

Town of Triana Regular Council Meeting
Monday, September 9, 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

Attorney Caleb Ballew and the clerk Sharron Humphrey were also present.

Motion by Councilmember Whitman to approve the minutes dated August 26, 2024,
Councilmember Ayers second the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Caudle's Report: Contractor is getting close to finishing up the Fire Station. Cameras and alarms have been installed. Once everything has been done and signed off on, we will schedule a grand opening.

Councilmember Ragland asked the mayor for an update on the Grant for the bathrooms in the park. Mayor stated as soon as she hears something on the grant, she will let everyone know.

Mr. Ragland asked if the fire department were using a loaner truck. Mayor stated our insurance allows the town to get a fire truck to use until we can purchase one. She stated we settled for \$85,000 for the old truck and we're waiting on the County who have stated they will help with the cost. We're waiting to see how much they will approve. If we're not given enough money to cover the cost of the new fire truck, she will come to the council with what to add.

Councilman Ragland asked about the Police Officers doing off-duty employment. Mayor stated she has had a discussion with the Chief and staff today she stated she has asked them to help justify using the town's car and uniforms to what benefit would it bring the town.

Councilmember Ragland stated other departments allow it. Mayor stated Huntsville Police do not allow their officers to work off-duty in Triana, Madison Police does not allow their officers to work off-duty in Triana using their cars and uniforms. They can work as private workers. She stated she's not saying they can't have a second job. With them working using our car and wearing our uniforms it would not benefit us.

Councilmember Ayers asked about a legal statue that maybe required or is it left up to the city. Mayor stated she does not know she has not researched that.

Attorney Ballew stated there may be one but that he thinks it will present a potential liability if we allow our officers to wear our uniforms and drive our cars going and risking their lives. He stated there's no potential benefit to the town because they're not servicing the town under that. He stated it's only a liability for the town.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Fire & Police: Mayor Caudle reported the Police Officers traveled 2,287 miles, 28-traffic stops, 16-warning citations, 17-traffic citations, 45-calls for service, 1-arrest and 13-reports.

Finance: Chairperson Hopkins reported Finance Committee met to review budget items submitted thus far. She stated we are still missing some of the department budgets.

The Finance Committee will meet on Sept. 16th , at 5:30p.m. She will meet with the mayor on Sept. 19th at 5:30pm and the final review for the budget will be Oct. 14th at 6:00pm.

Utility: Mayor stated we had a water main break on Foster Dr.

Councilmember Whitman stated the issue is trying to get the word out to people when things like this happen. He stated they do have a couple of ways to notify residents, one is through next-door for anyone with an account, next would-be Facebook account and they also have an email sign-up on the town's website, not many signed up.

Mr. Whitman stated they don't really have a means to quickly notify people. The town can only do so much in getting the word out. He suggests residents consider being a part of one of the listed networks.

Mayor stated she doesn't know of anyone way to notify residents. She stated she called as many residents as she could.

Park & Recreation: Chairperson Ayers reported she has been speaking with Ms. Williams about having a Fall Expo. She will have more information later. She stated Mrs. Williams is also interested in doing something at the clinic, a health clinic. She would like to have something like the one held in Huntsville Hospital.

Councilmember Ayers stated she received a call about having a Christmas tree trail. She stated they're asking that it be done in lieu of a Christmas parade, we could have an event around the tinsel trail. She is working to get someone to coordinate that.

Ms. Ayers stated they have had many people to speak about what's needed at the park, she stated they are accepting quotes on that, and they are also accepting donations. They're hoping to get some good sponsors.

Chairperson Garstka reported that he has been compiling a list of sidewalks that require repair, he is waiting to hear back from a few. Will keep the council posted.

Discussed posting flashing lights/caution on stop signs in areas that don't have lighting.

Councilmember Ragland stated he has informed members of St. Paul Church that truck drivers are using their parking lot to turn around in. He stated he has a solution to help drivers to get back onto 6th Street.

Mayor stated they have tried to get them to go down Wall Triana to get to 6th Street.

RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS AND OTHER BUSINESS:

The mayor presented Ordinance 2024-02, Grass and Weed Ordinance; this will repeal Ord. 87-01. This will define the steps and enforcement of.

Motion by Councilmember Whitman to approve Ordinance 2024-02, Grass and Weeds. Councilmember Garstka second the motion. Roll call vote, Ragland-yes, Hopkins-yes, Garstka-yes, Ayers-yes, Whitman-yes and Caudle-yes. Unanimous consent, motion carried.

Attorney Caleb Ballew reported he was tracking the emails on the districting process. He stated his understanding is that we're looking to introduce that ordinance at the next meeting and pass it at the 1st meeting in October. He plans to have the draft out before the ordinance is introduced.

The mayor asked the council if any of them wanted to volunteer to help with getting letters out to citizens notifying them of the public hearing on Sept. 23rd. She stated she wants to get them out as soon as possible.

Discussion on removing speed limit signage on Zierdt Rd from 45mph to 40mph. Mayor stated the County will post the speed limit changes.

Councilmember Ragland stated we have some dissatisfied young people wanting to use the gym and can't.

The mayor stated we are looking for volunteers to open the gym, she stated background check and screening is required.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Theresa Nelson stated the road stripping at the end of 6th Street and Wall Triana needs to be restriped, she stated you can't see any lines.

Mayor stated she will get with the County.

Larry Harris asked does town have a time for all construction to end work. He stated contractors are working early in the mornings and quitting late in the evening.

Mayor stated we do have an ordinance; it has a start time in the morning and end time in the evening.

Councilmember Whitman stated there's a Noise Ordinance stating they have to stop at a certain time.

Mr. Harris asked about the dead-end or no outlet sign for Foster Dr.

Mayor stated we will order a no outlet sign.

Roy Seay suggested the Planning and Zoning Committee start having meetings to brainstorm when there's nothing on the agenda to discuss.

Mayor stated he can email the committee if he wants to call a meeting.

Roy Seay asked where the town was with repairing Landess Cir.

Mayor stated its not safe for the County to assist us right now, it would be in their new budget if we get any new roads repaired Landess Cir will be first on the list.

Roy Seay asked could we get a petition if residents want to donate money to the fire station.

Mayor stated we do not turn down any donations.

Moved and properly seconded to adjourn.

Date approves Sept. 23, 2024

Sharon Humphrey
Sharon Humphrey, Town Clerk-Treasurer

May Chalk
Mayor or Chair, Pro Tempore