

Town of Triana Regular Council Meeting
Monday, December 11, 2023
6:30PM

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Caudle. The clerk called the roll.

Councilmember George Ragland-Present
Councilmember Levoneia Ayers-Present
Councilmember Casey Whitman-Present
Mayor Mary Caudle-Present

Councilmember Erica Hopkins-Absent
Councilmember Jason Garstka-Absent

Members present constituted a quorum.

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

Motion by Councilman Whitman to approve the minutes dated Nov. 27, 2023. Councilmember Ayers second the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Caudle's Report: No Report

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Fire & Police: Chairperson Ragland reported Fire Dept. responded to 3 Fire Alarms, 5 Emergency Calls, 8 total. Police Dept. Traveled 1,060 miles, made 9 Traffic stops, wrote 6 Warning citations, 6 Traffic citations, 16 Calls for service, 0 Arrests and 6 Reports.

Finance: Mayor Caudle presented the Bank Reconciliation Statement ending Nov. 30th for approval. Motion by Councilman Ragland to approve the Bank Statement as presented. Councilmember Ayers second the motion. Motion carried.

Utility: Chairperson Whitman stated we had a Tornado Watch on Sunday, while preparing the shelter he noticed the battery that goes into the backup generator were outdated they need to replace 3, cost \$130.00. The T.V. we purchased early in the year is going bad, needs to be replaced, saw one at Walmart for \$278.00. We also need to purchase a battery powered shop vacuum, cost \$885.00.

Mr. Whitman reported there's no street light coming down Zierdt hard to see the turn -in. We need to install a street light in that area.

Motion by Councilmember Whitman to expand funds for supplies for the tornado shelter and to use the gasoline tax money for the street light. Councilmember Ayers second the motion. Motion carried.

Councilmember Whitman stated there was a resident that reached out to him about lighting near 6th Street & Wall Triana Hwy which is City of Huntsville. He stated he found a person of contact with Huntsville to forward the request. Huntsville Utilities came out looked at area and agreed that lights were needed. They plan to install 2 street lights between 6th Street and Cable Cir. not sure when this will happen.

Parks & Recreation: Chairperson Ayers reported the following: Friends of the Library had their breakfast brunch on Dec 9th food was provided by Goodway Lodge No. 222. Santa and Mrs. Claus were there, she stated it was a very good event.

Friends of the Library are having a holiday dinner on Sat., Dec 16th at the library beginning at 6:00PM. The tickets are \$25.00ea. They still have tickets for sale and they're also accepting donations if you cannot attend.

Both paint events scheduled for this month are filled up they will be scheduling dates in January will be getting more information about that.

Plan to check on the cost for the cubbies for the students and get back with council on cost.

The decision to cancel the Christmas parade was held off until last Tuesday, based on lack of participation. They plan to start working earlier next year.

On Saturday, Dec 16 from 10AM-12noon they will be having the Juanita's Toy Drive she stated the Seay family will be sponsoring that. They are still accepting donations. Mayor stated she was given a \$100.00 dollar donation from anonymous donor for the toy drive.

Streets and Cemetery: No Report

Ordinance and Resolutions:

Mayor stated they will postpone approving the Minimum Habitability Ordinance until the full Council is present.

Attorney Caleb Ballew reported on the Class of Municipality Triana is in, whether Triana is a Town or City. He stated based on the law towns and cities in Alabama are put into 8 different classifications this is based on population. This has been locked in since June 1979 based on the 1970 census. He stated at that time Triana was less than 2000 people. It would be and always will be a class 8 municipality. He stated whatever you were designated at that time is what you will stay.

Attorney Caleb stated the difference between a Town and a City is that there is no legal difference than what the name is. He stated his understanding that the Town of Triana is the incorporated name of the municipality so the town can continue to call itself the Town of Triana because that's how it was initially incorporated and that's how it's locked into the statute. There's no practical change that the municipality has to go through until we get to 12,000 people. He stated if the town got to the level of 12,000 in population one of those changes' requirement for voting districts for the city would have to be divided up into voting districts based on the number of council people that we have. He stated a Town or City can do this before they get to the population of 12,000, there's no restrictions.

Attorney Caleb stated the general steps to comply there are urban planning firms we can hire out and draw districts based on equality and population. The largest issue we have to tackle would be the compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He stated the town will want to make sure they're dividing up districts based on proportions with what our race breakdown is in the town. All of the firms that do the districting have a check list to go by.

Attorney Caleb stated in terms of a State or Municipal Ordinance, the firm will have already done the work it can then be put into ordinance form. This has to be done and published 90 days before the next election in 2025. He stated the state portion may not be as difficult as the federal process. Not a quick turnaround.

Mayor stated we have had basis conversation with the Slaughter group she stated if the council is okay, she would like to set up a committee of the Council and 5 citizens to work with the Slaughter group. We will need to give them the permission to proceed with gathering information. Council okay with moving forward with committee.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Councilman Whitman reported he received a phone from 2 gentlemen, one from Florida the other from Gaston that had expressed some interest about reopening the Bingo Hall on Wall Triana Hwy. He stated he told them they needed to come to the council meeting. He stated after the call he did some research, found out the latest Bingo Ordinance we have is back in 2006. He suggested to the council if they put a hold on issuing any Bingo Ordinances until they have had a chance to go through some of those court findings to make sure our ordinances are in tip top shape before issuing any.

Mayor stated the only license we can issue is paper Bingo, looking at the County Ordinance and other local Ordinances that stated we were out of compliance.

Motion by Councilmember that we not issue any Bingo License until the council amend the current Bingo Ordinance. Councilmember Ayers second the motion. Roll call vote Ragland-yes, Whitman-yes, Ayers-yes and Caudle-yes. Unanimous consent. Motion carried.

Work session scheduled for January 29, 2024 at 6PM to discuss the Bingo Ordinance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Roy Seay thanked the Council and others for their Fire Station. He stated they are still accepting donations for the Toy Drive.

Mr. Seay stated Fire Chief Shamond wants to attend a Fire Investigation class that will give him the opportunity to investigate fires. He also thanked everyone for their donations to the Juanita's Toy Dive.

Kimberly Doughty expressed her frustrations having water at her new home, she asked the council how can they accommodate her until the water meter is installed. She stated she feels like she is being given the runaround.

Mayor stated we don't do accommodations, she stated she will be pushing really hard this week to make something happen. She apologized for them not setting her meter. She has asked the clerk to set up a meeting between herself and Madison Utilities.

Moved and properly seconded to adjourn.

Date Approved Dec. 18, 2023

Sharron Humphrey
Sharron Humphrey, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Mary Caudle
Mayor or Chair Protempore