

**Council Meeting
Minutes
March 6, 2023**

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

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

II. INVOCATION:

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Lead by Mayor Ellwanger

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

February 6th council meeting: CP Williamson made a motion to approve the February 6th council meeting minutes.

Motion: CP Williamson

Second: CP Bratton

Approved: 5-0-0

V. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Davis property: It has been reported from citizens that the property has gotten worse – cars on property, 18-wheeler still on property. Newton County Magistrate court gave a deadline of January 15th at 5pm, and as stated on the Nuisance Abatement notice. Mayor & Council to move ahead with Town bringing in an independent contractor to clean up property? Mayor Ellwanger stated that it has been reported that the property has a lot to get done to be cleaned and meet compliance. Attorney Joe Reitman invited Joe Davis to speak. Mr. Davis stated that if he could have another week, he will have the property cleaned up, but the rain has slowed him down; property is a mud hole. Mayor Ellwanger stated that he had reached out to Joe about a month ago to discuss the property and never heard back from him and he knows that Juan (code enforcement) has been over there and it looks like piles of debris just get shifted around. Mr. Davis stated that he has been taking debris out of there. Mayor Ellwanger asked how many vehicles are there. Mr. Davis stated that is a different thing and he is trying to get rid of them too. Mr. Davis added that he also is having to clean up the former home of his brother John (who passed away). Attorney Joe Reitman stated that his concern, and it always has been, is the public safety welfare and that is what the law focuses on. Joe added that Joe (Davis) had mentioned rain and muddy conditions, well that draws in mosquitoes. Joe went on to say that one thing that can help that is to put out some rye grass. MPT Krieger stated that when he went by there this weekend, there were 4-5 vehicles and the tractor trailer in the front and a pile of junk. Mr. Davis stated that he is loading the 18-wheeler and will be storing it where he works. Joe Reitman asked how much longer until it is full. Joe Davis stated it is half full. Joe Reitman stated that he is sure that the neighbors are tired of the 18-wheeler sitting out front. Mr. Davis stated that he is sure they are tired of it, but he again states that it has been raining a lot. Joe Davis stated that he cannot pick up some of the stuff in his yard. Joe Reitman stated that he is trying to avoid going back to court. He costs the town money; it costs the

citizens money and we cannot wait forever. Joe Davis asked to give him another week and that he has help from one other person. Mayor Ellwanger stated that the Town does not want to have to go in there and clean up and Joe Davis stated that he has about got it cleaned up. Joe Reitman asked if the Mayor and Council were fine with giving Mr. Davis another week and they stated that they were. Joe thanked Mr. Davis for coming to the meeting.

Motion: CP Bratton

Second: MPT Krieger

Approved: 5-0-0

Mayor Ellwanger stated that nails are still being picked up on Church Street from the Fertilizer building, the tin is still flapping and throwing nails. Mayor Ellwanger request that Juan (code enforcement) take the next step needed. Mayor Ellwanger also stated that the property at 224 North Johnson needs to be looked at as it could become another Friar property and would like Juan to look at it also.

Mayor Ellwanger stated that he has talked to Jeff Eubanks and he would like Attorney Joe Reitman to take the lead in handling the papers required for the donation of the property to the Town. Joe Reitman stated to Clerk Elisa Rowe to send him the information on Mr. Eubanks in the morning.

Clerk Elisa Rowe stated that a citizen on Porter Street would like to have a street light added on the street and she has talked to a contact at GA Power and that the cost to the town would be minimal. The Mayor and Council agreed that it would be fine to add a street light on Porter Street.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. The Town is required to update the Comprehensive Plan by February 2024. Northeast Georgia Regional Commission has stated that the public meetings to update will begin in May here at Town Hall. The Town requires a steering committee (consisting of a council member, business owner and 2-3 citizens) and citizens to participate. The meetings will take place during the day; however, the first public hearing may be in the evening. Clerk Elisa Rowe stated that she is working on getting a steering committee together. Council members Denise Spidler and Cain Williamson will be a part of the committee, but still need a business owner and a couple of citizens. The meetings are scheduled to start in May. Mayor Ellwanger asked how often the Comprehensive Plan has to be updated. Clerk Elisa Rowe stated it was last updated in 2019 and this needs to be completed by February 2024; so, every 5 years.

B. Invoice #850.11884 for Lambert, Reitman & Abney in the amount of \$1200.00: CP Bratton made a motion to approve in the invoice in the amount of \$1200.00 for Lambert, Reitman & Abney.

Motion: CP Bratton

Second: MPT Krieger

Approved: 5-0-0

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Ellwanger adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm