

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2009 TOWN OF TALTY

The Town of Talty held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at the Trinity Family Church in Talty, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor, Todd W. Hutton.

- I. A quorum was announced. Aldermen present were: Frank Garrison, John Jackson, Larry Farthing, Carla Milligan, and Kevin Williams. Mr. Connie Goodwin, town administrator and Sherry Bagby, town secretary, were also present.
- II. Mayor Hutton led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Citizens Participation. No one signed in to speak to the Board.

IV. Action Items:

1. The Board reviewed the Minutes of December 16, 2008.
A motion was made by John Jackson to approve the Minutes of December 16, 2008. Seconded: Frank Garrison
Vote: 3-1; Carla Milligan voted against and Larry Farthing abstained.
The motion carried.

2. The Board reviewed the December, 2008 financial report.
Larry Farthing noted the strength of the Town's finances and commended Mayor Hutton and Connie Goodwin for their abilities in using Town resources wisely.
A motion was made by John Jackson to approve the December 2008 financials.
Seconded: Larry Farthing
Vote: 5-0; all in favor, motion carried.

The Board reviewed the January 2009 financial report.
A motion was made by John Jackson to approve the January 2009 financials.
Seconded: Larry Farthing
Vote: 5-0; all in favor, motion carried.

3. The Police Chief introduced Reserve Appointee, Shaun Tanner Simmons. The Board asked several questions related to Mr. Simmons' background and experience. He has served in the Army for the last nine years, graduated from the Police Academy in December 2008, and grew up in the Forney area.
A motion was made by Frank Garrison to approve Shaun Tanner Simmons as a Reserve Officer.
Seconded: Carla Milligan

Vote: 5-0, all in favor, motion carried.

4. The board reviewed Ordinance 2009-001 calling for the May 9, 2009 election of the Mayor and two Aldermen.

A motion was made by John Jackson to approve Ordinance 2009-001 calling for the May 2009 election.

Seconded: Carla Milligan

Vote: 5-0, all in favor, motion carried.

V. Discussion Items:

1. Tracy Wood, of Witherspoon, Yeldell & Wilson presented the 2008 annual audit with a letter dated December 2008. She stated the Town of Talty is in a very good financial position. She discussed reporting of police seizures and the possible need to create a separate road maintenance account. It is acceptable to track the road maintenance account in the general fund as we have been doing but Tracy suggested documentation to create a separate account. Overall the Town is in exceptional financial condition.

2. Update on development of Talty.

Mr. Goodwin stated that he has had an inquiry on four acres on CR 216 that backs up to I-20. There is a 150' commercial strip and the developer wants to put 4 plots together on four acres and will need to replat the land.

Mayor Hutton updated the board on the background and status of the new Town Hall development. In August 2008 the Board approved an inquiry into land acquisition for the new Town Hall. In September the Board approved the 08-09 Budget which includes \$50,000 to purchase such land. And pursuant to the Board's November 2008 authorization, negotiations are currently ongoing to purchase land across from Exxon from Mike Tatari for \$50,000.

3. Aldermen absenteeism.

In light of the three absences causing the January 2009 meeting to be canceled, Mayor Hutton requested that, if an Alderman would not be in attendance at a meeting, they please notify someone promptly before the meeting. This is necessary so that people, many of whom are volunteers, will not leave work early, burn gas, etc. only to find that no meeting will be held. Since the Town offices close at noon each day, any voice mail or email sent to the office after noon on the day of a meeting will not be received until the following day. This is too late. We should not be at the Church ready for a meeting and having to call around trying to track down the Board only to learn that they have no plan to attend. Aldermen should themselves contact someone via cell phone so that the message might be disseminated as soon as possible and prevent unnecessary inconvenience.

4. Texas Open Meetings Act.

Mayor Hutton urged all Aldermen to stay in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. He confirmed that everyone had viewed the Open Meeting training tapes and signed the statement that they understood the law. He also noted that there can be criminal penalties if this Act is violated.

5. Alderman/Town Staff interaction.

Mayor Hutton urged members of Aldermen not to harass the staff or unilaterally ask them to perform large tasks or research. He asked that any Alderman put any requests in writing so that he may determine if staff time is available/warranted. Mayor Hutton also urged the Board members not to harass the staff, including away from the Town office, and to please treat everyone with respect. Staff needs a suitable environment in which to work; and the Town doesn't need to get sued.

6. Report from Police Chief Michael Hoskins.

A police report was distributed to the Aldermen members. Mayor Hutton noted the substantial decrease in speeding along CR 213 in recent weeks and thanked the Chief for his work. Chief Hoskins mentioned that he had also been thanked by several citizens along CR 213 and suggested that another speed limit sign installed on CR 213 might further help the ongoing problem. Larry Farthing asked about the 18-wheelers continuing to park along the I-20 ramp. John Jackson inquired about storage of the patrol cars.

VI. Adjourn

A motion was made by Larry Farthing to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded: John Jackson

Vote: 5-0; all in favor, meeting adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Approved: _____

Mayor, Todd W. Hutton

Town Secretary, Sherry Bagby