On Monday, October 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. the council meeting for the Town of Gay was called to order by Mayor Nash. All council members except Askvig were present 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 Blakeley. 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 minutes for the previous meeting. Council member Blakeley motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by council member Watts. The vote in favor was two in favor with council member Keith not voting. There was no negative vote.

At 7:05 p.m., council member Watts motioned to close the council meeting and open the public hearing for discussion of the Property Tax Mil Rate. The motion was seconded by council member Keith and the vote in favor was unanimous.

There was discussion about the current rate and how LOST revenues effect rates.

At 7:10 p.m. Council member Watts motioned to close the public hearing and reopen the council meeting. The motion was seconded by council member Blakeley and the vote in favor was unanimous.

The Mayor called for a vote on the mil rate and council member Blakeley motioned to approve the rate at 2.137. Council member Watts seconded the motion and the vote in favor was unanimous.

The next item of new business was discussion of dedicating a garden/park on city hall and community building property to Roosevelt Jackson, a member of a Negro Major League Baseball team. Mr. Jackson was born in Gay and remembered still by some residents of the Town. Mr. Marquis Grissom, former member of the Atlanta Braves Baseball team, is going to meet with Susan Olvey, assistant city clerk, for the purpose of submitting a request for MLB to fund this project. There was discussion about what would be done, who would design and construct whatever is decided.

Mayor Nash said she hoped the design could include a gazebo, or bandstand, which was part of the old schoolhouse, now our community building. It was discussed that a committee would have to be appointed, at the appropriate time, for recommending and approving any design. Until the meeting with Mr. Grissom it is not possible to say how much control or input MLB will insist upon. However, in the end, the Town must approve anything to be done.

Council member Blakeley motioned to continue to pursue discussion with Mr. Grissom and MLB regarding this project, seconded by council member Keith. The vote in favor was unanimous.

The next item on the agenda was Kris Price, owner, operator of Shady Days in Gay arts and crafts fair.

She said she had a problem during the October fair with people walking with alcoholic beverages into her area. She said her insurance agent happened to be there and noticed the alcohol and questioned Kris about it. The problem is that Kris is not selling alcoholic beverages and so has no insurance coverage. With so many people having these drinks, her agent said she must either get it stopped or buy additional coverage. The beverages were being sold in another fair, legally, but it is not legal to take them from that venue and it is not legal to be on the street with alcohol. Kris said the Deputies who were there said they are not bouncers and will not enforce keeping people out of her fair with drinks.

There was discussion of various solutions, including signs on her fairgrounds saying “no alcohol allowed on premises”, and the other venue being more careful about people leaving the fairgrounds with the drinks. They already have signs and employees at the exits to stop it. Apparently the drinks being carried were in large cups and are a sort of “wine slushy” which might have appeared to those at the gates as soft drinks. Council member Blakeley will address the problem with others at Cotton Fair to be sure all employees at exits be more vigilant and aware of how drinks being sold are packaged.

Kris also wished to discuss the problem of trash clean up. She said there were not enough cans available on the street or other locations and the ones she has were filling and being taken to be emptied by her employees, but it was obvious that all the trash was not just from her fair and she wants others to take responsibility for their areas as well.

Mayor Nash said the Town will see if our current trash company will supply extra cans during the fair days to be placed on the street Friday before the fair days and picked up on Monday, or even Tuesday which is regular trash day, following the fairs.

Next, Mayor Nash asked if there was any public comment and Lisa Pratt asked about the availability of our Ordinances. Mayor Nash said the assistant clerk is working on getting all ordinances on line but in the meantime Ms. Pratt can come to city hall any day we are open and look at the ordinances.

Willis Everett asked about our water availability, if it is unlimited. Mayor Nash explained we have sufficient water for current use and have never run out of water due to not having water in our wells. She also said there are grants becoming available which have no requirement for matching funds. If we are able to secure one of these grants we will request another well and possibly an additional tank or perhaps just one larger tank. This area is growing and if it continues, the Town of Gay wants to be ready for that growth.

Council member Keith mentioned that parking on the street, particularly on highway 85 south of town, is dangerous. People get out of cars onto the roadway and sometimes dart out from between parked cars. It was suggested we get signs saying No Parking Zone Vehicles Will Be Towed. And actually have a tow truck visibly parked in town during the fairs and ask deputies to enforce no parking, to the extent of towing if necessary.

Mayor Nash said it had been brought up at a meeting whether Gay has an intergovernmental agreement with Meriwether County for building inspections. The answer is “Yes”, we do have an agreement. She took copies of the agreement to Meriwether County office of inspections.

Someone mentioned a moratorium on building and council member Blakeley said he is planning a work session with our attorney to determine if and how a moratorium should be worded to make sure we do not unwittingly limit or allow something.

Council member Watts mentioned there appeared to be street lights out and asked if we had any turned off. Clerk said no lights have been eliminated but if she gets a list of which lights are off we will check with the electric company to get them repaired.

Last item for discussion was financial documents. There were no questions and no discussion. Council member Watts motioned to accept the documents, seconded by council member Blakeley. The vote in favor was unanimous.

As there was no more business to discuss, council member Blakeley motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Council member Keith seconded the motion and the vote in favor was unanimous.

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Ruth Nash – Mayor

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Sharon Richmond - Clerk