

On Monday, June 12, 2023, the council meeting for the Town of Gay was called to order by Mayor Nash at 7:00 p.m. All members were present at roll call and it was determined a quorum did exist.

The first item of business was to approve the agenda. It was noted that the second reading of the Planning and Development Ordinance and vote had been omitted from the agenda. Council member Askvig motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of the second ordinance reading and vote. The motion was seconded by council member Keith and the vote in favor was unanimous.

Next was the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a brief review of the rules of decorum.

Prior to continuing with the regular meeting agenda, Mayor Nash directed council attention to documents provided regarding the Fire Station in Gay. The Town of Gay gave property for the station to be built on, and these documents state that if that property is no longer used as a fire station, the property will revert back to the Town of Gay. It does not belong to Meriwether County.

Next item was approval of minutes, as follows:

May 8, Council Meeting motion to approve, council member Askvig, second by council member Keith. The vote in favor was unanimous.

May 22, Public Hearing and first reading Planning and Development Ordinance motion to approve, council member Watts, second by council member Askvig. The vote in favor was unanimous.

May 22, Public Hearing CDBG grant for water infrastructure motion to approve council member Keith second by council member Askvig. The vote in favor was unanimous.

The first item on the agenda was the second reading of the Planning and Development Ordinance. There were no questions or comments. Council member Keith motioned to approve the Ordinance, seconded by council member Blakeley and the vote in favor was unanimous.

The next item for discussion was a Sign Permit Application from Hunters Corner 2, for gas and services. Mr. and Mrs. McKernan were in attendance and stated the sign, as pictured, is a standard style of Texaco.

Council member Blakeley discussed the work his comprehensive planning committee is doing on planning and keeping the historical nature of Gay as it is. He asked if Mr. McKernan would consider another style of Texaco's signs,

which will better fit the vision we want to keep in Gay. He has some examples and will send to Mr. McKernan and will discuss with him if he is willing. In addition, the lighting might be a problem as that is just across the street from a residential area. He assured the McKernan's that the Town of Gay is pleased to have another business and is in no way trying to discourage him or the business. Mr. McKernan said he is willing to consider other signage and wants to be a part of the Town. No other council members had any comments or discussion other than to agree with the comments of council member Blakeley.

The issue of the sign application will be on hold until such time as council member Blakeley and the comprehensive planning committee meet and hopefully complete changes to the plan. He will coordinate with Mr. McKernan to meet and discuss the alternative signage after Mr. McKernan has time to review other signs and discuss with Texaco, what they will approve.

The next item was a dehumidifier for City Hall/library. This had been discussed and tabled until such time as council member Askvig determined if she still had one that she was willing to donate to the Town. Council member Askvig does not have the dehumidifier so we need to acquire one. It will need to be big enough to cover all of City Hall and since we are a part time office, it will need to have a drain to the outside, rather than one we have to physically empty. Mayor Nash estimates one we need will be approximately \$400.00. Council member Watts motioned we have someone look into the cost, size required and any other specifics. The motion was seconded by council member Keith and the vote in favor was unanimous.

Mayor Nash suggested we ask Sam Sitzman to get this information, as he is familiar with this type equipment and where to get it for the best price. Council member Askvig will ask him if he would be willing to do this.

Next under public comment, Joe Nash was asked about the concert held in Gay on June 10, 2023. He said the turnout was good and ample security, both private and county law enforcement, was adequate. There were no problems encountered but they learned a lot and will need to make a few small changes but hope to have probably 3-4 concerts a year.

Next under committee/staff reports, council member Blakeley said the planning committee will probably be ready in a week or perhaps two to have their planning ordinance ready for publication and reading. Mayor Nash said they should use the town attorney, Rob Morton, to prepare the documents.

The next item was Financial Documents. There were a couple of questions about some expenses, which clerk explained are loan payments for our water system. There were no other questions or comments and council member Blakeley motioned to accept the documents, seconded by council member Watts. The vote in favor was unanimous.

At this time, we were going to go into executive session to discuss employee matters but the Mayor opted not to close the meeting, rather discuss the matter openly.

Mayor Nash discussed giving our water operator a raise. His pay is currently \$400.00 a month, as a part-time employee. But he has to be available several times a week to add chemicals to the wells, and to read the meters at the wells. In addition, he has to perform numerous locates on water lines for various reasons. For example, find leaks which need repaired, locates requested by other utilities doing installation or repairs, and as mundane as landscaping or installing a fence. He must also read meters monthly so water bills can be issued timely.

Council had several questions about certification for water operators and training involved. Replacing our water operator would not be easy as we cannot pay someone full time.

Council member Blakeley said the budget was in good shape and motioned to give our water operator a raise of \$200.00 per month beginning immediately. The motion was seconded by council member Keith and the vote in favor was unanimous.

As there was no more business to discuss, council member Blakeley motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Council member Keith seconded the motion and the vote in favor was unanimous.

Ruth Nash – Mayor

Sharon Richmond - Clerk