

On Monday, November 14, 2022 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 and it was determined a quorum did exist.

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

Next was the invocation, Pledge of Allegiance and review of the rules of decorum.

The next item of business was approval of previous minutes, but council members had not received the minutes so clerk read the minutes aloud. After minutes were read, 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 discussed some old documents we located during our ongoing attempt to complete organization of city hall. She gave some information on "Historic Preservation" to council member Keith for use by the committee looking into this subject for Gay. These documents are office files and so must be returned after the committee determines if they need copies of any of it.

Also located was a Building Inspection Ordinance, Gay/Meriwether County Building Inspection Agreement and a copy of inspection procedures. Other documents were an ordinance to establish a planning commission, draft of subdivision regulations, and proposed future land use plan. None of these documents were ever approved and signed but she thought that perhaps procedures/wording could be useful to the current committee members.

The first item from the agenda Mayor Nash called for was discussion of amended or corrected ordinances (Alcohol) but council members Blakeley and Watts both said this item had already been discussed and approved.

The next item discussed was "No Parking" signs on Highway 85. Council member Keith had brought up the subject of safety, especially during the fairs in Gay, when people park on Highway 85. Getting into and out of parked cars and darting out between parked vehicles presents an extremely dangerous situation. Mayor Nash said she had spoken to GDOT about getting more signs and was informed that we would have to have a formal signed request. After discussion by council member Blakeley motioned we speak to GDOT about where the signs would be placed prior to actually getting signs installed. At that point, we can decide whether or not we should actually get more signs, and what kind of signs. We do not want signs that will interfere with businesses in Gay, we just need to create a safer environment particularly during the fairs. Council member Keith seconded the motion and the vote in favor was unanimous.

Council member Keith said someone living on Flat Shoals Road had contacted the Sheriff's Department concerning vehicles speeding on that road and a deputy was dispatched. There were actually some vehicles stopped. Hopefully that will help that situation.

The next item discussed was Reading of a new Sign ordinance. On looking at the ordinance, council member Blakeley motioned that this ordinance should not be read nor discussed as it is for the Planning Zoning committee to decide about signs. The motion was seconded by council member Watts and the vote in favor was unanimous. This ordinance is to be dropped and no further readings/discussions will be held.

The assistant clerk had contacted a company called Safebuilt, which does building inspections for some other small cities in Meriwether County. Mayor Nash met with company representatives and invited them to attend our council meeting. Two employees of Safebuilt were in attendance and after introducing themselves and going over procedures, they answered questions from council members regarding costs, fees and responsibilities. They also said that DCA (Department of Community Affairs) is extremely helpful in setting a fee schedule to include administrative processes. They said Senoia and Tyrone both have good fee schedules in use and perhaps we could talk to them also.

Council member Askvig was concerned about effect on future relationships with the County but as pointed out by Mayor Nash, Meriwether County does not have any building inspectors and also use a private company.

Under old business council member Keith asked about prior discussion of a building moratorium. Mayor Nash said there is a meeting scheduled with our attorney for Thursday, November 17, at 6:30 p.m. This will be a closed meeting but afterward, any information which can be shared will be made public.

Next Mayor Nash called for any public discussion but first informed those in attendance that the property of concern at 195 Caldwell Road has been sold. Current owner of the property called the clerk this morning and said closing is scheduled for December 7.

Shellie Lester said that last week on Tuesday, there was so much noise coming from the brewery location that it could be heard at her house, even with the doors closed. Her problem was that it was a weeknight and she has young children and it did interfere with their sleep schedule. It did, however, end at 9:00 p.m. which is still too late for young ones.

Council member Blakeley said that was a private party rental by the winner of a political race who was celebrating. The band playing had been asked by one of the employees to lower the volume of the music but refused and the employee was not sure how to handle the situation. That will be addressed before any future issues.

Lisa Pratt asked what started problems with the County not doing things for small towns, Gay in particular. Mayor Nash said she was not sure exactly except they want more money. However, they pay Manchester \$150,000 per year to manage the Recreation Fund, and have done so for 10 years. Council member Blakeley said it sounds like those that make money for the county get, while we smaller town do not generate enough revenue do not.

The next item was financial documents. There were no questions or comments and council member Watts motioned to approve the documents, seconded by council member Askvig. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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

Ruth Nash – Mayor

Sharon Richmond - Clerk