

**Town of Bentonia
Board Meeting
April 2, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Alderman Town of Bentonia was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Roger Burton III. The following members were present Clint Lancaster, Robert Demus, Colby Parks, Patricia Ferris and Greg Shaffer; also present were Police Chief Jason Bright, Clerk Kim Tyer and members of the community. Absent Clerk Cannon Williams and Fire Chief Gary Taylor.

Motion was made by Colby Parks to open the meeting and seconded by Clint Lancaster. Motion passed with all in favor.

Motion was made by Patricia Ferris to adopt the minutes and bills and was seconded by Colby Parks. Motion passed with all in favor.

Old Business:

The Mayor presented the board with a quote from All Remodeling to repair the roof on town hall in the amount of \$2000. Motion was made by Clint Lancaster and Seconded by Patricia Ferris to except the quote and repair the roof.

The Mayor stated that the cost associated with the clean up of Mr. Alvin Ross's property had been placed on his land taxes and that the town should recover those funds.

The Town Engineer is working with CDBG and Department of Finance to combine the grant money and the SB2002 money for the current infrastructure sewer project that is being planned.

New Business:

N'Anna Decatur requested permission to open a dance studio for children ages 6 to 18 in the strip mall. Motion was made by Clint Lancaster and Seconded by Colby Parks, motion passed with all in favor. Ms. Decatur was advised that she could come by town hall during business hours to purchase a privilege license.

Sue Hughes with the Ester Smith Buford Foundation requested permission for a water and sewer tap for a low-income house the foundation is building. The Mayor explained along with the town engineer (Ron McMaster Jr) that before permission could be granted the town engineer would need a plat and plan and that the plan would need to be more organized in order to allow the town time to prepare for utilities needed. The Mayor also advised Ms. Hughes that the town will require a signature from her and also from U. S. Rural Housing Development advising them to use Mosley for all construction traffic. Ms. Hughes signed the agreement and was advised that someone form U. S. Rural Housing Development would need to sign the

agreement also.

Ms. Hughes requested permission for Ms. Fisher to use the town alley referred to by her as South Taylor street to access her home once it is complete. The Mayor stated that would need to be discussed with adjacent land owners and that the town only has a utility easement across the property that no heavy equipment would be allowed on the alley way due it housing the sewer main.

Mr. Richard Roman stated that he was representing ESBF, Rural Housing Development and Also Roger Hancock and agreed with the Mayor and the town engineer that more adequate planning was needed on ESBF and Rural Housing Development behalf before the town could provide utilities.

Dustin Wadford addressed the Mayor and Board about bringing Mobile Homes and Cabins in the town on a lot owned by Mr. Wadford. Mr. Wadford was advised that the town had a moratorium on mobile homes until such time that the new ordinances have been completed. Mr. Wadford stated that it has been 2 years that he has been trying to move mobile homes into Bentonia and that the town was not working with an attorney on such ordinances. The Mayor advised Mr. Wadford that his lot was not large enough to put a mobile home on. State Fire Marshall code requires the lot to be a certain size and his lot does not meet the requirements.

Dustin Wadford also stated that he wants to bring in a new mobile home for his grandmother. Current ordinance states that the person must own the property and also have mobile home titled in same name. The land his grandmother currently lives on belongs to the Rice family.

Ms. Loretta Thornton address the board concerning fair housing and stated that she understood the town had rules and regulations and that she had heard what the Mayor was expressing concern about better planning.

Mr. Wadford stated that he knew the town was not working with an attorney on revising the towns ordinance's; Mr. Greg Shaffer asked him to repeat what he said and he stated again that he knew the town was not working on ordinances with the town attorney. The Mayor advised that the town was working with an attorney on such ordinances.

Mr. Wadford stated that Bentonia was trying to be like Flora and that Bentonia was nothing but a bunch of low-class people. The Mayor advised that was his opinion.

The Mayor requested permission for Jason to attend the Police Chiefs Convention on the coast June 25-28, 2019. Motion was made by Clint Lancaster and seconded by Patricia Ferris, motion passed with all in favor.

The Mayor discussed the current confusion with Payroll and stated that payroll will be the 1st and 15th of each month unless one of those days fall on the weekend.

Payroll will not go out on the 1st and 15th until 2:00 pm. Motion was made by Robert Demus and seconded by Clint Lancaster. Motion passed with all in favor.

The Mayor stated that a concerned citizen had filed a report with FAA stating that the water tower was out of compliance and required a red light to be installed on the top. The Mayor stated that our water tower is under the required height of 200 ft. at 160.5 ft to the top.

Jason addressed the board concerning business not having grease traps and showed the board a picture of the man hole located near T< Tamales and stated that the town is spending a tremendous amount of money due to damaged caused by businesses not having grease traps. Motion was made by Greg Shaffer to require it mandatory that each business cooking in town have a grease trap installed 30 days from April 2, 2019 and it was seconded by Colby Parks, Motion passed with all in favor.

Motion to adjourn was made by Patricia Ferris and seconded by Colby Parks. Motion passed with all in favor.

Kim Tyer, City Clerk

Roger Burton III, Mayor