

Regular Meeting of the Town Council
December 15, 2009
6:00 pm

Minutes & General Account

Regular meeting of the Town Council December 15, 2009, Council Chambers, Town Hall.

Council Members Present: Mayor Volz, Council Member Georgia Nixon-Roney, Gray & Lain (Council Member Thomas absent)

Ragsdale High School Town Council Representative – Denzell Faison

Staff Present: Kathryn Billings, Matthew Johnson, Chuck Smith, Martha Wolfe, Beth Koonce, Town Attorney

Visitors Present: Shirley de Long, Kerry Miller, Jack Sullivan, Rick Dowdy, Dan Borgen, Joyce Volz, Jan Hartley, Billy Ragsdale, Ginger Gray, Hugh Cates, Jennifer Smith, Carols Brooks of the Jamestown News, Ray Pifer, Jan & Carl Galloni, Mary Ragsdale, Michael McFeeley, and Keith Lackey.

1. Call to Order – Mayor Volz called the meeting to order.
2. Jamestown Community Reflections – Mayor Volz thanked the Jamestown Rotarians & Martha Wolfe for the wonderful Christmas Parade. They are proud of how this parade has grown over the years. Mayor Volz also thanked the Library and the volunteers for help with the Christmas tree lighting. Also, a thank you to Jessica Glime, Choral Director and the Ragsdale High School Chorus for leading us in Christmas carols.

Mayor Volz then asked for a moment of silent prayer.

3. Approval of minutes from November 17, 2009. Council Member Gray made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Council Member Lain made a second to the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
4. Public comment Period –

Shirley de Long – 603 O’Neill Drive – Ms. De Long began by saying we cannot afford any more tax increases with no jobs. She stated garbage rates went from 0 - \$14.00 every 2 months or \$7.00 a month. Regarding the use of garbage receptacles, in her opinion they are nothing but problems; they break, fall over and leave garbage in the street. She feels they are worse than garbage bags. She ended her comments by saying, please reduce the budget.
5. Old Business – There was no old business to be brought before the Council.
6. Resolution Honoring Larry M. Lain – Mayor Volz asked Larry Lain to come forward. Mayor Volz then read & presented Council Member Lain with a Resolution Honoring his service to the Town of Jamestown.

(Insert Resolution)

Mayor Volz also presented Larry Lain with a framed print of the Town of Jamestown.

Larry Lain thanked the citizens of Jamestown for allowing him to serve. He stated he was glad to see the turnout for tonight's meeting. He thanked the citizens for electing him to serve these past two years. He was in the operation side of the Town government for 20 years. It has been a learning experience to see this other side of government. Two years just isn't enough time to get fully involved. It has been an honor to serve on this Council.

Mr. Lain commended the Town Manager by saying she has surrounded herself with a tremendous staff and Town employees.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

7. Oath of Office – The Town Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Keith Volz, Council Members Georgia Nixon-Roney, Frank Gray and Will Ragsdale.

(Insert Oaths)

8. Appoint Mayor Pro-Temp – Council Member Will Ragsdale made a motion to appoint Georgia Nixon-Roney as Mayor Pro Temp. Council Member Gray made a second to the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

9. Appoint Planning Board Member – Mayor Volz advised the Council that Steve Owen is resigning from the Planning Board as of January 1, 2010. We will recognize Mr. Owen at the January Council meeting. The Council needs to appoint a new member to the Board. Council Member Gray made a motion to appoint Lynn Montgomery, current alternate, to serve as the Planning Board member to be effective January 1, 2010 for a 5 year term to expire on January 1, 2015. Council Member Nixon-Roney made a second to the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Volz stated by moving the alternate up to the Planning Board, there is now an opening for an alternate position on the Planning Board.

Council Member Gray nominated Jennifer Pruitt to serve as an alternate on the Planning Board. Council Member Nixon-Roney made a second to the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

10. Budget Amendment – Judy Gallman presented budget amendment #6. There are 2 line items in this amendment. In the recreation department, we request to increase the budget to prepare design work on the downtown park land and to increase planning fees collected. We have taken in more than budgeted. This amendment is in the amount of \$2,000.00.

The second line item is in the street department. The Town recently purchased a new service truck. We need to purchase a snow plow for this vehicle in the amount of \$5000.00.

Council Member Gray made a motion to accept budget amendment #6 in the total amount of \$7,000.00. Council Member Nixon-Roney made a second to the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

11. Financial Statement – Judy Gallman presented the financial statement for the month ending November 30, 2009. She reported the cash balance for the Town of Jamestown is approximately \$6,400,000.00. Gallman stated some of these funds are reserved for the Randleman Reservoir and the Powell Bill in the amount of approximately \$2,000,000.

The debt balance for the total Town debt is approximately \$596,000.00.

The total revenue & expenditures through November 30, 2009, at this point in the year, if all revenue & expenditures were in equal monthly amounts, we should be at 42% of the budget. Funds listed below:

- General Fund Revenue – 46%
- General Fund Expenditures – 39%
- Water/Sewer Fund Revenue – 38%
- Water/Sewer Fund Expenditures – 31%

Gallman commented that all funds look fine to date.

Gallman presented the detail financial report for the month ending November 30, 2009. She stated most of the items are normal reoccurring items. She noted in the street department we did spend money on new signs posts and dues for the stormwater partnership of which the Town is a member. In the water/sewer fund, the Town received a grant for reimbursement from the Local Government Credit Union for the administration course Chuck Smith is taking. The reimbursement is in the amount of \$1500.00. Also, a new service truck was purchased in the water/sewer fund.

12. Public comment period – Rick Dowdy, Stafford Oak Rd., addressed the Council. He stated that we are in tumultuous times. Jamestown has a lot of retired people, young people and homes up for foreclosure. He stated he has heard some talk about the Town changing the garbage pick-up service. He heard the Town is going to go with trash cans instead of the trash bags. The trash cans get knocked over and slung around. He thinks the bags are a lot cheaper than the trash cans. Then if we go to the trash cans, the next thing would be to buy a new garbage truck equipped to pick up the trash cans. This would do away with 2 or 3 jobs. Change is not always good. The system with trash bags seems to be working. Let's keep it in place. We are employing people and they are doing a great job.

Mr. Dowdy continued on another subject, certain neighborhoods in Jamestown have beautiful night lights. Why doesn't Stafford Oak Rd. have them? The Town Manager said we just have not extended the lights. Until about 2 months ago she had not heard anyone ask for them. Mrs. Yvonne Thomas came to a Council meeting and requested Colonial lights in her subdivision. At that time, the Council directed her to look into the pricing for the street light extension. Council also asked her to send a letter to Mrs. Thomas advising her we need to know if all the citizens in the neighborhood desire that change. The lighting for the two types (Cobra & Colonial) is different. There are neighborhoods that have the Colonial lights and some that do not. We get

negative comments from neighborhoods that have the Colonial lights complaining they do not give off enough light and that the Cobra lighting is much better.

Per Billings, if we have a consensus from the neighborhood that they would like the Colonial lights, she feels the Council would direct staff make the installation.

Mayor Volz said his neighborhood has the decorative lights. He gets negative comments that the lighting is not good at night. He suggested to Mr. Dowdy to get a petition in your neighborhood, determine if you want the decorating lighting, but if the Cobra lights are removed, Duke Power will not put them back up. He suggested residents walk around the neighborhoods that have the Colonial lights to see if that is what you really want. If so, get the petition and present to the Council.

Mayor Volz stated regarding the garbage issue, that subject has never been an item that has come before the Council. A change in garbage service has never been discussed.

13. Other Business – Mayor Volz thanked everyone for coming and bringing comments to the Council. He stated in February, the Council will have an open working meeting to discuss issues that are facing the Town now and in the future. There will be no action taken at this meeting, but Council will listen to thoughts from the staff and the public.

Mayor Volz recognized the former Council Members in attendance. Attending were:
Former Council Member and Mayor – Billy Ragsdale
Former Council Members Kerry Miller, Keith Lackey, High Cates and Larry Lain

There was no other business to come before the Council. Council Member Nixon-Roney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Gray made a second to the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote and the meeting ended at 6:28 pm.