

**TOWN OF TALTY
MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2009**

The Town of Talty held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2009, at the Trinity Family Church in Talty, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Carla Milligan.

- I. A quorum was announced. Aldermen present were: Millie Brice, Larry Farthing, Frank Garrison, John Jackson, and Kevin Williams. Also present were Connie Goodwin, town administrator and Sherry Bagby, town secretary.
- II. John Jackson led the invocation and Frank Garrison led the pledge of allegiance.
- III. **Citizen's Participation.** Mr. Courtney McGrath signed in to speak about the Layden Farms development, where he purchased a home in June, 2008. He is very distressed about the appearance of his neighborhood with high grass, and unsightly overgrown vacant lots. McGrath stated that the developer is not amenable to any request regarding the maintenance of the development. He requested assistance from the council to enforce the town's existing ordinances.
 - It was noted that 18 citizens were present at the board meeting.

IV. Action Items:

1. Municipal Judge Patricia Ashcroft was introduced. The Board considered the reappointment of Patricia Ashcroft to continue to be the municipal judge for Talty. A motion was made by Larry Farthing to reappoint Patricia Ashcroft as the municipal judge for Talty.

Seconded: Frank Garrison

Vote: 5-0; All in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Carla Milligan swore in Patricia Ashcroft as municipal judge of Talty.

2. The Board discussed hiring a different part-time code enforcement officer since Mark Woodruff was not able to begin employment because of a last minute conflict with the City of Rowlett. Carla Milligan introduced Robert Wysinger, as a potential code enforcement officer for Talty. He currently is a code enforcement officer for Rockwall, and has received clearance from his supervisor to work also for Talty. The board discussed hiring Robert Wysinger on a part-time basis of 20 hours a month, and his time being split between completing paper work and in the field. Mr. Wysinger distributed his resume to the board for consideration. He is able to begin work on September 1, 2009. His transportation was also discussed because he needs a vehicle to perform his duties as code enforcement officer. Chief Hoskins stated that it was a liability for the Town to allow the code enforcement officer to use the police car. Allowing Mr. Wysinger to rent a car was also discussed. The budget may need to be revised to accommodate this issue.

A motion was made by John Jackson to hire Robert Wysinger as a part-time code enforcement officer for Talty at \$19 per hour for 20 hours a month, beginning September 1, 2009, and to purchase two magnetic signs for a vehicle and two shirts identifying him as Talty's code enforcement officer, and rental of a car twice a month if necessary.

Seconded: Millie Brice

Vote: 5-0; All in favor, motion carried.

3. The Board discussed the reappointment of Nichols, Jackson, Dillard, Hager & Smith L.L.P. as attorneys of record. This firm has been the attorneys of record since the inception of Talty in 1999.

A motion was made by Millie Brice to reappoint Nichols, Jackson, Dillard, Hager & Smith, L.L.P. as attorneys of record for Talty.

Seconded: Kevin Williams

Vote: 5-0; All in favor, motion carried.

4. The Board reviewed the Minutes of July 21, 2009.

A motion was made by John Jackson to approve the Minutes of July 21, 2009 as submitted.

Seconded: Frank Garrison

Vote: 5-0; All in favor, motion carried.

5. The Board reviewed the Financials of July, 2009 prepared by Murrey & Co.

A motion was made by John Jackson to approve the July 2009 financials as submitted.

Seconded: Larry Farthing

Vote: 5-0; All in favor, motion carried.

6. The Board reviewed the Minutes of August 8, 2009 from the budget workshop. Mayor Milligan along with the entire board thanked John Jackson and his wife for allowing the board to meet in their home for the workshop meeting.

A motion was made by Millie Brice to approve the budget workshop Minutes of August 8, 2009.

Seconded: Kevin Williams

Vote: 5-0; All in favor, motion carried.

7. The Board discussed amending Ordinance 2007-011 regarding the portable buildings on residential lots being 80% masonry. This requirement was discussed when the public hearings were held for the comprehensive plan. Currently, the resident gets a building permit from the town if the portable building has a concrete slab; otherwise, a permit is not required. The Board did not want to weaken any ordinances but requiring the homeowner to get a variance would still give the Board control of what is being built on the property. The variance would be granted on a case-by-case basis.

A motion was made by Frank not to amend Ordinance 2007-011 at this time.

Seconded: John Jackson

Vote: 5-0; All in favor, motion carried.

VII. Discussion Items

1. Chief Hoskins distributed his monthly report. Chief Hoskins stated that since the economy is slow, it is harder to get reserve officers, because they work for free. Mayor Milligan stated that in the upcoming budget, they will allow reserve officers to receive a stipend payment of \$50 monthly. At this time, the Town does not have a minimum monthly hourly requirement for reserve officers to work. The Town pays for the reserve officer badge and uniform and when the reserve no longer works for the town the equipment stays as town property.

2. The Board again reviewed the proposed budget for October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010. The following categories were discussed:
 - It was noted that training needs to be increased because Chief Hoskins stated that the State of Texas is no longer paying for the required one-week training, he will be attending in November, 2009. Training needs to be increased \$1,000 to cover this expense.
 - It was also noted that the expiration of the contract for the software agreement with Utility Data for the municipal court is due for renewal in November, 2009, for a fee of \$1,066. This fee will be paid from the technology fund. With every ticket, a \$4.00 fee is paid toward the court technology account.
 - Code enforcement will need to be increased \$800 or \$1,000 to allow for transportation expense since the new code enforcement officer will need a vehicle to perform his duties.
 - Mr. Goodwin stated that FEMA will be mapping all the creeks and streams and he suggested that Talty join this program for a fee of \$1,677 so that Talty would also be mapped for the Federal Flood Insurance Program. This would allow residents to acquire flood insurance and it would be to the advantage of the citizens of Talty to be included in this study. Area supervisors are available to come and talk to the board if necessary.
 - In the map category, add \$1,700 to the budget to be included in the flood insurance program.
 - Currently, the payroll category allows for a 3% cost of living raise. It was discussed that the cost of living is greater than this figure and payroll would need to be altered if this were to be increased. Mayor Milligan stated that new figures will be coming out this month and once these figures are published, it can be addressed again by the board.
 - Mayor Milligan would like to see the budget altered to allow the overhaul of the Town's website to become more user friendly for staff. It could be a great tool for the citizens if it was easier to navigate. The budget for web hosting would need to be increased.
 - Carla Milligan stated that she plans to attend a seminar in March, 2010 in DeSoto, which is required, and the budget would need to reflect her training expense.

- Carla Milligan stated that the Board has increased rent expense to include using the church for the monthly meetings of \$100, plus office rental has increased \$50 a month.

Mr. Goodwin will work to incorporate these items and suggestions into the new proposed budget. Board asked Goodwin to e-mail the board the new version of the budget when these numbers were added. The budget will be voted on at the September 15, 2009 meeting. Mr. Goodwin stated that two weeks prior to this meeting, the budget must be submitted to the Town Secretary for review and cannot be amended after this time, except by the board at the September 15, 2009 meeting.

3. The Board discussed Trinity Valley Electric Coop's proposed transmission lines. They have three routes proposed: (a) 148 to 1641 to Shamrock (b) cross 148 behind Winner Circle and cross over to transmission line and (c) 148 across the farmland to I-20 behind the Shell gas station. Trinity Valley will send out packets to homeowners. The Public Utility Commission will decide where the line will be placed. If a public hearing is held, it will be in Austin, Texas. Easements are already in place along the streets. If they go through the farmland, they will have to pay landowners. The farmland is in Crandall and Mesquite's ETJ. The transmission lines will not be underground and will be 100' right away.

4. Updates on development in Talty.
Carla Milligan stated that she and Aldermen Millie Brice attended the Kaufman County task force meeting on August 17, 2009 regarding road and bridge projects that should receive regional toll revenue funding that has been granted to the county through the Regional Transportation Commission and the NCTCOG. Carla also met with Ray Clark, our County Commissioner, requesting that future needs should include that 1641 be widened to I-20. Mr. Clark said that the money has not yet been allocated for this project but is in the future plans.

5. No one had any request for a future item on next month's agenda.

VIII. Adjournment

After no further business, a motion was made by Frank Garrison to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded: Larry Farthing

Vote: 5-0; All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Mayor, Carla Milligan

Town Secretary, Sherry Bagby