

**Council Meeting
Town of Nutter Fort
05/14/19**

Mayor Maxson invited attendees to join in prayer offered by William Benincosa, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Maxson called the meeting to order in council chambers at 6:31 pm.

Attendance: Mayor Sam Maxson, Recorder Charlene Louk, Councilors William Benincosa, Natalie Haddix, Karen Phillips, Brenda Riley, and Donald "Duck" Webster, Police Chief Ron Godwin, Public Works (PW) Supervisor Taylor Keith and Code Enforcer Keith Kesling.

Absent: Treasurer Julia Foley and Fire Chief Jeremy Haddix.

Guests: Jim and Charlotte Link, Seth DeVault, Region IV, Charlene Burrows, Barbara Leatherman, Dennis Dutchess, Shirley Sheets, Kathy Powell, Donna Eakle.

Minutes: Minutes of the 4/23/19 Work Session and the 4/23/19 Council Meeting (attached) were approved by unanimous vote after a motion by Natalie Haddix and second by Brenda Riley.

Treasurer's Report: No report.

Accounts payable (attached) were approved by unanimous vote after a motion by Charlene Louk and second by Natalie Haddix.

Unfinished Business: Changing to one council meeting per month, even just for summer months, was discussed. There were numerous comments in favor of keeping two meetings. Mrs. Louk was the only council member in favor of changing to one meeting a month. Mrs. Link asked how we could change, even for summer, when the ordinance specifies two meeting per month? Mayor Maxson and Mrs. Louk responded this could be done on a temporary basis. No change was made.

- Mr. Webster asked if there was any news from the Library? Mr. Maxson said we have not heard anything, but are working with the Clarksburg Library Board to take over the books. Council understood that Mr. Atkinson was to report back to us. Mr. Maxson will call him.
- Mrs. Louk asked Mr. Maxson if we had received any information on contractors from park projects? He left a message for Martin Howe a couple of weeks ago and has not heard from him. Council feels strongly that we need to be aggressive on this issue. Mayor Maxson will call Martin Howe again.
- Mrs. Riley asked if there was any news on vacant buildings, and there is not. She asked about Prim-N-Trim closing. Mr. Maxson said the owner closed this one and her other grooming shops all at once. He is not sure of the reason.
- Mrs. Louk asked about revisiting the Blackberry Festival costs at some point, to discuss ways to stay within budget. Consensus was to stay within the budget with the festival covering anything over that amount. Everyone also agreed the festival could not happen without the support of the PD and PW. The budgeted amount beginning July 1 is \$5400.00. Mrs. Louk asked if we could discuss this since Chief Godwin is here, but was not present when it was discussed previously? Since the police have now had a salary increase, their overtime will be more costly. Could we ask for assistance from the Sheriff's Dept. to help with the costs? Chief Godwin said he has had a couple of deputies present two of the three nights the last 5 or 6 years. He feels all his officers are needed during the busy times to maintain safety. Mr. Benincosa asked Mr. Keith about past staffing. There were times when all workers were present, but clearly not needed. Mr. Keith said this has changed since he became supervisor, and the number of workers varies by the crowd. He

can't stagger workers or shifts because it shorts him during the regular work day. Also, his men are willing to work at the festival in order to make a little extra money. Over time is based on anything outside of work hours (before 7 am or after 3 pm). Mr. Keith asked how the budget will be split between the two departments, and what hours to count towards the festival? Council agreed the hours will be totaled for the departments, not split. Council agreed work before 7 am or after 3 pm, M-F for the festival, and any weekend hours during the festival will be counted as festival hours. Mr. Dutchess asked why PW is paid by the Town for work done on festival set-up during the week? Mr. Keith and Council explained this is part of the Town's contribution to the festival, and the reason for this discussion. We want to be fair to both the Town and the festival. Mrs. Louk moved to stay within the festival budgeted amount of \$5400.00. Anything over this amount for Police and Public Works time, will be paid by the Blackberry Festival. Motion passed by unanimous vote after a second by Brenda Riley.

New Business:

- "Duck" Webster moved to authorize Mayor Mason to act on and sign on behalf of the sewer project. Motion approved by unanimous vote after a second by Brenda Riley.
- Mayor Maxson presented a proclamation to the WV Community Educational Outreach Services to those CEOS present. Thank you CEOS for continued outreach services in the community.
- Mayor Maxson announced the TV show *Restaurant Impossible* will be doing a makeover of Audia's Family Restaurant May 29-31st. He encouraged everyone to participate as volunteers, or by attending the re-grand opening. All sign-up information is on the Town's Facebook page.

Committee Reports:

Police Dept: Chief Godwin has been working on a new a new program to begin July 1. All citations will be done on laptops and do away with paper tickets. It should be more efficient. There's a lot of work in the beginning, so everything will run smoothly. Mrs. Phillips complimented Sgt. Young for the professional manner in which he handled a difficult situation at the Center. Mr. Webster also thanked Chief Godwin for promptly handling another recent situation.

Fire Dept: Mrs. Haddix reported the Ultimate Giveaway went very well and made close to \$50,000.

Public Works (PW): Mr. Keith reported they are doing blacktop patching. Mr. Webster thanked them for the new speed bump and signs on Illinois Ave. near the park exit. Everyone thinks this will help the speed situation there, in lieu of trying to place another stop sign in the vicinity.

Code Enforcement: Mr. Kesling has been handing out a lot of grass citations. He has names to provide to Center Branch Church. They have again asked to help with home/yard cleanup. The Town really appreciates the work they do in our community.

Public Comment: Dennis Dutchess expressed his gratitude to the PW employees for all they do and for going above and beyond. He would like to see Town employees get substantial raise, if we are able to adopt a 1% sales tax with Home Rule.

Meeting adjourned by acclamation at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Louk, Recorder

Sam Maxson, Mayor