

On Monday, September 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. the council meeting for the Town of Gay was called to order by Mayor Walker. At roll call all council members were present and it was determined a quorum did exist.

The first item was approval of the Consent Agenda. Council member Askvig motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by council member Watts. The motion in favor was unanimous.

Next was approval of the agenda. Council member Askvig requested adding discussion of notes from prior changes to the Zoning/Land Use and Development Regulation Ordinances. Council member Watts motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of discussing notes from those Ordinances, seconded by council member Askvig. The vote in favor was unanimous.

The first item on the agenda was approval of the 2024 Mil Rate. Council member Watts motioned to approve the rate of 2.027%, seconded by council member Askvig. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Next on the agenda was a request from the Keep Meriwether Beautiful committee to again allow two dumpsters to be placed on Town property. After discussion of other possible locations, council member Askvig motioned to allow the placement of two dumpsters in the same location as last year for cleanup day Saturday, September 28, 2024. The motion was seconded by council member Watts and the vote in favor was unanimous.

Next on the agenda was Lighted Speed Limit signs. Council member Watts said the speed limits on Flat Shoals Road are very confusing as they are different for each direction and should be uniform in both directions. She motioned to set the speed limit in both directions at 30 miles per hour and to obtain speed limit signs to that effect. She further motioned to allow the Mayor to use his discretion in selecting the most appropriate electronic speed limit signs and acquiring three of them. The signs are to be placed north of Gay on highway 85 going south into town, and south of Gay, also on highway 85 coming north. The third one will be on Flat Shoals road coming into town from Pike County. T-SPLOST funds will be used for all signs. The motion was seconded by council member Askvig and the vote in favor was unanimous.

Next on the agenda was bids for electrical work at City Hall, using ARPA (Cares) funds. The only bid we received was from PrimeTime Electric, Inc. The bid amount was \$1,103.73. After discussion council member Askvig motioned to accept the bid, seconded by council member Keith. The vote in favor was unanimous.

The last item on the agenda was discussion of notes for corrections/changes to proposed Zoning and Land Use Ordinance and the proposed Development Regulation Ordinance. After discussion, council member Keith motioned to accept all the changes, corrections and color coding and allow council member Watts to incorporate all those items into the drafts, in preparation for review by our lawyer. The motion was seconded by council member Askvig, and the vote in favor was unanimous.

Council member Keith motioned to add in the Zoning and Land Use Ordinance that property owners are responsible for mowing to the curb or road in absence of a curb. The motion was seconded by council member Askvig and the vote in favor was unanimous.

Mayor Walker asked if there were any public comments. Shellie Lester asked if it would be possible to remind everyone of upcoming meetings and include an agenda of proposed topics. Clerk will e-mail reminders of meetings and agenda to each person who has submitted an email address to the office. The meeting date, time and agenda are posted on our web site as well.

Council member Pritchett said she was approached by Ken Knox, candidate for sheriff of Meriwether County, to inquire about use of our community building for a Town Hall Meeting to allow the public to meet him. The community building is rented only to residents of Gay, or to someone sponsored by a resident. She was told as a resident she could rent the building for that purpose, but not as a council member. The Town cannot become involved in any way politically.

The next item was Financial Documents. It was noted by council member Watts that the expense for mowing at the wells and tank is considerably higher than the budgeted amount. It will probably be necessary to prepare an amended budget, even though the mowing season is almost over for the year. Council member Watts motioned to approve the documents, with the expectation of an amendment to the water budget. The motion was seconded by council member Keith and the vote in favor was unanimous.

Mayor Walker reminded council that the Intergovernmental Agreement received for review from Meriwether County, reflects a change in the law stating permits and inspection fees must be based on square foot, not value. Council member Watts motioned to temporarily adopt the fee schedule used by Meriwether County and to make such changes on our Consolidated Fee Schedule. The motion was seconded by council member Askvig and the vote in favor was unanimous.

As there was no more business to discuss, council member Watts motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., seconded by council member Askvig. The vote was unanimous.

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Christopher J. Walker – Mayor

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Sharon Richmond - Clerk