

**Council Meeting
Town of Nutter Fort
1/8/19**

Mayor Maxson invited attendees to join in prayer offered by Karen Phillips, 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 Natalie Haddix, Karen Phillips, Brenda Riley and Donald “Duck” Webster, Public Works (PW) Sup. Taylor Keith, Treasurer Julia Foley, Fire Chief Jeremy Haddix, Code Enforcer Keith Kesling.

Absent: Councilors William Benincosa, Police Chief Ron Godwin.

Guests: Jim and Charlotte Link, Raetta Alen, Brad Riffie-United Way, Art and Libby Rohrbough, Seth Duartt, Linda Blake, Shirley Sheets, Kathy Powell, Dennis Dutchess, Logan Alastanos, Dan Ferrell, David Glover, Janet and Mark Conrad.

Minutes: Minutes of the Dec. 11th, 2018 and Jan. 2, 2019 Special Council meeting (attached) were approved after a motion by “Duck” Webster and second by Brenda Riley.

Treasurer’s Report: Balance on the interest bearing Paving account is \$234,579.00. This will be lowered considerably once the “P” card comes due. We are going to try again to get generator grant.

- Accounts payable (attached) were approved after a motion by Karen Phillips and second by Brenda Riley.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: There was a public hearing for the 2nd reading on the Ordinance to increase rates for the upcoming sewer project. Dennis Dutchess spoke in opposition to the increase due to recent fees imposed on residents such as \$20.00 in 2014 for water and the paving fee increase in 2018. Mr. Webster clarified the projected paving schedule is to re-pave streets every 15 years, not every five. Art Rohrbough asked why our water/sewage is higher than Clarksburg’s? Mr. Keith explained Clarksburg makes their water, so their residents get it cheaper. We buy water from them. They also do their own sewage treatment. We pay to transport sewage and to treat it. This is reflected in our water/sewage fees. Ms. Allen pointed out Clarksburg’s water bill does not include trash pickup. It is a separate fee. Those bills together are higher than ours, which includes water, sewage, trash, recycle, paving and fuel charges. Mr. Keith explained the sewer project will replace lines in 1/3 of the town and take about two years. The first phase was in 2003. The last phase will be in 12 to 15 years. Zach Dobbins explained increases based on resident’s water/sewer usage. The new project will address old, damaged lines causing issues and subject to fines. Following discussion, the 2nd reading of the Ordinance was passed after a motion by Natalie Haddix and second by “Duck” Webster.

- The 2nd reading on Ordinance to amend employee grievance procedure and repeal step three was passed after a motion by Natalie Haddix and second by Charlene Louk.
- Mrs. Foley reviewed budget revisions (attached). When the budget was set, we were very conservative. These revisions are six months into the budget. Overall revenues are increased. Expenses are also reflected. Budget revisions were approved after a motion by “Duck” Webster and second by Brenda Riley.

- Discussion on demolition of 600 Illinois Ave: Mr. Kesling reported, there was a meeting with the owner who indicated she has insurance on the property. She may want us to help get bids for demolition. Factors: possible asbestos and the unsafe structure, which could call for an emergency demolition. Chief Haddix added, today the State Farm adjuster picked up the fire report and said there would be an investigation. He did not mention any amount in escrow for demolition. Mrs. Haddix moved to give Mr. Kesling authority to pursue demolition for safety purposes if needed. Motion passed after a second by Brenda Riley.
- Council re-evaluated returning to two meetings a month. Pros and cons were discussed. Mrs. Haddix moved to go back to two meetings a month and re-evaluate again in May. After a second by Karen Phillips, motion passed with Recorder Louk voting in opposition.
- License approval for Kinetic Energy Solutions LLC, at 1618 Buckhannon Pike (previously Res-Care) was approved after a motion by Natalie Haddix and second by Mr. Webster.
- In preparation for the June 11th election, Recorder Louk advised the vacancies are Recorder, two council positions and one unexpired two year council term. She is looking into the possibility of early voting by mail as opposed to two Saturdays prior to the election. This would save paying two pole workers on each Saturday. Candidate filing period is January 14-26th. Fees: \$30.00 for Recorder and \$20.00 for Council.

Committee Reports:

Police Dept. No report

Fire Dept: Chief Haddix said one day only, Jan. 26th, tickets will be 4 for \$100.00, with Feb. 2nd as the *snow day*. Grand prize is a Jeep Wrangler convertible. This year the Giveaway will be totally live on Facebook. Spectrum has run new lines today in the Fire and Police Depts. due to a problem in the building. They are trying to get the FD and PD back online as quickly as possible. Their Fire Wall may have gone down, which could be very expensive.

Maintenance Dept : Mr. Keith reported Dominion should finish on Ohio Ave. in about two weeks. Arsenol Resources is setting a water tank on Jim Lyons property and plans to buy water from us for about 45 days. PW is installing a new water tap for it. This should bring us some good revenue.

Code Enforcement: Mr. Keith spoke to the lady who bid on 302 WV Ave. She is inquiring about demolition with the intent to put another structure on the property.

Public Comment: Brad Riffie from the United Way spoke on the work they do to provide funds for agencies such as Bi-County Nutrition. He asked us to help spread the word on their efforts. All donations stay in Harrison Co. They're only at 56% of their goal. The drive runs through February. He spoke on different ways to donate and restaurants that are holding fund-raising events. He left brochures and emphasized no donation is too small.

> Raetta Allen asked if there was any update on vacant businesses, and if they were being fined? Mrs. Foley replied they are. Fines are increased yearly.

>Ms. Allen asked if a link can be added to our Facebook page for the Newsletter? Mrs. Foley will check into this.

>Karen Phillips asked about milling for the lot next to the FD? It will be done in the spring.

Meeting adjourned by acclamation at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Louk, Recorder

Sam Maxson, Mayor

