

**Council Meeting
Agenda
April 3, 2023**

Present: Mayor Ellwanger, MPT Krieger, CP Williamson, CP Bratton, CP Spitler, Clerk Elisa Rowe, Attorney Joe Reitman
Citizens: Michael Caw, Mark Vandervoet, Joe Davis

I. CALL TO ORDER: The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7pm

II. INVOCATION:

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Lead by Mayor Ellwanger

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 6th Council Meeting: CP Bratton made a motion to approve the March 6th minutes.

Motion: CP Bratton **Second:** CP Williamson **Approved: 4-0-0**
MPT Krieger was not present at time of vote

V. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Follow up on Davis property and also Ricky Mock property (4272 Hwy 142):

Mayor & Council reviewed photos taken of the properties (3/25/23) The Mock property had started work in October 2022 but there has been inactivity since the end of the year and nothing new has been done in 2023. Attorney Joe Reitman stated that he would send Mr. Mock a letter to push for work to start and a new permit will be required. Joe Davis stated that he is working as hard as he can to get his property cleaned up. Attorney Joe Reitman expressed to Mr. Davis that if he does not clean up his property the Town will be forced to clean it up and a lien will be put on the property. Mr. Davis stated that he works seven (7) days a week and he is working as hard as he can and he has every intention to get it clean. Mayor Ellwanger stated to Mr. Davis that he would like to meet with him to look at the property. It was agreed that Mayor Ellwanger and Mr. Davis will meet at 123 Porter Street Saturday (April 8th) afternoon.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Alpha Contracting: Renting @ 4222 Hwy 142: Mark Vandervoet (owner of Alpha Contracting) stated they he is waiting to see if Disney is going to rent out the office space and transform it into a diner. If they do, they will be moving Alpha Contracting out of the office while they are filming and will pay their rent at a new office space. Mark does not want to start work on the office space until he knows if/when Disney may be needing the space. Mayor Ellwanger stated that the town owns the office space and that Disney needs to be talking with the Town also. Mark agreed and stated that if Disney does want to use the office space he will make sure that he and the Town sit down and meet with Disney. Mayor Ellwanger stated that we will table this and decide what to do about rent cost at a later time.

B. Iris Thompson property located behind Town Hall (could possibly be used for additional parking – add to park area) Discuss again with Mrs. Thompson about the town purchasing the lot. Mayor Ellwanger stated that he has still not been able to talk to Mrs. Thompson to discuss purchasing the property behind town hall to expand the park and make some of it additional parking. Clerk Elisa Rowe stated that maybe code enforcement can talk to her. Mayor Ellwanger stated that code enforcement could talk to her about the issue of the “lake” that is created when we have heavy rain and the issues it creates with mosquitoes and kids in the park playing around it.

C. The Horneyhead Fish Festival will be on Saturday, April 29th, 8am-2pm: Mayor Ellwanger stated that there will be a lot more vendors this year and it will be expanded into the Maintenance Department parking lot. He believes there are about 145 vendors and he encouraged everyone to come out and support the festival and the vendors.

D. BRAG (Bicycle Ride Across Georgia) will be coming through Newborn and using the pavilion as a rest stop on Saturday, April 15th (10am-4:30pm) and Sunday, April 16th (8:00am-10:30am) They will bring in all their supplies and have porta-potties available and will clean up and take all trash with them. The only request they have from Newborn is the use of water. Mayor Ellwanger stated that citizens will see bicyclists in town those two days, but it shouldn't be as huge of a crowd as it is in July with the Covington Century bike ride.

Clerk Elisa Rowe stated that she has been questioned if the Town was going to be closed on Good Friday as the County is closed and most government offices are. Attorney Joe Reitman stated that his office is closed and he thought the Town would be too. Clerk Elisa Rowe asked the Mayor and Council if the Town employees could have Friday, April 7th (Good Friday) off. Mayor & Council all agreed and the holiday was approved.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Michael Caw: Stated that he is happy to see all the progress being done in Town but one thing he has noticed are the kids sitting out front at all hours using the free wi-fi and he would like to see some type of internet café where citizens can use the internet but maybe also learn about the history of the Town.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm

Motion: CP Bratton Second: CP Williamson Approved: 5-0-0