

On Monday, January 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. the council meeting for the Town of Gay was called to order by Mayor Ruth Nash. All council members were present at roll call and it was determined a quorum did exist.

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

Next, was Pledge of Allegiance then a review of the rules of decorum.

The next item of business was approval of the minutes from the last meeting. Council member Blakeley motioned to approve the minutes seconded by council member Watts. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Prior to introducing the first item on the agenda, Mayor Nash said that the Town of Gay needs to have two individuals (one being the Mayor and the other a council member) to act as liaisons on the Three Rivers Regional Commission Board. Council member Askvig asked for information and clarification as to duties, time requirements, etc., connected to the Commission. These meetings are currently held in Turin, GA. At 1:00 p.m. It was stated that we need to try to have someone named prior to the next meeting which is to be February 23, 2023.

The first item listed on the agenda was discussion of our Alcohol Ordinance. The issue is that there seems to be a conflict in wording between the Town Ordinance and the State of Georgia, particularly where Brew Pub licenses are concerned. After much discussion, council member Keith motioned to table the discussion until members could look more closely at the wording. The motion was seconded by council member Askvig. The vote in favor was unanimous, with council member Blakeley abstaining from the vote.

The next item on the agenda was consideration of a building permit requested by 1911 LLC/TowerHouse Farm Management Services, LLC, in accordance with the newly enacted Building Moratorium. The requested permit is for updating electrical, plumbing which includes a new water heater, addition of an ADA bathroom and handicap ramp and in the rear of the building, a new deck, as the current deck/ramp is in dangerous condition. Joe Nash, representing TowerHouse, presented drawings showing current work requested, as well as future plans for the facility. This area will house the Unicorn Coffee Bar.

After discussion and a view of the plans, council member Keith motioned to approve the building permit, seconded by council member Askvig. The vote in favor was unanimous.

At this time Mayor Nash introduced Ms. Sammi Rivera, owner of the Unicorn Coffee Bar and asked her to tell council about her plans for the coffee bar. Council member Keith motioned to approve the business license, seconded by council member Blakeley. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Under Committee reports, council member Blakeley said that in the Land Use Committee meeting held immediately prior to this council meeting, they had prepared a "Character

Area Map” to show how they feel the Town zoning should be preserved so as to protect the town and residents from unwanted changes to our unique town. He asked if the council would vote on whether they agreed with the plan. After discussion, it was motioned by council member Watts to table this discussion until each member could look at the plan and make a decision. The motion was seconded by council member Keith and the vote in favor was unanimous, with council member Blakeley abstaining. Council member Blakeley will email Mayor and each council member a copy of the proposed map.

Mayor Nash asked if council members wanted to have a work session meeting and it was decided to hold a work session meeting on Monday, January 16, 2023 in the community building at 7:00 p.m. At this meeting the alcoholic beverage license and the land use committee map will both be discussed.

Under Committee reports, council member Askvig said she had received an answer from Andy Torrey about the DOT grant we applied for, stating only that decisions would be made soon and to watch for notification as to whether ours was approve.

There were no financial documents for review at this meeting.

As there was no other business to discuss, and a very important football game to be watched, council member Keith motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m., seconded by council member Askvig. The vote in favor was unanimous.

---

Ruth Nash – Mayor

---

Sharon Richmond - Clerk