

TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
Teleconference via GoToMeeting
Tuesday, February 28, 2023
3:37pm

Mayor Paulin, Vice Mayor Sitoula and Councilwoman Grumbine met in work session via teleconference on Tuesday, February 28, 2023. Also, in attendance Town Manager Ryan Hicks, and Town Clerk Andrea Brady.

Tax Referendum: Establishment of Town Police – The Council received a memo from the town’s legal counsel in reference to the topic. The referendum is not permitted per the town’s charter. The establishment of a police force would be at the discretion of the council. With an increase in crime, Mayor Paulin feels it is important to have an increase in police presence in the area, whether that is establishment of a force or pay for additional police protection. Town Manager Hicks suggested a meeting with Sheriff Berry to discuss allocation of additional forces in the area. Vice Mayor Sitoula agreed with Town Manager Hicks. Vice Mayor Sitoula also spoke about the difficulties of establishing a force and felt that speaking with the CCSO to increase the presence in the community would be the best place to start, and suggested reaching out to MML to see if there are grant opportunities for additional public safety funding. The council agreed to move forward with discussions with CCSO and reach out to MML for additional information at this time. Mayor Paulin felt it might also be worthwhile to reach out to the State Police on the possibility of extra duty patrols.

Pavilion/Boys & Girls Club: Town Manager Hicks spoke about the Boys & Girls Club (BGC) program on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They would like to have a summer program and the building is not available to them due to other uses in the building. The Health Dept. utilizes the building on Mondays, and the Judy Center utilizes it on Wednesdays. BGC mentioned the possibility of busing children from the Pavilion to one of their other facilities for a summer program, they are also very interested in utilizing the old PNC building for a permanent location. Town Manager Hicks spoke about the use of the Bond Bill money to renovate the building, and he is also considering an earmark. Town Manager Hicks asked if the Council is in agreement that a 6 week summer program would not be possible due to other organizations in the building. The Council agreed. Town Manager Hicks hopes to do construction at the old PNC this summer with the goal to have the BGC in the building by the fall. Town Manager Hicks asked about the pavilion in general, and asked if the Council is still moving forward with no longer renting the facility after June and spoke about the need for renovations at the facility. The Council agreed to move forward with the previously agreed upon June ending date.

Bulk Trash Pickup – Town Manager Hicks did some research and he stated we are cheaper than other locations who do bulk pickups. The main issue of discussion was the removal of bulk items from trailers causing a safety issue, and the guidelines have been changed to address that. Town Manager Hicks feels that if we increase rates it could increase illegal dumping at all dumpster sites. Vice Mayor Sitoula suggested a nominal increase from \$50 to \$60 due to the increase in costs and the required manhours. Mayor Paulin agreed with the nominal increase due to the amount of manhours being dedicated to the service.

Board, Commission, Committee Applications – As of today the Council has not received further applications for the Board of Zoning Appeals. The Council will table this item another month to allow additional time for further applications to be able to fill the Board completely.

March Town Meeting Agenda – No changes or additions

Roundtable:

Mayor – None

Vice Mayor – A resident noted that there was a reduction in helicopter flyovers at night which helps lessen the disturbance to the ospreys and wanted to thank the Council

Councilwoman – None

Town Manager – The budget hearing is on a Thursday and would usually be held at the pavilion. With the BGC utilizing the facility would the Council be in favor of holding it virtually. The Council agreed to move forward with a virtual hearing. Town Manager Hicks spoke about the earmarks for 2024 including the old PNC building, the lift stations, and the well and booster station.

Town Clerk – Reminder about MML and upcoming election.

Mayor Paulin adjourned the meeting at 3:54pm.


Andrea Brady, Town Clerk