has been turned turned off and damaged by passing trucks. He is also working on upgrading officer's vests and guns. Tasers will be ordered soon.

**Fire Dept:** Chief Haddix reported Annual Fund Drive letters were sent out and responses have started coming in.

**Maintenance Dept:** Jim Wolfe reported there were unfavorable results on two water samples with chemicals that are by-products of water treatment. Letters will go out in near future advising residents of these results. These are form letters and will likely cause a number of questions. Residents need to know the results were only slightly over acceptable limits. Also, we have minimal control over the results since water treatment is done in Clarksburg. As advised, different testing techniques and additional flushing is being done, in order to produce better samples. Mr. Wolfe also reported they will now be able to proceed with the hydrant at Franklin St. and Pennsylvania Avenue.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ms. Foley reminded council the 2015 State Auditor's Training will be Oct. 1 for Municipal Officials and Assistants and on Oct. 2 for Boards and Authorities. Forms to complete for registration are in your packets. To attend, please register by Sept 24th. Mayor Maxson added he has attended in the past and the seminar is very informational.

Meeting adjourned at 0828 after a motion by Ryan Roberts. Second by Karen Phillips.

Respectfully submitted,

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Charlene Louk, Recorder

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Sam Maxson, Mayor