

TOWN of WOOLSEY

Regular Meeting

December 11, 2023

Mayor Laggis opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Councilman Smith was absent.

Agenda Changes

None.

Minutes of Meeting

Councilman Wright made a motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting as written. Councilman Carden seconded him. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Councilman Carden made a motion to approve the Financial Report as submitted. Councilman Wright seconded him. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. Transportation Update – Mayor Laggis introduced Phil Mallon and Paola Kimbell from Fayette County Public Works. Ms. Kimbell began by saying that this project has been going on for a number of years and **they** are at the point where they are needing to acquire the land for easements, detention ponds, etc. This is why they have come to the Town Council meeting – to get the Council’s approval to start the acquisition. Funding for this project is predominantly coming from the 2004 SPLOST and a GTIB grant. As of 2022, this intersection was given a failing grade. The project includes a crosswalk across Hwy 92 as well as a sidewalk on the west side of the highway in addition to the roundabout and the light at Hampton Rd. A fairly large detention pond will have to be built as well. Councilman Wright expressed concern about the fire trucks that will have to turn right and go around the roundabout in order to go north. Mr. Mallon said that they may be able to reduce the curbing height, but will have to weigh the pros and cons, as other vehicles may try to jump the curb. Councilman Carden mentioned that the detention pond, which will be wholly located on Christopher Bell’s property, will hurt property values. **Mayor** Laggis asked if there were any alternatives to the pond and was told no. Councilman Carden asked who maintains it and was told that the County does. Mr. Mallon added that Mike Gumbinger’s property will also be substantially impacted by the roundabout. These property owners, along with others affected, will be compensated at the amount that is negotiated between all parties involved. This will probably take about nine months. Ms. Kimbell reported that the new storm pipe will have to go near flag pole, which will affect the existing water line. The Water Department will be looking at alternatives and will report back. The County is hoping to have the bid out by October/November 2024 with a start date of early 2025. **Councilman Wright expressed concern in regards to the closure of Hampton Rd East during the construction and how it will affect the homeowners by adding approximately 20 minutes to their travels. Maybe local traffic could use whatever method public safety officials use.** Councilman Carden made the motion to authorize County staff to acquire the right of ways as presented. Councilman Wright seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Safety Breakfast – Councilman Wright reported that they served approximately 61 people including the workers at the jail who were very appreciative.

New Business

1. FY2024 Budget Projection – Mayor Laggis told the Council that building rentals were down from last year, but that was more likely due to a class that had been meeting regularly at the building in 2022. The mayor, noting that there is a over \$100,000 in contingency, asked the Council if they

would consider making a donation to Friends of Historic Woolsey, which would be matched by the grant from FCDA. Councilman Wright commented that, if we were to do that, he would prefer the money come from the building fund instead of the operating account. Mayor Laggis said that this follows the Comprehensive Plan, which Councilman Carden concurred with, saying that other organizations would not meet that objective. Councilman Wright responded by saying that getting Councilman Smith's viewpoints on this would be important, so topic was tabled until January, 2024.

Public Comments

None.

With no more business to come in front of the Council, Mayor Laggis stated that the Council was going to go into Executive Session for Personnel reasons at 8:45 p.m.

At 8:55 the Council came out of Executive Session. In the FY2024 budget, the line item for City Clerk should be increased to \$4,800 per year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey Collins, Town Clerk