

**Council Meeting
Town of Nutter Fort
01/22/19**

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 6:34 pm.

Attendance: Mayor Sam Maxson, Councilors William Benincosa, Karen Phillips, Brenda Riley and Donald “Duck” Webster.

Absent: Councilor Natalie Haddix, Treasurer Julia Foley, Public Works Supervisor Taylor Keith, Chief Jeremy Haddix, Chief Ron Godwin and Code Enforcer Keith Kesling.

Guests: Jim & Charlotte Link, Raetta Allen, Janet Conrad, Fred Locasto, and Valerie Hebb.

Minutes: Minutes of the January 8th Workshop and Council meetings (attached) were approved after a motion by Karen Phillips and second by Brenda Riley.

Treasurer’s Report: No report

- Accounts payable (attached) were approved after a motion by “Duck” Webster and second by Brenda Riley.

Unfinished Business: As a follow up to cost saving ideas discussed at the work session on Jan. 8th, Mr. Webster asked who handles the Town’s payroll and the cost? Mayor Maxson replied, it is ADP, but he is unsure of the cost. He thinks they not only handle payroll, but offer advice and HR services as part of the cost. Mrs. Louk advised she recently asked the office staff about this. Some time ago, council voted to outsource it after evaluating the costs and benefits. Even with outsourcing, Mrs. Cummings still spends a minimum of six hours preparing payroll before it goes to ADP.

New Business: Recorder Louk provided sections of the Ethics Presentation from Auditor’s training in November, for Council’s review. The sections discuss new regulations on nepotism, guidelines on recusal and employee recognition. These sections apply to issues and discussions we have had in the recent past and will likely come up again. For example, past issues where there was a known conflict requiring recusal are rental property, the fire dept. and the Blackberry Festival. For recusal to be effective, it is necessary to 1) excuse him or herself from participating in the discussion and decision-making process, by physically removing him or herself from the room, 2) fully disclosing his or her interest and 3) recusing him or herself from voting on the issue. All three points must be documented in the minutes.

Mr. Webster added, we need to follow up on our discussion about spending at the Blackberry Festival. Mayor Maxson agreed, saying costs will continue to go up with the recent Police Dept. salary increase. All agreed, we need to have a spending plan. More discussion will follow.

Committee Reports:

Police Dept: No report

Fire Dept: Mayor Maxson reminded everyone the Ultimate Giveaway one-day sale is Saturday, January 26th. Special ticket price this Saturday only, is four for \$100.00.

Public Works: No report. A crew is currently working on a collapsed sewer line.

Code Enforcement: Valerie Hebb owner of 600 Illinois Ave. gave an update on her property since the recent fire. She's been working with the insurance company and a claim is started, but it's a slow process. She denies having any liens against the house, which had to be verified by the insurance. She plans to have the house demolished as soon as the insurance money is available. She's been working with Mr. Kesling, who she says has been very helpful. She is not aware of asbestos in the house. Only two rooms are original. The others have been updated with dry wall. Her husband has been looking for salvageable items, and realizes this is dangerous. She's aware people are complaining about the camper and confirmed no one is living in it. They parked it there mainly to block the remains from the fire. Her husband uses it to get warm when he's there. They have no plans to rebuild on the property.

302 WV Ave. has been purchased, but there's no news on any plans.

Beautification: Janet Conrad reported they hope to get the fence up soon around the community garden. This will protect the stations from animals and possible vandalism.

Public Comment: Everyone commended Public Works for a great job on the streets during the recent snowfall.

Meeting adjourned by acclamation at 6:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Louk, Recorder

Sam Maxson, Mayor