

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
March 13, 2012
7:00 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the Winfield Town Council was called to order on March 13, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Randy Barrett, at Winfield Town Hall, 1 Main Street, Winfield, WV.

ATTENDANCE

Members Attending: Randy Barrett, Mayor; Charles Keefer, Nathan Fewell, Charles Eshenaur, and Dana Campbell, members; Jackie Hunter, Recorder.

Absent: Joe Rumbaugh

Staff Present: Gloria Chapman and Johnny Hodges, Staff; Tim LaFon, City Counsel and Acting Chief, Officer Joe Marino, Police Department.

Public: Sam Barnett of the Winfield Municipal Building Commission. Charles Cook, of 109 Wood Bend Cove, informed Council that damage done to his property during the recent Storm Water Project was in need of repair since the ground has settled. The Mayor assured Mr. Cook that his property was on the list as one that needed further attention from C.J. Hughes. Mr. Jerry Cole of Country View Estates requested of Council that someone investigate the drainage problem on his property that seems to be coming from the cemetery. The Mayor was concerned, that because of the lay of Mr. Cole's property, that planned improvements to cemetery runoff may not help his situation; but he stated that someone would come out and assess the situation. Also present was Mr. Steve DeWeese, who introduced himself as candidate for Putnam County Sheriff. Mr. Harry Machado of Woodland Forest was present for the second time to express concern regarding the dismissal of the Police Chief. He was informed by Attorney Tim LaFon, that as an "at-will employee" he served at the will and pleasure of the Mayor and could be discharged at any time. Mr. LaFon stated that we could not discuss personnel issues with the public.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the February 14, 2012 meeting were moved to be approved by Charles Eshenaur. Dana Campbell made a second. Motion carried. Minutes of the Special Session held on February 14, 2012 were

Approval of Minutes (Cont'd.).

moved to be accepted by Charles Keefer. Charles Eshenaur made a second. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL

Bills Paid. The bills paid for the month of February 2012 were approved on a motion made by Charles Eshenaur. Charles Keefer made a second. Motion carried.

General Fund Financial Statements. The financial statement for the month of February 2012 was approved upon a motion made by Charles Keefer. Nathan Fewell made a second. Motion carried.

Coal Severance Fund Financial Statement. The Coal Severance financial statement for the month of February 2012 was moved to be accepted by Charles Keefer. Dana Campbell made a second. Motion carried.

REPORTS, QUESTIONS & DISCUSSIONS

Police and Municipal Court Activity.

Acting Chief Marino reported that City Police Officers logged 2,455 miles in February. He noted that there were three citations, fifty-three traffic stops and three domestic disturbances. He stated that at the recommendation of the Mayor, Police Officers were now on foot during school opening and closing hours to help control traffic on Rt. 817 and keep it moving. The Acting Chief requested that citizens having an emergency should contact 911 if City Police are out in the field and can't be reached.

Wastewater System/Treatment Plant Report:

The Mayor reported that S & S Engineers has contacted Mr. Rich Weigand of the WV Environmental Training Center, an expert on lagoon ammonia problems, to check out the lingering ammonia problems we have been experiencing in the lagoon.

Storm Sewer Report:

The Mayor reported work started on the Cemetery water problem on March 12. He stated that the headwall and two sections of pipe have been laid and he estimates completion in three or four weeks. He reported that there also remained work to be done on the bridges in Woodland Forest and some touch-up in Riverdale, Westland, and Woodbend Cove.

Councilman Eshenaur requested that street cleaning and up-keep be included in future discussions.

OLD BUSINESS

Annexation request – Drew Garnes, 3639 Winfield Road. Attorney Tim Lafon reported that minor boundary adjustments have been made, but approval of the County Planning Commission is still pending and is not expected until April 10. He anticipates the annexations will be part of the town by May 1.

Annexation request – H.E. Lewis apartments. Covered under annexation request above.

NEW BUSINESS

Opening of Mowing Bids. The city received only two mowing bids for this season: RSG Landscaping and Lawn Care with a total bid of \$ 2,378.00, and Environmental Management with a total bid of \$ 846.67.

After opening the bids for mowing, it was uncertain if the applicants understood exactly what the bidding entailed. Charles Eshenaur moved to table the selection until the March 20th special meeting of the Council, and at such time, clarification should have been obtained. Charles Keefer made a second. Motion carried.

Set Date for Budget Work Session. Charles Eshenaur moved to hold the budget work session for 2012-2013 on March 20, 2012 at the City Hall but to change the time from 7:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Charles Keefer made a second. Motion Carried.

New Municipal Building. The Mayor discussed the possibilities and costs of a new Municipal Building due to the deterioration of the present town hall and monies that have accumulated that need to be earmarked. Gloria Chapman, City Clerk/Treasurer presented a study of B&O Taxes showing an increase each year

New Municipal Building (Cont'd.)

from 2007 to present. Dana Campbell moved to have the mayor appoint a committee of two or three to explore the costs of constructing a new Municipal Building on land already owned by the City. Nathan Fewell made a second. Motion carried.

Change meeting date for April – 3rd Tuesday – Lay of Levy. Since the State Auditor's Office requires municipalities to meet the third Tuesday of April to Lay the Levy rate, Charles Keefer made motion to change the Council meeting date to April 17th for the regular meeting and laying the levy rates. Charles Eshenaur seconded the motion. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER. The Mayor reported that the Municipal Building Committee was working on simplifying the Building Permit Fees for residents of the City and that they would be bringing that before the Council shortly. He also stated that the search for a Chief of Police is ongoing and that he has had several interviews to date.

Dana Campbell moved to go into Executive Session at 8:25. Charles Eshenaur made a second. Motion carried.

Charles Keefer moved to return from Executive Session at 8:30. Charles Eshenaur made a second. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Nathan Fewell moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:35 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Motion carried.

Randy L Barrett, Mayor

Jackie Hunter, Recorder