

Town of Triana Regular Council Meeting
Monday, December 12, 2021
6:30p.m.

Mayor called the meeting to order. The clerk called roll, Councilmember George Ragland, Erica Hopkins, Jason Garstka, Levoneia Ayers, Casey Whitman and Mayor Mary Caudle. Members present constituted a quorum. Legal counsel Caleb Ballew and the clerk Sharron Humphrey were also present.

Motioned by Councilmember Whitman to approve the minutes dated November 22, 2021. Councilmember Ayers second the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Caudle's Report: We submitted an Equipment Grant to ADECA it was for \$22,918.00 that went out on the Nov. 30th. The charger is back from having repairs done, cost of repairs \$5,200. We had to replace the converter and also had its major services done. The Tahoe is back with repairs done from the accident and restriped. Police Chief has been advertising for police position he has interviewed one person who is a good possible candidate he is getting ready to schedule the 2nd interview with him. Also, we ordered new patches for police uniforms that have come in. The police officer position will be full-time. Council approved to hire one officer even if we did not get the grant. She asked council if they were ready to hire a fireman. Plan to ask the Fire Chief to advertise to hire one fireman. Councilmember Ragland asked what would the starting salary be. Mayor Caudle stated council has already approved the salary. Council in agreement to get that started.

The Fire Chief working with the County did an application for equipment, we were awarded 14,713.00 we could have applied for \$15,000 from the Fire Fighters Association. This grant was for self-containing breathing apparatus, air bottles, a new face mask for self-containment breathing apparatus and a voice amplifier. This all came to \$14,713. Councilmember Hopkins asked if this grant was applied through the Town or the Volunteer Fire Dept. Mayor Caudle stated through the Volunteer Fire Dept. Chief submitted application on what he would like for the money to be used for.

Mayor Caudle asked the Fire Chief did they say when they would start working on it. Chief Shammond stated in a month or two. Councilmember Hopkins stated some of this was included in the budget. Mayor stated what was included in the budget will be taken out and will be updated on the County side. She stated to both chiefs, Great job!

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Fire & Police: Chairperson Ragland reported Police Dept traveled 3398 miles, made 34 traffic stops, 133 warning citations, 9 citations, 60 calls for service, 0 arrest and 15 reports. Fire Dept. responded to 7 EMS.

Finance: Chairperson Hopkins presented the Bank Reconciliation statement ending November 30th. Motion by Councilmember Hopkins to approve the Bank Statement with the correction on page 3 to include Saferoom information. Councilmember Ayers second the motion.

Ms. Hopkins stated they held their work session for Streets and Cemetery to also include Parks and Recreation but they will have to reschedule. They had a good discussion during the Streets and Cemetery meeting. Park and Recreation budget work session will be held Friday, Dec 17th at 5:30PM.

Utility: Chairperson Whitman reported street lights were in and on in Brookhaven and in and on in Rivers Landing Phase 3. As part of the budget for next year for four new locations in the older parts of

town. Still working on the sewer project. Mayor stated hopefully they will be completed at the end of January. They had to be given an extension based on Huntsville Utilities coming out and getting the phases switched over. Once that's complete, we will be ready to start the 2nd phase.

Park and Recreation: Chairperson Ayers reported she attended the Triana Warriors Football and Cheer banquet on Dec. 5th. The town received a plaque from them and it reads, (Triana Football and Cheer Inc. In Appreciation to Town of Triana. Triana Warriors would like to thank you for your valuable contributions and continuous support. Your contributions allowed us to help build community spirit and fellowship through youth football and cheer). Dates for Christmas day camp, Dec. 20-23 and Dec. 27-30 from 7:30AM to 3:30PM.

Ms. Ayers asked would the day camp be closing early on Dec 23rd for the holiday a 2:00 departure. Mayor Caudle stated it depends on if the kids come on that day since those days have been obligated. The only holiday the town is scheduled to be off is the 24th.

Streets & Cemetery: Chairperson Garstka reported that we have an increase in gas tax starting this fiscal year. Also still working on getting sign ordered for 6th & Zierdt Rd.

Resolutions, Ordinances, Orders and Other Business:

Mayor Caudle presented Ordinance 2021-08 in consideration of the sales tax increase. Motion by Councilmember Whitman to consider Ordinance 2021-08 regarding the sales tax increase. Councilmember Hopkins second the motion. Roll call vote, Ragland-yes, Hopkins-yes, Garstka-yes, Whitman-yes, Ayers-yes and Caudle-yes. Unanimous consent, motion carried.

Motion by Councilmember Whitman to adopt Ordinance 2021-08. Councilmember Hopkins second the motion. Roll call vote, Ragland-yes, Hopkins-yes, Garstka-yes, Whitman-yes, Ayers-yes and Caudle-yes. Unanimous consent, motion carried.

Councilmember Ragland reported they had a discussion on giving the employees a bonus but not decision was made. Mayor Caudle stated the discussion was on a one-time pay incentive for employees this would have been for the 2021-22. Councilmember Ragland made the motion to give employees a one-time incentive in the amount of \$1,000.00. Councilmember Garstka second the motion. Roll call vote, Ragland-yes, Hopkins-no, Garstka-yes, Whitman-no, Ayers-no and Caudle-no. Motion did not pass.

Mayor Caudle asked if anyone else wanted to do a motion for an increase or did they want to schedule a work session to continue the discussion. Councilmember Hopkins proposed that they schedule the work session on the same day after the Park & Recreation budget discussion, Friday, Dec. 17th.

Councilmember Ragland reported Elnora Toney needs gravel and dirt in her driveway from a water leak repair. He stated he went down and looked at area repaired. He asked Mayor Caudle to call the County to ask for some dirt and gravel. Mayor Caudle asked if it had been reported to the workers and had them look at it.

Public Comments:

Bernetta Harris-Richardson asked if the town had a city engineer. Mayor stated no we contract with the City of Huntsville depending on what needs to be done. There is an engineer working with contractors doing the sewer project.

Ms. Richardson asked Councilmember Whitman about the lift stations being worked on. Mr. Whitman stated the four lift stations that are being worked on are 2 on either side of Savannah, Jesse Bennett and Oregon Dr. He stated they got delayed because they had to wait on Huntsville Utilities to run power lines to be converted to 3 phase power. Mayor Caudle stated they are scheduled to be finished in January.

Theresa Nelson asked what is the cutoff time for the shooting range? Mayor Caudle stated there is no cutoff time that the town can give them. They tell us at 10:00 they stop however when they have night training or a new Cadet, they would notify us of the night training. She has not been notified of any night training. Ms. Nelson asked would they be notified when training would take place after 9 & 10PM. Mayor Caudle stated once they notify her, she will do like always and notify them.

Dallas Harper stated he has some questions about the water bills, how they read meters. There seems to be a lot of inconsistencies in the Rivers Landing Community. He was charged with using 10,000 gallons of water and a neighbor was charged for 0 gallons. Mayor Caudle stated meters are read manually. If someone got charged for 0 usage then something must be wrong. There are some meters that have been taken out and put back in backwards and they had to be turned around. Mr. Harper asked if there was anyway it could be identified what he is being charge for. Mayor stated he can come by the office and pick up a fee charge schedule and that it's posted on the town's web site. The clerk stated water usage from 0 to 2000 gallons of water the customer will pay a minimum charge of \$39.80, \$25.00 for water and \$13.80 for sewer plus tax. She also stated there's and additional charge for 2001 or more. Metering charge for sewer is based on the water consumption.

Mr. Harper asked if the firemen will be just fire fighters or will they be medically trained or are we still going to rely on Huntsville and Madison. Mayor Caudle stated our Fire Chief is a trained EMS and he also has a person in the Fire Dept. that's an EMS.

Marvelene Freeman reported there's a hole over on Ervin Lane that's getting worse. She stated it can be packed with some of the gravel we're having brought in. Ms. Freeman stated old Triana is here to stay. Mayor Caudle stated definitely.

Patsy Parvin asked how many city employees does the Council consider eligible for the bonus. Mayor Caudle stated first they are not doing a bonus and all employees would be eligible.

Moved and properly seconded to adjourn.

Date Approve Dec. 21, 2021

Sharon Humphrey
Sharon Humphrey, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Mayor Caudle
Mayor or Chair Pro Tempore