

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2007
TOWN OF TALTY
BOARD OF ALDERMEN

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Todd W. Hutton at the Trinity Family Church, and a quorum was announced. Aldermen members present were Brad Davis, Frank Garrison, Larry Farthing, Barbie Kraig and Carla Milligan. Also present were Connie Goodwin, Town Administrator, and Sherry Bagby, Town Secretary.

Mayor Hutton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- II. Mayor Hutton adjourned the regular meeting and opened the public hearing. No one wished to speak

- III. Mayor Hutton adjourned the public hearing and re-opened the regular meeting.

- IV. Citizen's participation. No one signed in to speak to the Board

- V. Action Items:

1. The Board discussed the need to appoint an alternative to the Planning & Zoning Committee. Carla Milligan was the only Aldermen who had a nomination. She nominated Charlie McGinnis as an alternate.

A motion was made by Frank Garrison to appoint Charlie McGinnis as an alternate to the Planning & Zoning Committee.

Seconded: Brad Davis

Vote: All in favor, motion carried.

2. The Board reviewed and discussed at length the proposed budget for 2007-2008. Mayor Hutton stated that a budget needs to be adopted before the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2007.

Mayor Hutton reviewed the larger line items as had been discussed in August. The Mayor's long-term goal is to have a fire department in Talty, and not continue paying Forney for this service. He would like the citizens to vote on an approximately .03% assessment for fire protection (approximately \$5.00 per month per household on average). Currently, Talty is subsidizing by paying fire protection directly to Forney and is not passing the charge on to our residents. Residents in the ETJ already pay this fee along with their

property taxes. The fire protection paid to Forney increases every October with appraised values increasing – currently around \$32,500.00 per year. The proposed assessment plus the current expense paid to Forney would give us about \$65k per year toward building a fire department.

The Board discussed purchasing a new police car, in the amount of \$33,000. This cost includes over \$10,000 in equipment. The funds would be transferred from “public funds” which is cash on hand. Mayor Hutton stated that he receives a police schedule every Sunday from Chief West. Brad stated that law enforcement reduces speed and protect citizens. Having police patrol is a deterrent in and of itself. Mr. Goodwin stated that the revenue from tickets cannot be over 30% of the Town’s budget. If it goes over 30%, the Town will only receive \$1.00 per ticket.

Larry Farthing suggested purchasing the police car as a capital expenditure, and do not show it in the budget. He stated that a large purchase is not considered an expense. Brad Davis agreed with Larry and stated that a car should not be an expense item because of depreciation. This question should be posed to Gary Murrey at Murrey & Company to state the proper accounting procedures to purchase a police car. Mayor Hutton suggested that these issues would be reflected in the financial statements. It was suggested that the Town should be operating under GAP “general accounting principles.” Mayor Hutton stated he would not purchase a car that was not budgeted. Frank Garrison is concerned about the police car being removed from the budget. Larry Farthing and Carla Milligan suggested a budget workshop to discuss the budget by line item so each board member could have more input. Mayor Hutton reminded the Board that we had done this at the August meeting.

Carla Milligan is against purchasing a new car, but would like to check into the purchase of a program car, costing the town less money. Brad Davis asked about selling the existing car. Mayor Hutton stated there is little value left in it and that he planned to keep it as a back-up. Selling the car could always be considered later on. The Board discussed the expense of continual maintenance of the existing car, if a new car was purchased. Barbie stated that she knows of a used 2006 police car with 53,000 miles for \$16,000. Mayor Hutton asked how it was equipped. Barbie Kraig stated that a Dodge charger does not have enough room in the front for a second officer. Barbie stated that she has continually requested a police schedule and doubted that one exists. Mayor Hutton stated that he has repeatedly denied requests to publish the police schedule and referenced, as the most recent example, the Minutes from the August 14, 2007, Meeting wherein he expressed concerns over publishing police schedules. Mayor Hutton does not intend to publish police schedules.

Mayor Hutton asked the Board for specific line item amendments or suggestions to the proposed budget. He has budgeted for a 3% COLA (“Cost of Living Adjustment”) increase in salary for the four employees and there is extra over-time hours already built in for the court clerk to cover reserve officers, when more are added. Brad Davis stated that in the past the Board has always been very conservative on forecasting income figures. Brad Davis suggested that the budget amendments should be forecasted to increase payroll, and on any expense category. He stated that he noticed this proposed budget is 32% higher over last year. Mayor Hutton noted that this is partly because of the new car purchase and the, now cancelled, build-out for the current office. Mayor Hutton also stated that we not should simply collect public funds and then place them in a bank account. It’s public money that should be put to public use.

Carla Milligan suggested that the 3% raise needs to be in executive session. Mayor Hutton stated that he envisioned a 3% COLA increase would not need an executive session because it is not a “merit” raise.

Carla Milligan asked to stop the discussion and asked Chief West to introduce a prospective new reserve officer, Chuck Gage, as he needed to leave. He owns his own security company and law enforcement and firearms training. He has been a police officer in Duncanville. He has the option to set his own hours and could work any shift. Reserve Officer Greg Tapp was also present. Mayor Hutton thanked Gage for coming and said that the Board needed to get back to the items on the agenda.

The Board discussed the expansion of our existing offices, which would increase rent. Mayor Hutton stated that those plans had been put on hold awaiting word on possibly moving the office. Carla Milligan and Larry Farthing were against expanding the office at the current location. Mr. Goodwin discussed moving the offices to a new site in Talty, which will be built by Mike Tatari. It was decided that the rent line item would be decreased from \$17,000 to \$6,000 and then offset by a reduction to the public funds expenditure of \$11,000.

“Office supplies” have been increased because the office needs to purchase a laser printer.

“Road repairs” were increased 50% to \$30,000.

The “law enforcement” line item was increased by \$1,500 for “equipment” to help with the purchase a computer for the police car and to have monthly dispatch connection with Kaufman County. Brad stated that he could possibly get a discount with his company. Mayor Hutton stated that we need to buy enough memory to download videos. The Police Department is required to

keep these videos for 90 days. Chief West previously gave Mayor Hutton a list of approximately \$5,000 of things he would like to see purchased for the department.

Franchise fees were discussed. IESI is current on their fees. Hiram Waste will pay their franchise fees in October. The franchise ordinance may be rewritten. Larry Farthing suggested that the agreement should reflect that the franchise fees are being paid annually. The new subdivisions will increase the permit and franchise fees. Last month the Town issued 15 permits on new homes. In December 2006, Mr. Goodwin reported to the Council of Government that Talty had 500 homes.

A motion was made by Larry Farthing to adopt the proposed budget with the stipulation that any salary adjustments must have board approval after employees have had a review process.

Seconded: Frank Garrison

Vote: 3-2 (Carla Milligan and Barbie Kraig vote against the budget); motion carried.

3. Ordinance 2007-009. The Board reviewed and discussed a tree ordinance, which goes along the Comprehensive Plan.

A motion was made to approve Ordinance 2007-009.

Seconded: Brad Davis

Vote: All in favor, motion carried.

4. Ordinance 2007-010. This ordinance to amend the zoning and subdivisions was not received from the Town Attorney; therefore, it was not called for discussion by Mayor Hutton.

VI. Discussion Items:

1. Police Chief Jason West distributed his monthly report to the Board.

2. Update on development in and around Talty:

A new subdivision at the corner of Hwy. 148 and Adams will be a small development with lots between 2 and 4 acres in size.

3. Alderman Updates:

Mike Tatari plans to begin his business strip by the Exxon in December. He is projecting completion by the summer 2008. He will then have to come back to the Board for approval of tenants. Mr. Goodwin stated that

he has not heard from Preston Irvin. Brinker would like to put in a restaurant if the Whitney Properties gets going. Carla Milligan asked if Mike Tatari's fence is in compliance because a member of the P&Z board mentioned his concerns about the fence being in compliance with Talty's ordinances.

A Motion was made by Barbie Kraig to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded: Brad Davis

Vote: All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned @ 9:20 p.m.

Approved: _____

Todd W. Hutton, Mayor

Sherry Bagby, Town Secretary