

Town of Triana Regular Council Meeting
Monday, April 8, 2024
6:30PM

The meeting was called to order by the mayor. The clerk was asked to call the roll.

Councilmember George Ragland – Present
Councilmember Casey Whitman-Present
Councilmember Levoneia Ayers-Present
Councilmember Erica Hopkins-Present
Councilmember Jason Garstka-Present
Mayor Mary Caudle – Present
Members present constitutes a quorum.

Legal counsel Caleb Ballew was present via zoom and the clerk Sharron Humphrey was present.

Motion by Councilmember Whitman to approve the minutes dated March 25, 2024, with correction, Councilmember Ayers second the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Caudle's Report: We are still working on Park Grant; all requested items from the town have been submitted. We are waiting for a letter from Wheeler Wildlife to submit with grant. We hope this will help move the project alone.

Town received a Risk Management Award from Loss Control Division of AMIC & MWCF for 2023, we received this award because our loss ratio was below 5%. Mayor thanked the employees.

It's time for the building inspector's continuing education classes, this year it will be from April 29th – May 3. She stated the total cost of lodging, conference fee, mileage, and food are \$1,780.96. Motion by Whitman to approve the building inspectors travel expense. Councilmember Ayers second the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Fire & Police: Chairperson Ragland reported Fire Dept., responded to 1 outside fire, 4 fire alarms, and 27 alarms, 64 emergency calls and 1 motor vehicle accident.

Police Dept. traveled 1,805 miles, issued 16 traffic stops, wrote 15 warning citations, 3 traffic citations, 24 calls for service, 1 arrest and 6 reports.

Mr. Ragland stated he would like to have a committee meeting with Fire & Police. He stated he will explain to them how the town can recruit and hire more Fire & Police Officers. He stated one of the reasons applicants for the police officer position fail to return applications is because there's no advancement or rank structure. When we employ them, they work for a little while then move on.

Mayor stated right now we have a chief of police and chief inspector we have no one else. We could have a rank structure with a full department.

Whitman suggest we have someone go and look at department with comparable sizes ask them what their rank structure then we can lay out a plan.

Fire & Police Committee meeting scheduled for April 22, 2024 @ 5:30pm.

Finance: Chairperson Hopkins asked about the budget, was budget approved?
The mayor asked the committee to get budget items ready for the next meeting to be approved.

Councilmember Hopkins asked about the Comprehensive Plan, she asked was it ever finalized.
Mayor suggested the Finance Committee meet to discuss the Comprehensive Plan and the budget.

Finance Committee meeting scheduled for April 22nd at 6:00pm.

Utility: No Report

Parks & Recreation: Chairperson Ayers reported that there's a problem with the irrigation meter at the athletic field, she stated it's been down for a year. The leak needs to be repaired. Ms. Ayers also stated they are having issues with snakes and other critters out near and on the athletic field she suggested posting notices letting people know and to be aware. Council in agreement.

Ms. Ayers asked is it possible to let one of the porta potties remain in the park after the exhibit closes until we can get a final say on the restroom area.
Mayor stated it will be six months before we hear anything about the park grant, she asked Ayers to price out a porta potty for six months.

Ms. Ayers reported clean-up day will be next Sat., April 20th beginning at 8:00am. They are hoping to have lunch from 10am-11am.

The summer camp registration is now open for the summer from June 3 – July 26th.

Ms. Ayers asked is it possible to purchase memory benches or a memorial area on the river and if so, how would we go about this.

Mayor suggested finding a place to mount the benches, under the pavilion or maybe in the park.

Councilmember Hopkins stated she would like to see some benches on the river where people fish.
Mayor stated we would have to get approval for that, we would have to submit a letter to Wheeler, TVA and Madison County.

Ms. Hopkins had a question about dumping Xmas trees into the river.
Mayor stated there are several signs on the river stating no dumping, you will get fined for dumping in the river.

Streets & Cemetery: Chairperson Garstka reported he received a petition for speed cushions for Bridgemill Ave. He stated the affected areas would be Gwinnett & Zierdt Rd, with 24 homes. He is requesting approval from the Mayor and Council to pursue quotes for speed cushions and signage in the affected areas. He stated they will need 3 sets at \$2500 this includes installation. Council in agreement to purchase speed cushions.

RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS AND OTHER BUSINESS:

Mayor stated she hopes everyone gets by to see the new fire station coming up on 6th Street. They are hoping to be completed by the end of July or early August.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Theresa Nelson stated Landess Cir is messed on the Wall Triana Hwy side has a pothole that needs repairing again.

Mayor stated street will probably have to be dug out and built back up, she will let the County know.

Ms. Nelson asked would it be possible to add benches to the park area since we don't have any there.

Mayor stated we had benches in the park we have to figure out how to mount them once we place them there.

Theory Haywood reported that registration is now open for Triana youth football and cheer program. Mr. Haywood stated he received a request from staff members to ask the Mayor and Council if the town had an extra shed, they could use to store equipment. Mayor stated the town does not have any extra sheds.

Mr. Haywood asked could they build a shed on town property to store equipment.

The mayor asked Mr. Haywood to find an area where they could build a shed then come back to the council for approval. She stated once the shed is built it becomes city property.

Mayor asked Mr. Haywood to make sure when using the athletic field, the kids know not play around the monument.

Roy Seay asked if there was a budget for the maintenance crew to work on streets.

Mayor stated yes, but streets and road are not in the budget for our maintenance crew to make repairs. She stated the Capital Improvement Account, and the Gasoline Account is allocated to be used for repairs to streets, roads, and sidewalks.

Mr. Seay asked who does the town get to repair the roads.

Mayor stated we normally call Madison County in some cases we pay them and some cases they repair them at their cost.

Mr. Seay stated who does he calls when a water repair is being done and they are not notified.

Mayor stated if that happens, he is to call the town then we call Madison Utilities to let them know what happened while the water was turned off.

Mr. Seay asked does the Town of Triana have streetlights. He stated something needs to be installed under the hill going north on Landess Cir. to let motorists know traffic is coming. He stated it's an accident waiting to happen.

The mayor replied no, the city does not have any traffic lights. She asked Councilman Garstka to do research on the cost to install flashing lights on Landess Cir. coming out of Malvern Hill Subdivision.

Jurene Rogers stated the gnats are bad in their area on Landess Cir. She asked if the town had started spraying. Mayor stated she needs to call the City of Huntsville and Madison for them to respond.

The mayor stated she would also notify them and ask Ms. Madge Griffin to call.

Mr. McLean, a resident of Bridgemill Subdivision expressed concern about the clubhouse and pool not being installed. He's wondering where their fees are going, all they see being done is grass being cut on both sides of the road. He asked the council if they could give them any recommendations or answers to what's going on after 5years.

Councilmember Hopkins stated she has contacted Valor Communities; She has that same complaint; she feels like they are giving her the run around.

Councilmember Whitman stated that's a private issue between the residents and their builder and their HOA. Mayor stated it's a civil issue.

Councilmember Hopkins asked can the builder be held accountable, after presenting their plans and not going through with the complete development.

Councilmember Whitman stated the town's responsibility is to make sure that they build the infrastructure they put down on the plat that they approve. There is no contract between the HOA and the town.

Moved and properly seconded to adjourn.

Date approved March 15, 2024

Sharron Humphrey
Sharron Humphrey, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Mary Canale
Mayor or Chair Pro Tempore