

On Monday, January 23, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. the Work Session Meeting for the Town of Gay was called to order by Mayor Ruth Nash. She immediately turned the meeting over to the Mayor pro tem, Chase Blakeley as she was experiencing extreme stress created by family health issues. 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 Askvig motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by council member Watts. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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

The first item on the agenda was discussion of a difference in the definition of a "brewpub" as used in our ordinance and as defined by the Georgia Department of Revenue. After much discussion and agreement that a brewpub must be an eating establishment, it was motioned by council member Watts to amend our ordinance so that the definition is exactly like the Georgia Code definition, and that the fee schedule be amended to reflect the Brewpub license is \$1500.00; a Brewery is \$500.00 and a Bar is \$1500.00. The motion was seconded by council member Keith and the vote in favor was unanimous.

At this point, council member Keith stated there appears to be an error on our Consolidated Fee Schedule. Under the section for Special Events, fee for attendees 500 to 2000 and 2000 to 5000 both show \$500.00. The attendees 500 to 2000 is supposed to be \$250.00. Assistant clerk Susan Olvey will check her notes to see if the numbers were incorrectly entered and just correct that, as an error in recording the fees.

The next agenda item was the Character Area Map, prepared by the Land Use Committee. Copies presented were not in color so it was a bit difficult to see the subtle differences in shade to determine what each area was. However, each council member had received an email of the map in color so were comfortable discussing it. Council member Watts motioned to adopt the map, seconded by council member Keith. The vote in favor was unanimous.

The next agenda item was a building permit presented to clerk by Mr. Joe Keith, husband of council member Sally Keith. She explained to council what the permit would include, which is an addition to an existing detached garage circa 1923. It will be used as a barn/shop and have plumbing and heat/air.

After discussion, council member Watts motioned to approve the building permit, seconded by council member Askvig. The vote in favor was unanimous.

The last item on the agenda was concerning the timing of presenting the agenda to council. Council member Watts wants to have the agenda at least a week prior to the meeting in order to be able to do any required research so she is comfortable with discussing the matter involved. She also objects to items being brought up in the meeting which are not actually on the agenda and to not following the order of the agenda. Mayor Nash explained

that any council member or Mayor can bring up items for discussion which are not on the presented agenda.

It was agreed that the week prior to a scheduled council meeting, clerk will email copies of the agenda to the Mayor and each council member. That will give each member an opportunity to find out what the discussion is really looking for, and do any research required. Each member must include all other members and clerk in all discussions regarding the agenda so that a finalized agenda will be available to everyone at the time of the meeting.

Council member Askvig said she had just received notification on the GDOT grant she was working on that Gay had been awarded a grant for \$300,000 and that the Town would be responsible for a match of 20%, or \$60,000. The problem is, we must decide and accept the grant by January 31 or we will lose it and not be eligible for another one until some later time in the future. There were many questions and discussion of when, how and what if? It is assumed in-kind work will be accepted but again, when work must start, be completed, and other concerns need answers. Council member Askvig will ask all those question and report back since no one was totally comfortable voting to accept this amount of financial responsibility with so many questions unanswered.

Mayor Nash said Three Rivers still needs another representative from Gay, in addition to the Mayor position. Council member Watts motioned to appoint council member Keith to this position. Council member Askvig seconded the motion and the vote in favor was unanimous.

As there was no more business to be discussed, council member Keith motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m., seconded by council member Askvig.

Ruth Nash – Mayor

Sharon Richmond - Clerk