

Town of Triana Regular Council Meeting
Monday, October 25, 2021
6:30PM

The meeting was called to order by the Council Chair pro Tempore Whitman. The clerk was asked to call roll, Councilmembers George Ragland, Erica Hopkins, Jason Garstka, Levoneia Ayers and Casey Whitman. Mayor Mary Caudle was absent. Members present constituted a quorum.

Legal counsel Caleb Ballew and the clerk Sharron Humphrey were also present.

Motion by Councilmember Ayers to approve the minutes dated Oct. 11, 2021. Second by Councilmember Garstka. Motion carried.

Mayor Caudle Report: No Report

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Fire & Police: Chairperson Ragland reported the Fire Dept responded to 1 outside fire, 17 emergency calls and 2 alarms.

Police Dept. traveled 2637 miles, made 30 traffic stops, 16 warning citations, 13 citations, 40 calls for service, 1 arrest and 8 reports.

Finance: Chairperson Hopkins presented the Bank Statement ending Sept. 30, 2021. Councilmember Hopkins made the motion to approve the Bank Statement. Councilmember Ayers second the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Whitman reminded councilmember of the scheduled finance work session on Thursday.

Utility: Chairperson Whitman reported that the developer and D R Horton came to an agreement and cut payment for street lights for Rivers landing Phase 3. It's now with Huntsville Utilities to schedule the installation. That now leaves Brookhaven Subdivision. There are a couple of places where he's received recommendations for additional lighting in the older parts of the town, will bring that in later for discussion. Still continuing to work with the sewer system upgrades. Councilmember Hopkins asked who's responsible for caps that go on the holes in the sidewalk for water. Mr. Whitman stated the developer but if it's a subdivision that's been built out that would be on the town to repair. He further stated he would take a look and see if we can get a cover from Madison Utilities.

Park & Recreation: Chairperson Ayers reported the following: They had great participation in adult basketball play this Sunday. She stated guys are interested in starting an adult pickup league in the near future. This will be discussed between the Coordinator and Mayor when she returns. The afterschool program is growing and the active adult senior program have started and it has 3 to 5 individuals that have already started. The Park Coordinator is hoping to start a sponsored Bingo with the seniors soon. The Triana Warriors were able to play the remaining games at Boeing football field off Boeing Blvd.

Streets & Cemetery: Chairperson Garstka reported the speed cushions would be installed between the 27th & 29th of October for Ervin Lane and Harold Murphy.

RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS AND OTHER BUSINESS:

Councilmember Whitman introduced the draft Ordinance to rezone property. Mr. Whitman reported they received a request from the Parcus family on the 1st at their Planning Commission meeting to rezone the property at the north corner of Swanncott just south of Brookhaven from a residential to a B-1 Business classification and they are asking for that in order to sell land to a developer. They have contracts pending on the other side of the street for potential retail. He stated a Public Hearing was held last week, Monday. A few people showed up no strong opposition. Planning & Zoning voted unanimous to approve the rezone.

Motion by Councilmember Ragland for immediate consideration for Ordinance 2021-07, an Ordinance of the Town of Triana relating to zoning; amending the official zoning map, as last amended by classifying a certain parcel of land hereinafter described from R-1 to B-1. Councilmember Ayers second the motion. Roll call, Ragland-yes, Hopkins-yes, Garstka-yes, Ayers-yes and Whitman-yes. Unanimous consent, motion carried.

Motion by Ragland to adopt Ordinance 2021-01 on rezoning. Councilmember Ayers second the motion. Roll call, Ragland-yes, Hopkins-yes, Garstka-yes, Ayers-yes and Whitman-yes. Unanimous consent, motion carried.

Attorney stated on the right of way issued on the Harris property, he did speak with Jeff Rich, who is Madison County's attorney, and their intent was to address the issue this week concerning giving to Triana a quitclaim deed. He wanted to call and make sure that's what we want. There is not an Ordinance or Resolution required to do it because there's no transaction of money and we're not the one who is deeding it we're receiving it. He recommended town do a formal vote on it and he can let the County attorney know.

Motion by Councilmember Ragland to authorize the mayor to execute the acceptance of the quick claim deed from the County when it's approved. Councilmember Garstka seconds the motion. Roll call, Ragland-yes, Hopkins-yes, Garstka-yes, Ayers-yes and Whitman-yes. Unanimous consent. Motion carried.

Councilmember Hopkins reported they were trying to set up an event for Breast Cancer awareness month and doing a flu shot/Covid vaccine clinic. They are not going to be able to do it in the month of Oct. maybe sometime in Nov. Ms. Hopkins stated the Alabama Power Grant had some technical issues and that they give additional time to get it submitted. She thanked the mayor for her input and additional information.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Libby Barkley asked about the two houses on Swanncott. Councilmember Whitman stated they were not included.

Patsy Parvin, Retaining Police Officers- she stated she would like to speak on trying to retain the Police Dept. and to also make improvements for the Fire Dept. She would like for the council consider allowing Officers to drive patrol cars home. Setup a mileage limit with permissible stops. This will help in recruiting new employees to the department. Allow Officers the ability to donate sick leave within the department. Set ranks within the Dept. this would be a path way for promotions right now there's chief and then officers. Earmark money coming into the town not just for the General Fund. She stated they depend on them for 1st line of defense. Think about it and at next meeting give an individual response. She really feels like the Police Officers are doing their job in this city and she would like for the council to get behind them. If not, she suggested to the citizens to get a gun, a dog or a security system because that's all you going to have. She stated we need to support what we've got.

Roy Seay stated he's still wants to see the Hwy widened on Landess Cir. He stated would like to see the Fire Dept. while we still have funds available for us. He stated Steve Haraway our County Commissioner stated this time last year they had about \$50,000.00 we can use. He would like to see the city out front to make this thing happen before we lose.

Leon Grays stated we need our Police Officers. If they feel like they're not supported then they will look elsewhere for work. He stated he had been to meeting where the Police Chief has complained about things and it looks like everything, he brings to the city is being swept under the rug and it's not being brought up again. He has heard Councilmember Ragland talk about things to help the Police Dept. /Fire Dept. and they laugh at him like it's a joke. We need to come together and work together. He stated the council is officials elected to serve this community and we want you all to do it well. He stated he has talked with the Chief who informed him that they responded to 12 emergency calls. With all the calls the Police Dept. is receiving, we need to get behind our Police Dept.

Joe bell stated we need to support the Police Dept. and Fire Dept. they've been trained to do a job we need to let them do it.

Marvelene Freeman stated this has been a concern of theirs for quite a while; it has been repeatedly brought before the council to hire more Police Officer. No action is being taken. They are 100% behind Mr. Ragland because he is the only person who speaks up and says what we need. If we do not support them then they will go somewhere else. She stated she heard on the street that we may be losing our officers she asked council for feedback on that. Councilmember Whitman stated we have not received any letters of resignation. They are all being concerned about Police and Fire protection. This is being brought up at every council meeting but no one is responding. If we lose our police department with all these houses coming in then we are sure going to be in trouble.

Vonia Seay stated she has a concern that there's no police patrolling while the bus drives through Savannah on Harold Murphy. They have cars a passing the bus while kids are loading. There was a kid that almost got hit. Councilmember Whitman stated he will get with the mayor on shift changes.

Allen Murphy stated he agrees with all, you have to have police and fire protection. He stated he has two tracts of land in the City Huntsville wants to try to get them out. Attorney Ballew stated he will work on it if the council doesn't have a problem with it, potential for an uphill battle dealing with the city.

Marvelene Freeman stated she would like to commend the Police and Fire Dept. for the hard work they do.

Councilmember Hopkins asked for the status on hiring police officer. Chief Powell stated they have had 37 to respond through Indeed and 2 have picked up applications. Employment Ad will run until position(s) is filled.

Moved and properly seconded to adjourn.

Date Approved Nov. 8, 2021

Sharon Humphrey

Sharon Humphrey, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Mary Caudle

Mayor or Chair Pro Tempore