

TOWN OF CEDAR GROVE

MAYOR

MELISSA YOUNG

RECORDER

SAMANTHA GOODWIN

MUNICIPAL JUDGE

JAMES CONFERE

POLICE CHIEF

JACK ICE

COUNCIL

RYAN COLEMAN

MARK HARRISON

LESLIE SIGLER

ASHLEY YOUNG

CLAYTON YOUNG JR.

TOWN CLERK

JESSICA MORRIS

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302 Alexander Street

Cedar Grove WV, 25039

Incorporated since 1902

**Council Meeting
Cedar Grove Town Hall
July 9, 2024**

Meeting called to order by Mayor Young at 7:00PM.

Roll Call

Mayor Melissa Young – PRESENT

Recorder Samantha Goodwin – PRESENT

Councilmen/women:

Leslie Sigler – PRESENT

Clayton “Jock” Young – PRESENT

Ryan Coleman – PRESENT

Mark Harrison – PRESENT

Ashley Young – ABSENT

Approval of Minutes

Leslie Sigler motioned to approve the minutes from June 25, 2024. Mark Harrison seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Leslie motioned to approve the June financial report. Mark Harrison seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Street Update

There was a leak at the community center again, but the men were able to get that temporarily fixed. They are awaiting more rain to see if more needs to be done.

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Opening Bids for Air Conditioning for the Community Center

No bids were received. The man who came out before was unable to get all of the necessary information in time, so his quote was not brought to the meeting. He said that if we bid it again, he would be willing to submit. The council agreed to bid again.

NEW BUSINESS

Accounting for Sewer Project Phase 2

Mayor Young said that we have money left over from Phase 1. It was confirmed that we are able to use that money for the camera work for Phase 2. Mayor Young brought a map that showed the work that would be done primarily in Cedar Terrace. Mark Harrison made a motion to use the remaining \$40,000+ for the camera work in Phase 2. Ryan seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Cost of Living Raises

Randy, the accountant, said that most municipalities do 3-5% for their cost-of-living raise. He said we can afford to give the employees anything in that range or \$1 across the board. Leslie Sigler and Jock Young spoke up and said that it should definitely be percentage based to keep it fair. Samantha Goodwin said that if 5% is doable, that we should do that with the way the economy is currently. Ryan agreed. Samantha Goodwin said that she believed that everyone agreed to plan for 3% in the municipal budget, but that could be edited if need be. Mark Harrison made the motion to make the cost of living raise 5%. Leslie Sigler seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Trunk or Treat Budget

Ryan Coleman suggested that Trunk or Treat be on October 15th. The council agreed that that date would work. Mark Harrison proposed \$500 for the budget. Leslie Sigler made a motion to make the Trunk or Treat budget at \$500. Ryan Coleman seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Jessica Morris said that she wanted her \$2.50 raise to be addressed. Mayor Young said that her raise would be 5% along with the other employees. Jessica said that Mayor Young and the council budgeted the raise and agreed to revisit it in July, and she wanted that to be brought up. Mayor Young said that 2 council members said they would look at it, but she was never promised a raise. Mayor Young said that she and the men got a raise across the board last year—Jessica said it was a merit raise and Mayor Young said that theirs was too because that is what she felt was fair. Jessica claimed she did not want to be combative and reiterated that she felt as if she is worth \$20/hour because she works really hard and no one has to worry about things being taken care of. Mark Harrison spoke up and said that it was not personal and that the pay was simply based on the position. Jessica stated that the clerk at Glasgow made the pay that she is asking for. Mark said not to compare to her because that is an entirely different town. Mayor Young said that the Glasgow clerk has been there

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a year longer than Jessica and that the clerk in Belle makes even less and she has been there much longer than both Jessica and Glasgow's clerk. Mayor Young addressed that a \$5 raise within one calendar year is a lot. Mark Harrison said he thinks the clerk needs a clear job description. Mayor Young said that it was agreed that the next raise would be a percentage across the board. Jessica said she just wants it to be looked at and she felt that no one wants to talk about it. Mayor Young said that we were talking about it and that she would receive a 5% raise like the other employees. Jock Young said that last year the town did not give cost-of-living raises, but everyone got a raise across the board. He claimed that he believed she was promised the raise and that she is worth it. Leslie Sigler said that she did not feel it was fair to give one employee a \$2.50 raise and not the rest of the employees. Jessica Morris said her position was different and that she thought it should be looked at separately. Mayor Young said that the employees are looked at equally and that she already was making more money than other employees that had been here longer. Alicia spoke up and said that she was not fully aware of the situation but if it was voted on that Jessica received a raise by the previous Mayor, then we should honor that. Mark Harrison said that the previous council wanted to give her 5% and he was the one that voted against it and had suggested \$2.50. Jessica Morris brought up that she could make more money elsewhere, but she enjoys working here and that she cares about the town. She also said that she works very hard and that she does \$20/hour worth of work. Mayor Young said that Jessica Morris volunteered to take on work that was not required of her. Mayor Young said that she will no longer be doing the additional work of the Recorder, and the work will be separated from here on out. Jessica said that she did not mean for that to be an issue but she feels as though she has proven herself and that she is worth it. Leslie Sigler told Jessica that the other employees will also want the same raise. Jessica said that they will not because they do not do the same job as she does. Mayor Young said that the men work just as hard as she does and that they are in the heat all day. Jessica said she understands that but does not feel that this is a contest. Mayor Young asked if anyone would like to discuss the \$2.50 raise for Jessica. Jock said that she did not get the same raise as everyone last year and Mayor Young said that she did, but it was just 2 months prior to the others. Alicia explained that she understood that Jessica was upset because she felt her merit raise was given to everyone else. Leslie said that the others received a merit raise too because they deserved it. Mark Harrison called around to compare the pay of other clerks in neighboring towns and the low pay was in Belle at \$14.50 and the high pay was in Smithers at \$18.50. Jock Young asked who all worked in Belle's office. Mark Harrison that a \$2.50 raise is a lot. Ryan Coleman asked what we had talked about a few months ago when we had budgeted it just in case. Ryan said that he felt if we did not have intentions to give it to her then, then we should not have agreed to budget for it. Leslie Sigler said it was only budgeted because she had asked for it and was told that the council would look at it. Samantha Goodwin said that the \$2.50 raise was budgeted, but the council had also just agreed to increase the cost-of-living raise by 2% over what was originally budgeted so they may want to consider that difference in her pay as well. Leslie Sigler and Mayor Young agreed that it was said that the town was no longer giving merit raises. Jock said if that was the case then they should not have given them to the men. Leslie said that they were given those raises for certifications and a class that they took. Jessica Morris said she understands that this is just business and that she gives it her best every day. Jock Young and Mayor Young agreed it was time to go into closed session.

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Closed session began at 7:31PM. Closed session ended at 7:45PM.

Alicia Mullins wanted to readdress the cars parked in front of her house. She said she could call the police or the tow truck if she was able. Mayor Young said she needed to get the police to have it towed.

George reported that the vagrants are doing the "car repairs" behind the church. Mayor Young suggested that he first contact someone by the name of Wills who owns the church.

Mark Harrison wanted to know when the doors are going to be finished. Mayor Young said that the doors are still in storage, but she is worried about the door handle because it cannot be replaced.

Alicia Mullins asked how long Chief Jack Ice was going to be out of commission. Mayor Young stated his absence is indefinite pending completion of the investigation.

Jock Young asked if we had an ordinance regarding people living in homes that do not have utilities. Mayor Young said yes. Jock Young then wanted to address that there are individuals living in homes without utilities in the town limits. Mark Harrison made the comment that they tried to address it before and were told that people who own their homes have a right to live the way they wanted to live. George brought up something called a "Certificate of Occupancy" that he used to have to present when he lived in a townhome previously. He also suggested having a fire chief do inspections or something similar to condemn the homes. Jock Young suggested an engineer potentially being a qualified entity. Mayor Young said she will speak to someone she knows soon.

George Harkless complained once again about the grass being overgrown at a house on Williams Street. He also had made a complaint about this at the last meeting.

Mark Harrison motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ryan Coleman seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:03PM.