



Town of Nutter Fort Minutes Council Meeting – October 10, 2023

Called to order at 6:30 pm by Mayor Sam Maxson.

Attendance – Bryan Gonzalez, Sam Maxson, Natalie Haddix, Karen Phillips, Rick Lafferty, Charlene Louk
Department Heads – Treasurer Leslie Cummings, Public Works Supervisor Taylor Keith, Code Enforcement Officer Andy Grogg

Guests – Jennifer Robinson, Kenneth Johnson, Dennis Duchess, Shirley Sheets, Kathy Powell, Rezin Hudkins, Justin Hetherington, Cindy Lafferty

Absent – Jim Link, Police Chief Ronnie Godwin, Fire Chief Jeremy Haddix, EMS Supervisor Nathan Rohrbough

Minutes:

- Approval of minutes 9/26/2023 - Council Meeting Minutes were approved by unanimous vote after a motion to approve the minutes with grammatical changes noted was made by Charlene Louk and a second by Rick Lafferty.

Treasurer's Report:

- Shared fire fee invoices, which are split between Nutter Fort & Stonewood FD, for Route 20 were sent out last Friday and that resulted in an influx of calls into the city office.
- The Rosebud fire fee invoices, which will be Nutter Fort FD only, will be sent on later this week, but the Treasurer would like to add more detail to these invoices to curtail the kind of questions that they are getting calls about currently re: Route 20 invoices.
- Clarksburg City Council passed a sewer rate ordinance, resulting in rate increases only for municipalities using Clarksburg's sewage service. This was sent to Legal and Accounting for review.
- Request for proposals for Audits for the Town of Nutter Fort were sent out last week. They are due back in 10/20/2023. The Audit Committee that was previously appointed is still active, so they will be reviewing the bids upon receipt.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

- Accounts payable items were presented via handout (attached) and were approved by unanimous vote after a motion by Charlene Louk and a second by Karen Phillips.

Unfinished Business:

- None

New Business

- Review-Discuss-Consider Discussion on Proposed Article 777 (Rental Dwelling Units) – Updates to Codified Ordinances: This item was for discussion only. The treasurer noted that the original purpose of this proposed article (attached) adds clarity. Legal advised that there's a need for Certificate of Occupancy and Routine Inspections. Most municipalities are going to this. Inspections will be \$20 per dwelling unit. A couple of items to possibly omit would be 777.02 and 777.09 item A. Councilor Lafferty suggested a specific time frame be stated in the ordinance. Discussion was held and it would likely be annual inspections in the winter. Additionally, the inspection will be valid for one full year. Next meeting will have the revisions and the 1st reading will be held.

- Review-Discuss-Consider – Approval on Public Works 2013 Ford F250 & 2004 International Garbage Truck Public Auction on GovDeals –PW Supervisor Keith advised that due to the age and potential for future maintenance, these two vehicles will need sold. Sale of both vehicles via GovDeals was approved by unanimous vote after a motion by Karen Phillips and a second by Bryan Gonzalez.
- Review-Discuss-Consider – Ordinance 2023-06 – Proposed changes to Article 124 Sanitary Board: Treasurer is still awaiting documents from Legal. This agenda item was tabled by unanimous vote after a motion by Natalie Haddix and a second by Rick Lafferty.

Committee Reports:

- Chief of Police Report: none
- Fire Chief Report: Ultimate Giveaway is this Saturday. Fire prevention is in full swing - 4 classes and approx. 100+ kids today, same for tomorrow and Thursday. Next week – will have 400 kids on Monday, then 200 kids/day Tuesday through Thursday and that is just the Primary side. Bikes have been preordered for the Halloween Party.
- EMS/Ambulance Report: EMS Supervisor provided written report in his absence: “September 1 – 30, 2023 - 213 Total incidents. Again, our call volume, that includes transports, continues to grow however with current staff size, this is about the upper tier that we can handle. This obviously will fluctuate some as 911 calls go up and down as do the transports. Report from billing company showed an approximately collection of \$58,439.70. We finally have all of our ambulances with working radios to be able to communicate to dispatch and such. All trucks are striped and stocked. We have one truck in the shop getting the back extended bumper re-fabricated due to it being broke when we bought it from the volunteer fire department in Pennsylvania. Once that is complete, we will have our entire fleet up and running 100%. If everything stays on track, we should be finished utilizing the rental truck by the end of this week. We should expect a decrease in EMS invoices next month as we are mostly caught up with heavy expenditures. I am not saying we won’t have any bills as operation costs never go away. Over the next couple months, I plan on trying to find ways to hopefully cut down on some of our overtime. It’s a very difficult task considering we have to staff 24/7/365 and with our current wages, we aren’t able to attract many paramedics to come here full time. The last time we advertised we had no one apply. I would like to thank the Mayor, Recorder and Council along with all the residents of Nutter Fort for believing in this EMS department and seeing it through to where we are today. This would not be possible without everyone’s support. It has benefited our residents so many times that it would be difficult to put a number on it. This is a great vital service as none of us know when we may need EMS.”
- Public Works Supervisor Report: PW Supervisor advised that they are wrapping up many outstanding projects.
- Engineer Report: none
- Code Enforcement Report: Code Enforcement Officer Grogg noted 1 permit, 6 door hangers for high grass and maintenance; 206 Burton Avenue was inspected, 508 Illinois Avenue had garage inspected – need to bring to code or be demoed, and 210 WV Avenue – homeowner was served via process server for issues with the foundation of the residence.

Public Comment:

- Resident Dennis Duchess had previously asked council to review the “Treat in Place” article and editorial in the Exponent-Telegram that showed it was being endorsed by Highmark, PEIA, & Medicaid. Councilor Rick Lafferty researched and shared his findings with Council and Natalie summarized the outcome to Mr. Duchess from the CMS website. “Emergency Triage Treat and Transport (ET3 Mosel) - The ET3 Model will end early on December 31, 2023, two years prior to the performance period end date. This decision was made due to lower than expected participation and lower than projected interventions. Emergency Medical Services remain an area of focus for CMS, and we believe that the lessons learned from the ET3 Model can aid in the development of potential future initiatives. This decision does not affect Model Participants' participation in the Model through December 31, 2023.”
- Councilor Rick Lafferty shared that the Fun Zone will be having a Halloween event on 10/14/2023.
- Resident Duchess also inquired about the garbage pickup due to the holiday. PW Supervisor advised that garbage pick up this week is one day behind except for Friday, but recycling is on regular schedule.

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 7:04 pm.

Natalie K. Haddix, Recorder

Sam Maxson, Mayor