

On Monday, June 13, 2022, at 7:07 p.m. the council meeting for the Town of Gay was called to order by Mayor Nash. All members were present at roll call and it was determined a quorum did exist.

The first item of business was approval of the revised Agenda. Motion was made for approval by council member Watts and seconded by council member Askvig. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Next came the invocation, by Rev. Casey Harpe, Pledge of Allegiance and review of Rules of Decorum.

The next item of business was approval of previous minutes. Council member Watts opposed approval of the minutes due to a statement saying fire trucks and ambulances do not use Tom Mann Road the reason being the grade at the rail crossing is so low they get stuck. (Statement was removed)

Council member Watts says the fire truck and ambulance reference was not part of the discussion and wants it deleted from the minutes.

The minutes were recorded and that recording will be reviewed to see if the statement regarding Fire Trucks and Ambulances was used.

Next on the agenda was committee/staff reports.

Council member Blakeley met with Daniel Trevorrow and Shaun Regan of GDOT regarding our request to lower the speed limit through the Town of Gay for safety reasons. GDOT's recent engineering study does not support lowering the limit but they made suggestions regarding striping on the road to narrow travel lanes and possibly adding a bike lane. Their recommendations would have to be funded by the Town as GDOT will not perform them in house. If we are interested, we would have to get a Special Encroachment permit through Mr. Trevorrow's section of GDOT which must include engineering plans by a professional engineer. He gave us the link on where/how to get started, which also includes a list of engineering companies used in the past. If we decide to do this, they would approve the striping plan.

Also included in the discussion was possibility of pedestrian crosswalks, ramps and push button pedestrian lights. Because of space required for these items small pieces of property would have to be given up by at least three land owners.

In connection with these items, matching grants are available from DOT called SS4A-Safe Streets 4 All-which could potentially help pay for all these items plus sidewalks. Mayor Nash said Three Rivers Regional Commission will write grants and said if we decide to try for any of these several grants, we should go through them for help in applying. She asked for a motion to start the grant process. Council member Keith motioned to begin the process, seconded by council member Watts. The vote in favor was unanimous. She then suggested a committee of three, including a council member to work with TRRC to obtain the SS4A grant. Council member Askvig volunteered to be on the committee and Faye Perdue, who works with TRRC, was in attendance at the meeting and volunteered to act as liaison. Bruce O'Neil was recommended as the third person since he has extensive experience in road work. Council member Blakeley motioned to accept these three individuals as the committee, seconded by council member Keith. The vote in favor was unanimous. Asst. Clerk, Susan Olvey researched this grant and said there are several grants available, depending on needs/wants. The deadline for the SS4A is September, so it is imperative to get the process going, but funding will not start until after the first of the year.

This evening was also the first meeting of the Land Use Advisory Committee and council member Blakeley also updated council on this first meeting. No real decisions were made, just discussions of what the committee hopes to accomplish.

First item of new business on the agenda was need for an "umbrella policy" to protect the town especially now with proposed changes and events in the future. Our insurance company said a Million Dollar policy would cost \$1000.00 per year if added to our policies. After discussion, council member Watts motioned to obtain this coverage, seconded by council member Askvig. The vote in favor was unanimous.

The next item on the agenda was Financial Disclosure Reports for elected officials. Completed forms must be submitted to our election supervisor prior to July 1 for entry into the system.

The next item on the agenda was probable increase in the cost of fair security. For the May fairs we were only able to obtain three deputies from Meriwether County, at the cost of \$30.00 per hour, for each deputy. With only three deputies, they did no traffic control, but were just available in case of an emergency.

With the number of people and the amount of traffic, it is essential to have more deputies, and they must be able to direct traffic. Research by the assistant clerk showed that other local law enforcement agencies will charge \$50.00 per hour per officer. In discussing needs, it was suggested a minimum of seven officers be used. Council member Watts was asked to head a committee to contact local law enforcement offices and get commitments on officer availability based on our needs.

The last item of new business on the agenda was Kris Price, owner of Shady Days In Gay Arts and Crafts Fair who wanted clarification on when the Special Events Permit fee for fairs is actually payable. According to the Special Events Ordinance, application must be made for an event no less than 45 days prior to the event. All fair operators have agreed that counts for number of vendors varies widely from the time they must contract with the fair operator up to the actual day of the event. After discussion, it was motioned by council member Asvrig that payment for the permit can made no more than 15 days after the first day of the event. Council member Watts seconded the motion and the vote in favor was unanimous.

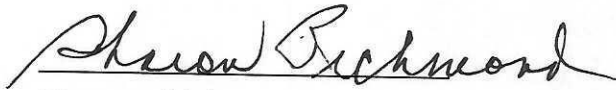
Under public comment, Stiles Estes asked to speak and wanted to discuss Tom Mann Road. She said the Road Signs should be replaced. During this public comment period council member Keith motioned to have a document added to the minutes, council member Watts second the motion, council member Blakeley and Asvig abstained, council members Watts and Keith voted in favor. Public comments continued for some time but no further action taken on this subject.

Financial documents were available. Council member Watts motioned to approve, seconded by council member Blakeley. The vote in favor was unanimous.

As there was no other business to discuss, council member Askvig motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m., seconded by council member Blakeley. The vote in favor was unanimous.



Ruth Nash - Mayor



Sharon Richmond - Clerk

