

The regular monthly meeting of the Parksley Town Council was held on Monday, March 12, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers on Dunne Ave.

Present: Vice-Mayor Ellen Boyce; Council: Rick Chase, Rodney Smoot, James Eichelberger, Carter Parks and Frank Russell; Chief of Police Tommy Carpenter; Director of Public Works/ Zoning Administrator Fred Matthews and Clerk Denise Bernard

There were no visitors present.

Vice-Mayor Boyce opened the meeting and Councilman Parks led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the February meeting were approved.

Councilman Eichelberger made the motion to pay the bills. Motion was 2nd by Councilman Chase. Motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished business – Vice-Mayor Boyce asked if anyone had any updates on the sewage.

Dir. Of Pub. Wks/Zoning Admin. Matthews stated that nothing had changed since the Special Meeting, 3-6-07. Barb Schwenk had contacted USDA and Wiley & Wilson. Someone had told the Clerk that Marcor believes they have the job; he had called Marcor and explained that the bid hadn't been awarded, yet. The town has 60 days to contact the bidders.

Councilman Eichelberger stated that someone had talked to Thelma Drake.

Councilman Russell had talked to Supervisor Sandy Mears, the STAG fund runs out in September, and there are 4 other Supervisors that don't want Parksley to have that money. They are trying to redo the landfill or put a water treatment plant in Melfa beside the fire training center, to use the STAG money.

Councilman Chase stated that he felt that the town needs to look into some local avenues; need to discuss this with B. Schwenk.

Vice-Mayor Boyce stated that there are other things that need to be done in town; the Ayres Grading Shed looks bad.

Dir. Of Pub. Wks/Zoning Admin. Matthews stated that 3 businesses are currently operating on temporary sewage permits. The Health Dept. has a new man in charge; two "Pump and Haul" permits, Hospice and a restaurant, have been denied.

Councilman Russell stated that three or four businesses are waiting for the sewage, so they can open.

Dir. Of Pub. Wks/Zoning Admin. Matthews stated that five buildings have been bought, since sewage plans; the town has potential to grow. The town paid too much for Wiley and Wilson; and been through 4 engineers in that company.

Councilman Eichelberger stated that the town has paid more than they should have to Wiley and Wilson. Mary Jones, from USDA, had told him that Wiley & Wilson was charging too much.

Councilman Chase stated that from the beginning, the council was told that what they had to do to get the grant. The town may be able to do the less expensive system just for Dunne and Bennett and the pump system would be cheaper than the gravity fed system. We will have to get another design.

Councilman Eichelberger stated that it would cost more with fewer connections; if it needed to be expanded later.

Dir. Of Pub. Wks/Zoning Admin. Matthews stated that just by changing the pipes and making it gravity fed will cut the cost 40%; but will have the electricity for each pump.

Councilman Eichelberger stated that it is not that much electricity, 1/3 hp on each pump, 1,000 gallon tank. It would just have to keep 8" of water in the tank.

Committee Reports – Councilman Russell stated again about talking to Supervisor Mears, she feels that 4 Supervisors don't want Parksley to get the money. Council needs to talk to the other Supervisors.

Councilman Parks stated that he agreed with Vice-Mayor Boyce about there being more needs in town other than sewage. He had received complaints about parking in the handicap area in front of the post office and the ditch behind M.J. Perdue's mothers house needs cleaning out.

Dir. Of Pub. Wks/Zoning Admin. Matthews stated that not much can be done in that ditch, it is perennial. The Health Dept. is aware of a "grey water" problem in the neighbor's yard, which is rental property and is currently empty.

Councilman Chase asked where the town stands on the building on the corner.

Dir. Of Pub. Wks/Zoning Admin. Matthews stated that it is still in limbo with the two lawyers. We are waiting for the list from the insurance company. The 2X4 framework and bracing that was there has disappeared.

Councilman Chase wants the town to contact the insurance company about the materials list. *F. Matthews will contact them.*

8:20 p.m. Tim Valentine arrived.

Councilman Chase stated that he and Councilman Smoot will begin to work on the budget next month; need to focus on income for the town. He wants each of the council to come to next months meeting with ideas for getting more revenue into town. Parksley may need to increase its base for revenue.

Councilman Russell stated that there are grants out there.

Councilman Chase stated that the size of the town limits the ability to get grants.

Councilman Eichelberger stated that grants are geared for low to moderate income.

Councilman Chase also suggested becoming a historical district. It would be good to talk to Arthur King Fisher and Eddie Darby about closing in the Farmer's Market.

Dir. Of Pub. Wks/Zoning Admin. Matthews stated that annexing would probably be a three year project. The Town doesn't have the infrastructure to support tourist, don't have the needed sewage and can't give annexed land water. Need to look into funds for working on the water system now.

T. Valentine stated that the town needs to concentrate on tourist dollars.

Councilman Chase stated that he's not talking about annexing out to the highway; need to modify the zoning so that they don't have to supply water.

T. Valentine stated that he understands that the county wants towns to annex, so the town is responsible for the areas. He thinks an aquarium with local species of fish would be a good project.

Councilman Eichelberger stated that Exmore is getting ready to build an aquarium.

Dir. Of Pub. Wks/Zoning Admin. Matthews added that a waterman shedding crabs in the pavilion would draw the tourists.

Chief of Police Carpenter stated that he had given out an application to one gentleman that is fully certified, and there is one jail certified officer that may be interested. There may be more applications to come in; the time isn't up until Friday March 16th. He asked if the Council would be willing to send an officer to the short school (like they did Officer Fetterman). The school would be in October, the officer would be able to work until then.

Vice-Mayor Boyce asked about the old Shirt Factory and the old school property.

Dir. Of Pub. Wks/Zoning Admin. Matthews stated that John Stanley had met all requirements set by Accomack County; don't know when he will open. There is nothing new on the school property.

T. Valentine told the Council of his plans. He hopes to expand to the other side of the building with an upscale restaurant and lounge and serve liquor by the drink. He has talked to Eddie Darby about buying the building; and wants to remodel the kitchen etc.

Council agreed to T. Valentine's plans.

Clerk showed the Council an article that Helena Killian had brought in that had been in the New Port News paper. It was a full page about the museum and mentioned the Club Car and Lunch Box. The museum had a good week due to the article and the people were going to the Club Car after they left the museum.

Councilman Russell will look into a crab shedding operation.

Councilman Chase made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Motion was 2nd by Councilman Eichelberger. Ayes- Chase, Smoot, Eichelberger, Parks and Russell. No-none. Motion passed unanimously.

WHEREAS, the Parksley Town Council has convened an Executive Session on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3711(A) of the code of Virginia requires a certification by this Town Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Parksley Town Council hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law were discussed in the Executive Session to which this certification resolution applies, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the Executive Session were heard, discussed or considered by the Town Council.

Vote: Ayes – Chase, Smoot, Eichelberger, Parks and Russell; Nays-None; Motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Mayor Boyce stated no action was taken; leave personnel matters to Chief Carpenter.

Councilman Parks made the motion to adjourn. Motion was 2nd by Councilman Smoot. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Clerk

Mayor