

Town of Triana Regular Council meeting
Monday, April 11, 2022
6:30p.m.

Mayor called the meeting to order. Roll call, Council Members George Ragland, Erica Hopkins, Levoneia Ayers, Casey Whitman and Mayor Mary Caudle. Council Member Jason Garstka was absent. Members present constituted a quorum.

Legal counsel Caleb Ballew was also present. The clerk Sharron Humphrey was absent.

Motion by Council Member Whitman to approve the minutes dated March 25, 2022 as presented. Council Member Hopkins seconds the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Caudle's Report: Wow Franchise agreement was presented. Motion by Council Member Whitman to authorize the mayor to enter into a franchise agreement with WOW. Council Member Ayers seconds the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Fire & Police: Chairperson Ragland reported the Fire Dept. responded 2 fire calls, 2 outside fires and 19 emergency calls.

Police Dept. responded to 2,354 miles, made 28 traffic stops, 18 warning citations, 16 citations, 35 calls for service and 5 reports.

Council Member Ragland stated regarding the take-home cars, he was told the Officer could have responded to the shooting much faster if he didn't have to come in to get patrol car. Mayor stated we had someone on duty, the County was already here. She asked chief to call someone in to be with him and to help assist with reports.

Mr. Ragland stated we have an officer that is being deployed maybe gone for 6 months to a year. We're down to three officers now. Mayor stated we've already approved to hire another officer part-time until the other officer returns.

Mayor stated she asked the chief to find an investigator class the officers can attend because we turned over the last incident over the County. He found a class in Jacksonville; the class is free we will have to provide lodging and their per diem for food. This will help them to become tier 1 crime investigators. In addition to that we will be purchasing some crime scene tape. The cost is \$376.50.

Finance: No Report

Utility: No Report

Parks & Recreation: Chairperson Ayers asked about the status on the trees in the park. Mayor stated they're down from the tornado. The maintenance crew will remove the remaining small branches left behind from the storm.

Ms. Ayers asked if we've received any information on the Historical Society's decision on the pump. Mayor stated we have not received anything yet.

Ms. Ayers asked how were we working cleanup day? Mayor stated she wasn't sure about the date being it would have been the Saturday after Easter. Ms. Ayers stated the 30th of April will work They will meet up at 7am.

Council Member Ayers reported she and Council Member Hopkins found another grant opportunity. This will be a grant about trails. It has to be in by the 15th. There were 3 options to look at, she suggests doing maintenance utilize clearing of mulch. Clearing off trails we have already existing not creating new ones. Mayor stated the existing trails we already have, we don't put mulch on them Wheeler does. The County helps with the maintenance. Council Member Hopkins stated if they are going to move forward with the grant they will need reference letters, one from Wheeler since they own the land and the county since we partner with them on the maintenance. Mayor stated they will need Wheeler's buy-in to do that. The lease agreement is between Wheeler Wildlife, TVA, the Town of Triana and Madison County. They would need approval from all to proceed. Ms. Ayers asked for points of contact. Mayor stated she will provide them.

Council Member Hopkins asked which trails will they target. The first one is not really clear. Council Member Ayers asked if maintenance could go down through the trail and give a suggestion as to which trail is for them to target. Mayor stated she thinks they should go and see.

Council member Ragland stated town is in need of a refrigerator. Mayor stated one has been put on order for the Rec Dept. But not a microwave.

Streets & Cemetery: No Report

RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS AND OTHER BUSINESS:

Council Members Whitman stated there's a resident at 107 Settlebridge that has a fence around his house that goes around the storm drain. He stated the discussion was that the town could send a letter to the owner stating, please consider taking it away to improve drainage for yourself and neighbors. Plans to send pictures and address to mayor and council members to let them know what's going on. Mayor stated the only advice from the Attorney is to send a letter because that is a civil matter between the neighbors.

Attorney Caleb Ballew stated generally municipalities are not responsible for water runoffs. He stated developers are not going to be responsible either those are tough cases. However, if there is some type of blockage to the storm drain that could potentially subject someone to liability. He thinks it is a good idea to send a letter to see if there is something that can be done.

Council Member Hopkins asked the Attorney if there were any updates to the impact fees. Attorney Ballew stated he has only been able to send a rough draft to Jeff. His personal opinion is that those things take a long time to pass. Baldwin County had to fight for about ten years. He thinks the census data will help but it's not likely that it will happen in the next session or two because there's a lot of money at stake. He will get a signed copy and thinks they may approve it.

Council Member Ragland stated it's been over a year and there's still no sign/logo on the Utility truck. Council Member Whitman stated he put stickers on the tailgate. Mayor stated it's numbered. Motioned by Council Member Ragland to place city logo on the utility truck. Council Member Ayers seconds the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Beechel Grays stated he is saddened because one of our citizens was killed almost a week ago and there has been no arrest made. He stated there are witnesses that know there were three people in the vehicle man when the man was killed. The man ran behind him shooting him and there have been no

charges made. They feel like if it had been a white man charges would have been made that day on somebody. No one is facing any charges.

Mayor Caudle stated it has been turned over to the County. If there are any more witnesses, she can send an investigator out to talk with them because it is a sad day for something like that to happen.

Mr. Grays stated they have told that no one would be prosecuted because Triana is a low dense area. Mayor stated she has not been told that she asked who has been telling him this because she has been told it was still under investigation. Mr. Grays stated the same person that killed Jaycen has been a suspect in other shooting crimes and nothing has been done. He stated something has to be done, our leaders need to step up and make some calls. These three people need to be taken off the street and charged with capital murder. He stated it started at the Dollar General store and then ended over near his aunt's house where he was shot 9 times and died.

Mayor stated whoever witnessed this needs to be telling the investigators. Mr. Grays stated one of them has.

Mr. Seay had a question about the road signage on Landess Cir. Mayor stated she was told it had been done she will check on it tomorrow.

Chris Ervin stated there are a lot of questions not answered. He has been trying to find answers to what happened. What is the process. Why no family member being contacted after calling investigators for answers.

Mayor stated we turned it over to County to investigate she can ask our officers to reach out to them as a follow up. She stated she was told this morning that it's still under investigation.

Ms. Timmons stated if he wasn't charged for his last shooting crime what makes up think he won't come back into the community, that we are safe. What protection do we have now? His girlfriend lives in the Housing Apartment he could be up there now. What are they supposed to do?

Mayor stated she does not have an answer.

Mr. Love asked when an incident like that happen is he allowed to live in the Housing Projects.

Mayor stated the Housing Projects is not under the town.

Acru Caudle expressed concern over the Police officer's giving out too many tickets.

Mayor stated they gave out more warning citations than tickets.

Mayor stated she will on behalf of the citizens reach out to see if she can find out anything more about the shooting. She stated she knows it's a hard thing to deal.

Moved and properly seconded to adjourn.

Date Approved 05-09-2022

Sharon Humphrey
Sharon Humphrey, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Minutes Audio Recorded by Casey Whitman

Mayor Caudle
Mayor or Chair Pro Tempore