



Town of Nutter Fort Minutes Council Meeting – October 24, 2023

Called to order at 6:31 pm by Mayor Sam Maxson.

Attendance – Jim Link, Bryan Gonzalez, Sam Maxson, Natalie Haddix, Karen Phillips, Rick Lafferty, Charlene Louk

Department Heads – Treasurer Leslie Cummings, Public Works Supervisor Taylor Keith, Code Enforcement Officer Andy Grogg, EMS Supervisor Nathan Rohrbough

Guests – Cynthia Lafferty, Shirley Sheets, Kathy Powell, Jennifer Robinson, Mark Hays, Steve Johnson, Rezin Hudkins IV, Margaret Short, Dave Garvin

Absent – Police Chief Ronnie Godwin, Fire Chief Jeremy Haddix, Town Engineer Ryan Holcomb

Minutes:

- Approval of minutes 10/10/2023 - Council Meeting Minutes were approved by unanimous vote after a motion to approve the minutes was made by Charlene Louk and a second by Bryan Gonzalez.

Treasurer's Report:

- Request for proposals for 2023 & 2024 Audits for the Town of Nutter Fort were sent out first of October 2023. Only one bid received. Score sheets will be sent to the Audit Committee. The request for proposals were sent to all firms on the list, but only Ferrari & Associates responded with a bid. They were the firm that performed previous audits for the Town of Nutter Fort.
- Fire Fee invoices have been sent out. It has been overwhelming, but everything is going well.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

- Accounts payable items were presented via handout (attached) and were approved by unanimous vote after a motion by Karen Phillips which was seconded by Charlene Louk.

Unfinished Business:

- Review-Discuss-Consider – Ordinance 2023-06 – Proposed changes to Article 145 Sanitary Board – Amending Article 145.03 – 1st Reading: Approved by unanimous vote to accept changes and approve 1st reading after a motion by Charlene Louk which was seconded by Karen Phillips.

New Business

- Review-Discuss-Consider – Approval on Purchase for 2023 Ford F350 with Trade-In of 2013 F250: At the last council meeting, council approved placing the 2013 Ford F250 on GovDeals, but after Chenoweth Ford provided a trade in of the 2013 F250 while allowing the TONF to keep the snowplow (valued at around \$9,600), it was noted that GovDeals would likely not be able to beat the trade-in amount. Having to utilize state bid is no longer in place due to businesses not being able to honor the prices because of the economy. Approved by unanimous vote to approve the purchase of the 2023 F350 with trade in of the 2013 F250 without snowplow after a motion by Charlene Louk which was seconded by Karen Phillips.
- Review-Discuss-Consider - Ordinance 2023-07 – An Ordinance Amending Article of the Codified Ordinances of the Town of Nutter Fort Relating to Landlord Registration – 1st Reading: Discussion was held by council, and it was suggested that the registration date be changed to January 31st. Approval of the change to the registration date to January 31st was unanimously approved after a motion by Karen Phillips and a second by Charlene Louk. It was further approved by unanimous vote to accept Ordinance 2023-07 re: Landlord Registration with the change of the registration date to January 31st of each year after a motion by Karen Phillips and a second by Charlene Louk.

- Review-Discuss-Consider – 11/28/2023 & 12/26/2023 Council Meetings: Discussion was held regarding these two meetings and how they fall in relation to holidays. It was approved by unanimous vote to cancel the 12/26/2023 council meeting only after a motion by Charlene Louk and a second by Karen Phillips.

Committee Reports:

- Chief of Police Report: none
- Fire Chief Report: Fire Chief provided report to Recorder in his absence: Ultimate Giveaway was successful. The profits were down a bit, but that is on par with the current economy. The focus is now on the Halloween Party which will be held at the Fire Department from 7-8pm immediately following Trick or Treat from 6-7pm on October 31, 2023.
- EMS/Ambulance Report: EMS continues to get busier. 176 calls for this month, not including today. Several transports remain for the month. The rental ambulance was returned, and everything is back in service.
- Public Works Supervisor Report: Some of the staff members just returned from training. The department received sewer lateral replacement equipment. Additional training is upcoming. In the next two weeks, they will be focusing on catch up and correction with blacktop patching and water issues.
- Engineer Report: Engineer Report provided by Treasurer in his absence: MOU Meeting with DEP will be on 10/25/2023 regarding the AML project. All other phases of the sewer project are awaiting approval at the DEP.
- Code Enforcement Report: Code Enforcement Officer Grogg noted 5 building permits. Thanks was passed along to Public Works for the demolition of 501 Michigan Avenue. Additionally, 314 Thomas Street has a raze and repair order. There is an ongoing investigation of 208 Thomas Street due to not having a post-construction inspection or occupancy inspection.

Public Comment:

- Resident Dave Garvin inquired about the status of the curb repairs around his house. Public Works Supervisor noted that it will be temporarily fixed with asphalt through the winter with eventual replacement with concrete.
- Resident Margaret Short asked why the inspection of rental properties is every year instead of every other year like other cities. Code Enforcement Officer explained that waiting an extra year poses a safety issue and can create a huge liability for the landlord. The annual inspections will also provide protection through the winter.
- Resident Jennifer Robinson had multiple inquiries:
 - Requested an update on bricks for basketball court: Rezin Hudkins IV ordered the first set of bricks last week. This will be a spring project in terms of laying the bricks.
 - Asked what truck is #5 for the Public Works department: Public Works Supervisor had left the meeting prior to this question due to a call with the fire department and no answer could be provided at the time.
 - Inquired as to whether the Town of Nutter Fort has a contract with Xcel: Treasurer responded that no contract is in place.
 - Asked why the quote for Chenoweth Ford reflected Taylor Keith's name: It was explained that standardly, no matter the department, a lot of businesses will put the name of the person requesting the quote vs the municipality's name. However, it is just a quote, not a contract.
 - Referenced the MetroNews article re: Fire Fee: Treasurer responded that the article was erroneous, and a correction will be coming out.
 - Inquired as to whether EMS workers could be paid out of the fire fee: Treasurer responded that this isn't possible due to EMS being a separate fund.
- Resident Shirley Sheets asked about the power pole around 417 Maryland Avenue: Mayor advised that the Fire Department had put in a call about the pole, but it was still an outstanding call with the power company. He also noted that he will be calling the power company tomorrow to inquire about the missing guide wire.

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 6:56 pm.