

City Council Work Session Minutes – 03/28, 2022

On Monday, March 28, 2022, the work session meeting of the Town of Gay was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Blakeley. Present at roll call were all other council members. Council was informed the Mayor would be late due to a previously scheduled meeting.

The agenda consisted of two sheets of items presented by council members Askvig and Watts. These were all items they noted from the recently attended Newly Elected Officials training classes and felt clarification and more information was required.

Council member Keith motioned to accept the agenda, seconded by council member Askvig. The vote in favor was unanimous.

The first item for discussion was actually a combination of items 1 and 15 from the list submitted by council member Watts, being a comprehensive plan and inclusion/exclusion of certain individuals from a Zoning Committee, discussed at the last council meeting.

Council member Watts recommended we have a Land Use Advisory Committee rather than the aforesaid Zoning Committee. There were two individuals recommended for that committee who would have been unable under the law to participate due to property ownership and relation to an elected official. These two individuals are knowledgeable members of our community and their expertise in different fields would be a distinct benefit to the whole town. And, most importantly, relationship and ownership would not exclude them from this committee. It is also anticipated that residents of the town will also get involved by voicing opinions and recommendations for planning and land use.

This item was recommended for the agenda for the April 11 council meeting so a decision can be made on members and number of members of the committee. The original list of names was Joe Nash, Chip Perdue, Gary Alford, Keith Summerour and Greg Westbury. Also added for consideration were Willis Everett and Shellie Lester.

The next item discussed was Historical Preservation. It is hoped to get Joe Nash involved in this subject. This was also recommended for the April 11 council meeting agenda.

The next item discussed was the Town Charter. Council member Watts said the charter needs refreshed and updated but no major rewrite, in her opinion. By this time Mayor Nash had arrived and said GMA has recommended we get Representative Debbie Buckner involved in this project. It is something she does and is very good at it, according to GMA, better than most attorneys. Also, it would be less costly than getting an attorney involved. This will also be on the April 11 agenda.

The next item discussed was the financial documents. It is recommended we get someone to look over our financials and get a more easily understandable format so it can be determined more or less at a glance, what is or is not available. Council member Keith said she will speak to someone and ask for volunteer help on that subject.

The next item, also to be included on the April 11 agenda, is a town attorney. We have been unable to locate a permanent attorney for the Town and have been very dissatisfied with recommendations we have received. Clerk will speak to Attorney David Brisendine from Zebulon and see if he is involved in municipal law and if so, arrange for discussion with him about perhaps taking on the Town of Gay.

The next item briefly mentioned was a City Manager, but council member Askvig stated if all council members step up and take some of the tasks previously handled by the Mayor, we would not require a city manager. It was generally agreed that at this point, the Town could not afford a city manager anyway.

The next item for discussion was the Rules of Decorum, recently introduced at our council meetings. Council member Keith recommended copies of those rules be placed in the council meeting location to be readily available to any person attending the meetings. Clerk will make copies available starting at the April council meeting.

The next item discussed was our recently passed Ordinance concerning the Special Events Permit. There has been a lot of confusion about the effective date of that ordinance. This item will also be on the agenda for the April 11 council meeting.

The last item for discussion was future work sessions. It was recommended by council member Watts that we schedule a work session two weeks prior to each council meeting. It was agreed this item should also be on the agenda for the April 11 council meeting.

As there were no other items for discussion, council member Keith motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m., seconded by council member Watts. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Chase Blakeley – Mayor Pro Tem

Sharon Richmond – City Clerk