

On Tuesday, August 22, 2023, the Work Session meeting for the Town of Gay was called to order by Mayor Nash at 6:00 p.m. All members were present at roll call and it was determined a quorum did exist.

Prior to approval of the agenda, Mayor Nash said the items would be discussed in the reverse order. I.e., item (b.) Municipal Court, would be first and item (a.) Proposed Ordinance, would be second. With that change, council member Watts motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by council member Askvig. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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

The first item for discussion was establishment of municipal court. Mayor Nash turned the discussion over to assistant clerk as she had gathered more information since the initial discussion on August 14 at the regularly scheduled council meeting. At that time there were questions about costs versus revenue for town and other items of concern not fully covered:

The Judge would not charge if there was no court held; Code violations are not reported unless there are other circumstances leading to an arrest; The code enforcement officer is not required to be a peace officer; Court software is available but not required (it is very expensive). More information on costs will be available after discussion with the Court Clerk in Shilo.

After that, council member Watts presented information she had researched in the Georgia Code under Local Government Code Enforcement Boards. She feels this is more appropriate at this time than setting up a court.

At this point council member Blakeley stated that this is also included as part of the proposed ordinance relating to planning and zoning. He also thinks the code enforcement does not require the need for a Judge at this time and could be better handled by the Town officials. At the time any violations are actually issued, then a Judge would become necessary.

Council member Watts motioned to table further discussion of municipal court until such time as talks with the Clerk at Shilo is done. The motion was seconded by council member Askvig and the vote in favor was unanimous.

Discussion of the proposed ordinance then continued, as that was next on the agenda.

At approximately 7:45 p.m. council member Blakeley stated we were approximately half way through the ordinance and asked if we should set up another work session at a later time to complete discussion. It was decided to hold another work shop on Thursday, August 31 at 6:00 p.m.

Council member Blakeley motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. seconded by council member Askvig. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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Ruth Nash-Mayor

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Sharon Richmond-Clerk