
SEPTEMBER 2025

Attendees: Mayor Joe Slaton; Council Members: Harry Baughn, Benita England, Lauren Tiger; Town Clerk: Suzanne Hedden

Others: Lorraine Bennett (Clay County Progress), Sandy Zimmerman (HHI), Wendy Miller, Michael Castellano

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

Mr. Baughn made a motion to approve the agenda; Ms. Tiger seconded the motion; motion approved.

MINUTES

Ms. Tiger made a motion to approve the August 2025 Town Council minutes (regular meeting) and the August 2025 Public Hearing minutes as written; Mrs. Benita England seconded the motion; motion approved.

FINANCE REPORTS

August 2025 Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statement – reports are attached.

- Mrs. Hedden presented financial information; there being no questions, Mr. Baughn made a motion to approve the reports as written; Ms. Tiger seconded the motion; motion approved.
- Mrs. Hedden explained the process for adding line items for the Feral Cat Project to our 2025-2026 budget. Mrs. Benita England made a motion to add the line items (43995 Cr.; 54342 Dr.) to our 2025-2026 budget; Mr. Baughn seconded the motion; motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- Mayor Slaton advised Council members that Board of Adjustment member Sara Smith has submitted her resignation. Mr. Baughn suggested appreciation for Mrs. Smith's terms of service. The mayor added that we do not have to name a replacement tonight, but we need to be considering someone for the position. Sandy Zimmerman suggested that the BOA alternate might be willing to step up and be a board member.

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- Mayor Slaton and Zoning Administrator April England have been researching to determine when the Planning & Zoning and Board of Adjustment committees became two separate committees. Mrs. April England explained that the terminology is not consistent, but it is allowable to combine them. She further alluded to some differences in the committees: 1) BOA has no requirement for number of meetings on a yearly basis; Planning & Zoning Committee requires a set number of yearly meetings; 2) BOA requires swearing in new members; Planning & Zoning does not. Mrs. Benita England suggested that we discuss qualifications that would be beneficial for Planning & Zoning Committee members at the next meeting.
 - Mayor Slaton has been discussing a change at Fat Dog Sports Bar & Grill which will include replacing the screened-in porch with glass to make it more permanent. The mayor is concerned that other business owners in the downtown area might want to follow suit. He will have a completed MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) by our next meeting. Ms. Tiger suggested that we include signage in front of Fat Dog indicating that it is a public sidewalk.
 - Mayor Slaton has a meeting scheduled for tomorrow, September 9th, with persons (Health Department supervisor, County Manager Debbie Mauney, Carrie Free (Office Manager at Chatuge Family Practice), Department of Social Services supervisor, Sheriff Mark Buchanan, Cheri Pinner (adjoining landowner to involved property) who are involved with the clean up near Chatuge Family Practice. Merinda Swanson Woody (lawyer) and Anthony Stillwell (Building Inspector) will be unable to attend due to being out of town).

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Mrs. April England's report is attached.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Slaton's report is attached.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Zimmerman reported: (1) Plans are being finalized for the Steins & Wine event which will be held on the square on Saturday, September 20th; she added that we have lost vendors and suppliers due the date change this year; a contract has been signed for a five (5) year period for the date to change back to the first weekend in October; advertising and signage cost more due to the date change; (2) Exhibit Building attendance is up and she is considering adding another day to be open; (3) she is hoping to receive at

least \$20,000.00 in Cohort Funds in October; these funds will possibly help with technical purposes at the old brick hotel; (4) internet installation is complete at the Exhibit Building; (5) she is working on a quote to paint a mural on the back side of the garage.

Mr. Baughn stated that the Master of Ceremonies at the Friday night concert gave lots of recognition to responsible persons for the flowers, landscaping, etc. on the square.

Ms. Wendy Miller addressed Council members about the Chinquapin tree obstructing the sidewalk. Ms. Tiger stated that she will speak with her dad (Rob Tiger) concerning the situation.

Ms. Tiger praised our walking trails – she observed how nice they are as she has been enjoying them.

Mrs. Benita England made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m.; Ms. Tiger seconded the motion; meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:


Suzanne G. Hedden, Town Clerk


Joe Slaton, Mayor