

MINUTES
YANCEYVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
January 07, 2014
7:00 PM

The meeting of the town council was held in the Council Chambers at the Yanceyville Municipal Services Building on January 07, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

Council Members present: Curtis E. Davis-Mayor, Alvin Foster, Odessa Gwynn, Brian Massey and Keith Tatum.

Staff: Robert Wilson, Interim Town Manager

Call to Order:

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and asked for a word of silent prayer. He asked all to stand for the pledge of allegiance. He thanked all in attendance for coming out. The Mayor also reviewed the statement of Rules and Procedures.

Review and Adoption of Agenda-Mayor & Council:

Mr. Foster asked if the town was going to approve the appointees to the Economic Development Board tonight. The Mayor stated that the interim town manager would be reporting on this later. Mr. Foster made a motion to approve the agenda seconded by Ms. Gwynn and approved 5-0 vote.

Consent Agenda:

Ms. Gwynn made a motion to approve the minutes of December 03, 2013 seconded by Mr. Foster. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Public Comment:

Mr. Jerry Epps stated that he has been the manager of the Old Farm Apartments for the past 20 years. It has been brought to his attention that they have a problem with four water meters that are inoperable and that it would cost the town \$36,000 to put a master meter out by the street. He has been given an estimate of \$1,550 to repair the meters. He stated that he has been on the council in Eden for 16 years and he sees no reason to pay \$36,000 for a master meter when the problem can be resolved for \$1,550. He asked that if this issue cannot be resolved tonight that it be tabled for at least 90 days so that he and town management can get together.

Ms. Ruby Graves, 915 Main Street, Yanceyville, NC stated that she had addressed the council on November 12, 2013 and December 03, 2013 concerning the actions of the

former town manager, Mr. Brigman. She stated that she met with the interim town manager, Mr. Wilson on January 02, 2014. Mr. Wilson went over the town ordinance and found no reference that she had disobeyed any law on the town square. She stated that she is not satisfied with the way she was treated and she will continue coming before the town council until something is done.

Susan Merritt, 166 Court Square, Yanceyville, NC stated that she too, is not happy with the results that have come about from the incident that occurred on October 31, 2013. She had letters to hand out to each of the council members. She stated that in reading the letters they will be well aware there has still been no action on her complaint regarding the incident that occurred on October 31, 2013. The letter dated November 22, 2013 received by her from Mr. Brigman, former town manager, related to this event as being a demonstration. By his own definition, they were clearly not demonstrating, picketing or parading. They were involved in a community event sanctioned by the town of Yanceyville. She stated Ms. Badgett-Lampkin, Ms. Graves and herself were conducting a political campaign along with a Halloween celebration with the citizens of Yanceyville. Photos were taken that will clearly show there was no blockage of the sidewalk on their part as well. She said to please take note, there were other business operators setting out tables and chairs around the square and on the sidewalk but they were not confronted and threatened with arrest by the town manager as they were. She said this clearly was an intentional act of harassment and intimidation toward them for political reasons. Her concern of the incidences on this matter is to direct council's attention to the fact that with the current ordinances and the means of conveyance, that without safeguards this type of action could happen again to any resident without consequences. Whether the perpetrator is misguided or just ignorant of the law and the duties of the office, there should be accountability. It is her feeling that this serious matter be directed to the town attorney so that he can suggest the proper safeguards, oversight policy and accountability actions to be taken by the town council to avoid this activity in the future and to avoid the legal ramifications and liability to the town. She stated that she looks forward to seeing a resolution to this matter in the very near future. She thanked council for their time and their service to Yanceyville and stated it was greatly appreciated.

Report:

Ronda Griffin of the Caswell County Historical Association stated that they are excited to announce they were one of only 50 sites in the United States to be selected to host the traveling exhibit that is coming from the Smithsonian. She said the exhibit will start in January 2014 and run through 2017. She said they did not dream that they would be selected to be the first and she has less than a month to prepare. She states that she appreciates the town's willingness to host the site. She said she thought this would be a great opportunity for Caswell County and Yanceyville. She said they have received a matching fund from the Danville Regional Foundation to help with expenses. They are going to pay for a staff person to be on site while the exhibit is open to the public and also for an insurance policy for coverage while the exhibit is on property. The exhibit opening ribbon cutting will be on January 27, 2014 and close March 02, 2014 to be packed up and shipped to the next site.

Inquiry:

Inquiry by citizens to discuss plans for a Veterans Memorial Garden were tabled until the next town council meeting.

Proposed Amendment:

A proposed amendment to the Town of Yanceyville's Code of Ordinance, Chapter 10, Article II-3, Discharging Firearms, was submitted to the town attorney for review and tabled until the next town council meeting.

Reminder:

The Mayor reminded council of a meeting with the Caswell County Board of Commissioners and the Town of Milton here in the Municipal Building on January 09, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

Town Manager's Report:

The three appointees nominated to the Economic Development Committee are Alvin Foster, Keith Tatum and Joey Knight. Motion to approve and 5-0 in favor.

Interim Town Manager, Robert Wilson, thanked Ronda Griffin for all the work she has done in bringing recognition to Yanceyville and Caswell County. He said it was not every day that you get something brought in from the Smithsonian Institute to a town the size of Yanceyville. He said that she had looked at several buildings in her search for a place to display the exhibit and the main concern was security. He stated that he was happy to be able to provide space for the exhibit at town hall and was looking forward to seeing the exhibit.

Easements for the Waterline Going to Danville, Virginia. Mr. Wilson stated that Mayor Davis and Mr. Foster took it upon themselves to get in touch with the property owners. He said it took a little talking and getting things worked out with some of the folks, but they got the easements without condemnation!

Interim Town Manager Robert Wilson said that he had the privilege this past month to meet two fine ladies from Yanceyville who had concerns regarding an incident which happened to them on October 31, 2013. He stated that he was not serving here as town manager when the incident took place. He also stated that it was his finding that these ladies were not given any information showing that they were in violation of any town ordinance. He said these ladies told him that they want a resolution of this matter and as citizens of Yanceyville, they want to feel that they are a part of the town. He said they told him that they want to feel that they can come to town hall and get correct information on any town ordinance of which they have questions. He said that while he is serving here as town manager, if a citizen comes to town hall seeking information regarding town ordinances, he would make sure that they were given this information.

Cost of the Waterline Going to Danville, Virginia. Mr. Wilson said that he has been told that the cost of the waterline going to Danville, Virginia could run anywhere from \$700,000 to \$1,000,000. He stated that until bids are taken, they would not know the

actual cost. He said that he, the Mayor and engineers had met with a USDA representative seeking funding for this project.

Fire Station Addition. Mr. Wilson stated that they are looking at adding a new bay, day room and sleeping quarters to the fire station. He said that the cost of this could be in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000. He said that he, the Mayor, Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief and engineers had met with a USDA representative seeking funding for this project.

Emergency Generator. Mr. Wilson stated that it was a very serious problem that the water plant does not have an emergency generator. He asked the council to give him the authority to purchase a generator by using funds that have been appropriated for the purchase of a back-hoe and dump truck. He stated that the cost of a generator has been estimated to be \$80,000 to \$92,000.

Master Water Meter for Old Farm Apartments. After much discussion concerning installing a master water meter for the Old Farm Apartments, the council directed staff to meet with the management of Old Farm Apartments over the next 60 days to come to a resolution of this problem.

Old Ford Building and Historic House on Main Street. Mr. Wilson stated that these buildings have been declared for demolition. He said they were still working with the historical society out of Raleigh to determine the next step.

Grinder Pump at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Wilson said they had to replace a grinder pump at the waste water treatment plant at a cost of \$26,000.

Fire Siren. Mr. Wilson said that the electrical work for the fire siren at the new water tank is almost complete.

CDBG (Community Development Block Grant). Mr. Wilson stated that the 2001 grant has been resolved. He said that they are still working to resolve the 2008 grant.

Sidewalk Project. Mr. Wilson stated that they met with Mike Mills of DOT and will continue the sidewalk project as far as possible with DOT and Powell Bill funds.

PIT Count of Homeless in Caswell County. Councilman Foster asked if anyone could be of assistance in doing a PIT count of the homeless in Caswell County. This count is used for grant funding. The count will be conducted over a 24 hour period from January 29th, 6:00 PM through January 30th, 6:00 PM.

Council Member Odessa Gwynn wished everyone a Happy New Year!

Council set the date and time of January 13, 2014 at 10:00 AM to review the resumes of applicants for the position of Yanceyville Town Manager.

Adjournment:

Mayor Davis asked for a motion to adjourn and Council Member Odessa Gwynn so moved second by Council Member Alvin Foster and the meeting concluded at 8:15 PM.

Respectively Submitted:



Curtis E. Davis, Mayor

Robert L. Wilson, Interim Town Manager

Yanceyville Town Council
Meeting January 07, 2014