

**Council Meeting
Town of Nutter Fort
8/13/2019**

Mayor Maxson called the meeting to order in council chambers at 6:33 pm.

Attendance: Mayor Sam Maxson, Recorder Rezin Hudkins, Councilors William Benincosa, Charlene Louk and Donald "Duck" Webster, Karen Phillips, Leslie Cummings, (PW) Taylor Keith, Police Chief Ron Godwin, Code Enforcer Keith Kesling

Absent: Treasurer Julia Foley, Natalie Haddix, Fire Chief Jeremy Haddix

Guests: Jim & Charlotte Link, Brenda Riley, Annette Shaw, Kathy Powell, Shirley Sheets, Linda Blake, Raetta Allen

Minutes: Minutes of the July 23rd Council Meeting & Wage Workshop (attached) were approved by unanimous vote after a motion by Charlene Louk and second by Duck Webster.

Treasurer's Report

Leslie stated everything she had to speak about is on the Agenda. Charlene ask about the work that being done to the street sweeper and the cost associated that's being completed by Quality machine. Taylor said he is working with Total Equipment Solutions to get reimbursement back for the repairs that are being done to the street sweeper.

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

Unfinished Business: (Data Max) Duck ask about the paragraph that was supposed to be added by the attorney. Sam stated that he sent an email out explaining it was added by the attorney. Duck stated that Data Max said they were going to do everything the first time Bobby Monroe was present. When Bobby Monroe came the second time he stated they will not sue the vender in the event they don't pay what's owed to the Town of Nutter Fort. Sam stated we would be responsible for going after the vender if they don't pay Data Max. Duck stated that he wouldn't have voted on it if Data Max would not take responsibility and he would like that to be on record that he was lied to. Karen asked if this has already been instituted and Sam stated it has been started. Data max will only get Half of what THEY collect. In the event the town pursues money owed that the vender refuses to pay Data Max, the Town will receive all funds. Nothing will be owed to Data Max. The contract has been signed but we have 60 days to cancel. Charlene stated that it was a part of the motion that we would reevaluate it before the end of the 60 days. Leslie stated we are due to get the first list from them on August 20th, 2019.

New Business:

2nd reading on the wage table for all departments: Charlene asked about how are we doing with getting the criteria written for the requirements for: Crew 1,2,3 Admin 1,2,3. Leslie stated she hasn't started on that process yet. Charlene says this is very important and not let that go because she thinks it's a liability to the town if we don't have that in place. This will be added to the Wage Ordinance. BJ asked about the comp time owed from the old wage vs the new wage they will be paid. A lengthy discussion was held, and it was explained that there is no cash payout for unused sick time. Ron stated that should be in the state code. Approved by unanimous vote after motion by Charlene Louk with the stipulation that we are working on the criteria/steps. With a second by BJ Bennicosa.

Discussion on Vacant Ordinance schedule of fees: the current schedule of fees is \$200.00 for the first year Vacant, \$400.00 for the second year. Leslie stated it makes more sense to do it monthly Fees as follows: \$100.00 per month 1st year, \$200.00 per month 2nd year, \$300.00 per month 3rd year, \$400.00 per month 4th year, \$500.00 per month 5th year with this being the maximum @ \$500.00 per month. Keith and Leslie are looking at getting the fees implemented for Dr.Mossallati's vacant building. Charlene asked with what is being purposed does that fall within state code or is there a cutoff. Leslie stated they are in line with what other cities charge. Fee schedule proposed by Mrs. Cummings approved by unanimous vote after motion by Charlene Louk and a second by Karen Phillips.

Discussion on Demolition of 302 West Virginia Ave: A lengthy discussion was held, and this has been on ongoing discussion for 3 years. Sam stated we have 20k in the budget for demolition and he would like once all the proper paperwork is done that we accept bids for 302 West Virginia and 509 Pennsylvania Ave. Sam stated if we tear down these properties we would put a lien on them for the amount that it cost the city to do so. October 2nd the house at 302 West Virginia will be for sale at the court house for \$30.00 Dollars and if we own it than we will have another piece of property. Leslie stated that once we put a lien on it there is such a list of people (14) that must be notified. Nathen Carroll stated that we would probably never get our money out it because there are so many of them. Leslie is having a new title search done to make sure there are no others. Sam asked for councils' permission to get the process started and get the notifications out, so we can get it out to bid. They will have (30) days to respond to the demolition order. Council gave permission to check into the cost of demolition.

Appoint Brenda Riley to the Library Board: Sam Stated that in doesn't state anywhere in the ordinance that he has to be a member of council. Approved by unanimous vote after motion by Charlene Louk and a second by Rezin Hudkins. Leslie stated her appointment will be to June 30th, 2020. At that time, it will be up for an appointment of a 5-year term.

Committee Reports:

Police Dept: Chief Godwin stated the old police cars were sold at auction. The report they have been working on for months for the tickets is are going to start this week. Ron is trying to get things ready for school starting back up. They have been busy answering calls throughout the town.

Fire Dept: N/A, Sam stated that he spoke with Jeremy and everything is going good at the dept. with the help of Public Works and the guys at the FD.

Public Works (PW): Taylor stated in the upcoming weeks they will be putting the 2009 Dodge Truck up for auction and they will be replacing it with what they have budgeted for this year.

Code Enforcement: Keith stated had a zoning question come up about the zoning map. We have B2 on our maps and the ordinance book doesn't reflect that at all. Keith stated our ordinance book is being revised and ask the status of that. Leslie stated that we just received the first draft. The last time the zoning map was updated was 1997. The planning commission must vote to change the zoning with council's approval.

Public Comment: Charlotte link asked about the property located on Illinois Ave. about the grass growing up and the pile of dirt on the property. Keith stated he spoke with the gentleman that owns the property and he is planning to construct a garage apartment. He is working to acquire the property where the house burned on the corner. A Guest ask about how to obtain a copy of the minutes because they weren't up to date on the website. Leslie stated she will get them up to date and anyone can request them, and she will email them out. Charlene wanted to remind everyone about the ethics seminar located at the 4H center next Tuesday @1pm and will last approximately 1hr 15min. Duck asked about the cost of the Blackberry Festival. Sam stated we was under budget by \$63.50. it was a success and huge crowds for the entrainment that was provided. Ron stated no major problems at the blackberry festival. Charlotte ask if the problem was resolved about the audit was skipped? Leslie stated the auditor's office will be coming up on September 9th, 2019 and they are working with the state library commission to resolve the issue. The Beatification committee said they will need more dirt this fall but not until the flowers stop growing. Leslie said she priced the Kneeling solider statue for the Island and its 12-15k. we are going to investigate grant money and or some funding to fund the project. Leslie stated the beatification commission can do whatever funding they want. We need to check with the state to see what they will allow due to the property belongs to the state.

Meeting adjourned by acclamation at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rezin Davis Hudkins IV, Recorder

Sam Maxson, Mayor