

TOWN OF CEDAR GROVE

MAYOR

MELISSA YOUNG

ACTING RECORDER

CLAYTON YOUNG JR.

MUNICIPAL JUDGE

JAMES CONFERE

POLICE CHIEF

JACK ICE

COUNCIL

RYAN COLEMAN

MARK HARRISON

LESLIE SIGLER

ASHLEY YOUNG

TOWN CLERK

JESSICA MORRIS

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302 Alexander Street

Cedar Grove WV, 25039

Incorporated since 1902

Town Council Meeting

Cedar Grove Town Hall

December 12, 2023

@ 7:00 PM

Meeting called to order by mayor.

With the recorder being absent the mayor asks senior council person, Clayton Young, Jr to function as recorder.

Roll Call,

Mayor Melissa Young present

Recorder Jessica Morris absent

Ryan Coleman absent

Mark Harrison present

Leslie Sigler present

Ashley Young present

Clayton Young, Jr present

The minutes from the November 14, 2023, Town Council Meeting were emailed to all Council members prior to the meeting. Council Member Leslie Sigler made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Council Member Ashley Young. A vote was taken, and all were in favor, motion passed.

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The minutes from the December 12, 2023, Town Council Meeting were emailed to all Council members prior to the meeting. Council Member Leslie Sigler made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Council Member Ashley Young. A vote was taken, and all were in favor, motion passed.

The financial report for November 2023 was emailed to all Council members prior to the meeting. Council Member Clayton Young inquired about bought gravel. Mayor said all gravel bought but paid for by individuals. Council Member Mark Harrison made a motion to accept the financial report, seconded by Council Member Ashley Young. A vote taken and all were in favor, motion passed.

The council moved on to New Business because of a special guest.

New Business

Mr. Micheal Austin, manager and coordinator of American Job Center was present. He wanted to let the Mayor and Council know that American Job Center help those individuals 16-24 years of age searching for work. He stated they are funded by the Dept. of Labor and were partners with several organizations like Bridge Valley Community Technical College, Work Force WV, Division of Rehabilitation, and the Adult Ed Foundation. He would like to schedule a date when he and his partners could meet with those individuals in our town. They can aid in alleviating barriers like transportation, utilities, and others. This will be discussed, and a date will then be set.

The mayor received a resignation letter from Recorder Jessica Morris. It states that she had moved out of town and the mayor said one of the requirements is you must live in town. With Clayton Young, Jr being the elder Council person, he will function as acting recorder until a permanent one is decided.

Old Business

Replacing back doors

Mayor asked for an update from Donnie Goodwin. Council Member Clayton Young, Jr said that he had texted him and he was finishing outside work at another location and he would be ready to start on punch list tomorrow. Pictures of doors were texted to him and it showed them as ADA, but not to start until he had everything to complete the project.

Police Dept. Update

Police Chief Jack Ice said that he has been writing citations, working with other law enforcement agencies on warrants, still have warrants for Marcus Stone and a Willy Jackson and issues with inspection sticker on vehicles in lower end of William St. Those vehicles are now out of town. He said that as we all know most of our issues originate from the lower end and he will continue to work to alleviate it.

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Street Dept. Update

The lawyer contacted the mayor about paperwork on the house across the street. The town employees cleaned up debris from the house from the Smith's property. Caroling at the gazebo went great. Everyone came out and enjoyed the singing and the play from the kids at church. Everyone agreed it was a success.

Sewer Dept. Update

We have two employees attending a Class C Sewer Operator class this week.

New Business Continued

Town workers Christmas Gift. After a discussion about how hard the town employees have worked and it being the holidays, Council Member Leslie Sigler made a motion to get each town employee a \$100.00 gift card, Council Member Mark Harrison seconded it. A vote was taken, and all were in favor, motion passed. The council decided to have an employee and families Christmas luncheon on December 20, 2023 at 11:00AM. Each Council person will bring a dish and the town will buy the ham. Town also has food and drinks from earlier events and decorations will be used from last year.

The town also received a letter instructing us to open a separate checking account for the opioid settlement money. We do not know the amount at this time. Council Member Mark Harrison made a motion to open an opioid settlement account. Council Member Ashley Young seconded it. A vote was taken, and all were in favor, motion passed.

Council member Leslie Sigler also mentioned that the signature on checks needs to be changed from Jessica Morris to Clayton Young, Jr. Mayor said she would start the process tomorrow.

Mayor said RIC has started a grant application for the town, which would include repairing and installing new sidewalks, a new Kellys Creek foot bridge behind the school and other needs.

Bids to correct some issues in Cedar Terrace will be open tomorrow. This work will be paid for with money left over from the sewer upgrade grant.

Council Member Ashley Young asked why Cedar Grove was not included in the Safety Grant money. Mayor said application should have started by the last administration and there was not enough time to be included.

Council Member Clayton Young, Jr would like to see any special monies like special project B&O taxes be placed in a special or capital account. The school project is about a 19-million-dollar project which means approximately \$380,000.00 dollars for the town if correct. This would let us keep better track of what this money is used for.

There is a need to see that property owners pay for the fire fee; it is an issue. There have been three structure fires on Hull Ave. recently with no one living in them.

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We also need to do something about abandoned houses throughout the town. Mayor said that RIC is also doing a grant application to tear down abandoned houses. The requirements are they must be empty, but the landowner does keep ownership of the property. The abandoned Seabolt properties were discussed.

Council Member Clayton Young, Jr states he assumes the police are watching for work being done in town and explain to individuals the requirements. All town officers need to be and the town needs to collect fees and B&O.

Mayor also asked if council would approve making the last block of Alaxander St. a two way, north and south to William St. This would help Massey's and Boyd's get to their driveways. No one had a problem with it.

Troy Page mentioned the need for a maintenance and storage building for the town's equipment. Mayor said employees had a plan to build a lean-to using the old concrete tank for one. He also discussed his business license and B&O taxes.

Dee Gibson asked about how the town was going to fill the recorder or council seat. Mayor hoped Councilman Clayton Young, Jr would keep recorder and if so, would start the process of filling one or the other. He also asked if more yellow lines could be painted along south side of William St. to help him get out of his driveway. Mayor said all areas that could be painted were.

Roy Boyd mentioned that the police were doing their job.

After a discussion about the next meeting being December 26, 2023. Council Member Leslie Sigler made a motion to cancel the December 26, 2023, meeting, and it was seconded by Council Member Mark Harrison. A vote was taken and all were in favor, motion passed.

Next meeting will be January 9, 2024 at 7:00pm.

Council Member Leslie Sigler made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Ashley Young. A vote taken and all were in favor, motion passed.

Adjourned at 7:48PM

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