

**TOWN OF TALLULAH FALLS
STATE OF GEORGIA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 7, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
MINUTES**

The meeting for November 7, 2019 of the City Council of Tallulah Falls, Georgia was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Teri Dobbs.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Teri Dobbs
Councilperson Deb Goatcher
Councilperson Mary Beth Hughes
Town Clerk Linda Lapeyrouse
Police Chief Tonya Elrod
Fire Chief Mike Early

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE: Town Attorney Warren Tillery

ABSENT WERE: Councilperson Larry Hamilton

OTHERS PRESENT: See attached sign-in list

Mayor Dobbs welcomed everyone to the meeting. Reverend Turpen gave the invocation.

Councilperson Hamilton is unable to be at the meeting and is at the hospital to be with his brother Billy who is not well. Mayor Dobbs asked that the Hamiltons be lifted up in prayer.

A motion was made by Councilperson Hughes to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Goatcher and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilperson Nelms to approve the minutes of the October 3 Work Session and Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hughes and unanimously approved.

REPORTS:

Attorney Report – None.

Engineering Report – None.

Water Report – Attached hereto and made a part hereof. Mayor Dobbs reported that a contractor was paid a year ago to do work, and what was reported to EPD was not what was found to be in the ground. The findings are included in the report from EMS, Inc. Also, an additional update from EMS is included for the repairs to the Hickory Nut Mountain Booster.

Public Safety Report – Attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Chief Elrod requested approval for new part-time officers.

A motion was made by Councilperson Hughes to approve the part-time officer list provided by Chief Elrod. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nelms and unanimously approved.

Mayor Dobbs thanked the Fire Department for the recent maintenance done on the fire hydrants and directed Chief Early to coordinate with EMS, Inc. when doing any hydrant flushing in the future.

Street Report- Town Clerk Lapeyrouse reported that the LMIG grant has been received and rolled up with the 2019 LMIG. Timing of the project will probably have to wait until Spring when the asphalt plant opens for the season.

Town Clerk/Financial Report – Attached hereto and made a part hereof.

There was discussion of the metal building, location of septic lines and driveway access. The building will not be ordered until these issues have been totally resolved.

Comprehensive Plan – The draft comprehensive plan has been submitted to DCA for review. Once their comments have been received, it will come back to us for final changes and approval. GMRC was given the map changes and text edits discussed and e-mailed to the Council. Mayor Dobbs thanked Keith Nelms, Ann Irvin and David Hart for agreeing to represent Tallulah Falls in the meetings to update the plan.

DDA Report- Councilperson Hughes reported at the last DDA meeting, Keith Nelms updated the members on funding options. Bill Turk is consulting with Patrick Fulbright from the Small Business Development Center of UGA on the use and projections for the buildings. They should hear more about from the SBDC at the next meeting. Bill Turk's contract was also extended at no cost. The Council will decide in January on the DDA appointment changes. Councilperson Hughes can no longer be the appointee from the Council but could switch positions with Joey Fountain.

Mayor Report- Mayor Dobbs reported that Windstream has been in town. If you are on Main Street, you should have between 25 – 100 mg. Windstream will upgrade service to 25 mg for free in areas where it is available.

Mayor Dobbs further reported that a movie is being filmed in Rabun County that she, Keith Nelms, the Foxfire Boys and many other extras may appear in a concert scene filmed at the Rabun Arena.

There will be another SDS meeting scheduled in December.

Mayor Dobbs brought up the annual Christmas party. Typically, it is the first Friday in December. After some discussion of who would/would not be available, it was decided that the December 6th date should be kept since advertising is already out. This tradition started in approximately 1996/97.

Mayor Dobbs congratulated Mike Early on the election and thanked everyone for getting out to vote. She stated that it had been an honor to serve the community over the last two and a half years.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mayor Dobbs read the draft camping ordinance and recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission. The major discussion point was over camping on vacant lots. Enforcement would be handled the same as all other violations of the zoning code with possible penalties of not less than \$50 and not more than \$200 per day.

A motion was made by Councilperson Hughes to advertise the availability of the draft ordinance with the changes as recommended by the Planning & Zoning Commission and to set the public

hearing for December 5, 2019. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Goatcher. Councilperson Nelms stated that she was not comfortable with allowing camping on vacant land and stated there are not supposed to be any open fires above 2,000 feet in elevation. Councilperson Hughes stated that she was comfortable with allowing camping on vacant land and allowing Hickory Nut Mountain to enforce their own covenants and see what public comments are received at the public hearing. The motion passed 2/1 with Councilpersons Hughes and Goatcher voting in favor of presenting the ordinance with the proposed changes and advertising the public hearing. Councilperson Nelms voted against the motion.

NEW BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mayor Dobbs thanked people for getting involved in their local government.

Keith Nelms questioned the amount of the two incidents where local contractors did not do the job correctly and it cost the Town. The sand filter cost the Town an additional \$9,271 and is now working well. To date, the Town has not received a bill for the second incident. Any bill for this work will require a meeting with the contractor.

Keith Nelms also asked if we have heard anything from Rabun County Sheriff's Department regarding the tampering of the water system? Chief Elrod has not reported hearing anything yet.

A motion was made by Councilperson Goatcher to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hughes and unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.



Teri Dobbs, Mayor



Linda Lapeyrouse, Clerk