

MARCH 2023 MINUTES

Attendees: Mayor Joe Slaton; Council Members: Austin Hedden, Lauren Tiger and Harry Baughn; Town Clerk: Suzanne Hedden; Zoning Administrator, Ron Wallace
Others: Lorraine Bennett, Clay County Progress

Mayor Slaton called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Ms. Tiger made a motion to approve the agenda, Mr. Hedden 2nd the motion. Motion approved.

MINUTES

February 2023 Town Council Meeting Minutes

Ms. Tiger moved to approve the February 2023 Town Council minutes. Mr. Hedden 2nd. Motion approved.

FINANCE REPORTS

February 2023 Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statement – reports are attached.

Mrs. Hedden reviewed budget information and answered an inquiry from last month's meeting concerning General Ledger accounts 1007 & 1008. These are designated accounts that are used by our auditor for posting end-of-year adjustments. Mrs. Hedden also explained recent changes with our Frontier telephone charges. With our monthly bill continually increasing, it was decided to eliminate one of our phone lines (fax), changing the monthly bill from approximately \$149.00 to approximately \$75.00.

Mr. Baughn made a motion to approve the Profit and Loss report and the Balance Sheet. Ms. Tiger 2nd. Motion approved.

Complete information of our 2022 Audit Report was reviewed by Council members; Mr. Baughn made a motion to approve the report, and Ms. Tiger 2nd. Motion approved.

Mayor Slaton stated that he has received a telephone call from North Carolina DOT in reference to lighting at the proposed round-about at Business 64/Hiawassee Street. Mr. Hedden inquired about implementation and care for landscaping at the round-about. Our mayor will reach out to the appropriate people for answers.

OLD BUSINESS

- In reference to the feral cat situation, Mayor Slaton handed out information to Council members with a cost estimate from Big Bear Veterinary Clinic in Hayesville to spay/neuter, give shots, and perform appropriate testing for trapped cats. He also reported that traps for catching the cats cost approximately \$90-\$100 each. He suggested that before we adopt this plan, we need to research and plan more, especially since we have had no complaints from the community. Mr. Hedden added that there was previously a problem at the school, but the situation seems slightly improved. Mr. Baughn reported that there is no problem on Riverside Avenue. Ms. Tiger noted that in Towns County, Georgia, volunteers carry out this plan in Hiawassee.

- Mayor Slaton gave an update on the ATM process. He met with Tina Bowers, who represents a company that provides ATMs in the area. She suggested a free-standing ATM, possibly located near the sidewalk going to the public restrooms. Our part (expense) would be pouring a slab for placement. A portion of the ATM fee will go to Town of Hayesville, and we can distribute it to local agencies (non-profit). She will be sending the mayor a report later this week. Mr. Hedden suggested placing the ATM in the lobby entering our office. More discussion on this matter will follow later.
- On Wednesday, March 8th, several local businessmen, along with 12 volunteers from Michigan, worked on our newly acquired lot clearing undergrowth and trash. Mayor Slaton has contacted Brandon Donaldson to use heavy equipment for clearing; Mr. Donaldson advised that he is ready to start when we are. The volunteer group is planning to work again on Thursday, March 16th. The mayor has spoken with Jennifer Martin Vandiver (adjoining property owner) concerning purchase of one-fourth acre of her property. She advised him today that she is not interested in selling. Discussion ensued about the bridge crossing the small branch on the property, to which Mayor Slaton stated that it will be on our property and Ron Salzer can give us ideas for it.
- The Mayor and Council members each discussed their feeling about the previously mentioned Social District for Town of Hayesville: Mayor: “we have already had a negative opinion from a concerned citizen in the local newspaper” and “I see no advantage”; “we would have to change our public drinking ordinance if this plan is initiated” and “I will be talking with the Mayor of Sylva since they have already initiated this”. Mr. Hedden: “I don’t feel that it is doable since we have no Town of Hayesville Police Department”. Mr. Baughn: “ we must be sensitive to what the people of Hayesville want; what does the Sheriff think about this idea”?

NEW BUSINESS:

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

- Zoning Administrator Wallace reported that the zoning rules and regulations book has now been completed. The Table of Contents page went from one (1) page to seven (7) pages. Members of the Planning and Zoning Committee were asked to review the book for improvements.
- New signage will be installed for Edward Jones Investments on Hwy 64 by-pass; as of now, plans are fine.
- There will not be a Board of Adjustment meeting this month. Planning and Zoning meeting is pending application submission by Clay County Lions Club (re-zoning from R-1 to C-2).
- A property owner near the Old Jail is considering putting multi-storage units on site. If he pursues this idea, he will have to present his case before the Board of Adjustment Committee.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor’s comments are included in above information.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Tiger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm. Mr. Baughn seconded.



Joe Slaton, Mayor

ATTEST:


Suzanne G. Hedden, Town Clerk