

TOWN OF CEDAR GROVE

MAYOR

JAMES HUDNALL

RECORDER

CAROLYN BENNETT

MUNICIPAL JUDGE

JAMES CONFERE

CHIEF OF POLICE

DARRICK COX

COUNCIL

KENNETH BARTON

ASHLEY YOUNG

BILL HOLCOMB

MARK HARRISON

LAWRENCE ROARK

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Tax ID 55-6000157

302 Alexander Street

Cedar Grove WV, 25039

Incorporated since 1906

Town Council Meeting

7-5-22

Members

Mayor James Hudnall	Present
Ashley Young	Absent
Mark Harrison	Present
Kenny Barton	Present
Poncho Roark	Present
Bill Holcomb	Present
Carolyn Bennett	Absent

Meeting Called to order by Mayor Hudnall.

Roll Call, all members present except Councilmember Ashley Young and Recorder Carolyn Bennett.

Minutes passed out to all council members. Motion made to approve the minutes by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Council Member Roark. Motion Passed.

Monthly bills looked over by councilmembers. Motion made to approve the bills by Councilmember Barton seconded by Councilmember Roark. Motion passed.

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Old Business

Sealed bids for town vehicles were opened. Councilmember Barton made a motion to accept the bid for the 2002 GMC Sierra from Joey Hurst for \$900.00 and the bid for the 2006 Jeep from Tammy Gwinn for \$1850.00. Seconded by Councilmember Holcomb. Motion passed. It was decided to hold off on deciding to accept bids for the 1992 Ford Packer truck and the 2014 Ford Interceptor until the next meeting.

We were updated on the new office software by Town Clerk Jessica Morris. It is installed and working well. All bills and checks are being written with the new system. We are now accepting credit and debit cards. We will need to create a town website so in the future, bills may be paid online with credit and debit cards. There is a three percent charge for using credit/debit cards.

Town Hall needs repairs. It was decided to take bids on replacing doors, painting the inside walls, and tiling the floor.

Ordinance committee Alicia Mullins has converted the ordinance to a word document so changes can be made when the council is ready. There are several changes that need to be made because of errors from previous changes. There was no meeting last month, they do plan on meeting before our next meeting. Clayton Young advised that he had talked to Terry Martin, and he said there are companies that will sell you ordinances to replace old ones.

New Business

Bruce Mullins, a representative from the Regional Intergovernmental Council was present to get approval from the council for invoices to be paid from the sewer grant. Total invoices \$81,932.50 and \$1,680.00 paid to Dunn Engineering and Triton. Motion to pay the invoices made by councilmember Barton, Seconded by Councilmember Holcomb. Motion passed.

Sewer update Mayor Hudnall has been talking to Chelyan PSD about possibly taking over the town sewer system. We owe Chelyan PSD \$140,000. We are maintaining the bill currently so that debt isn't going up. Councilmember Barton stated that he felt if Chelyan PSD takes over the town sewer system that our customers should be billed the same rate as Chelyan PSD customers, instead of the higher rate they are paying through the town. Mayor Hudnall agreed.

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457 Retirement plan for employees was presented to councilmembers. Police Chief Cox explained that town employees have no retirement at this time. The 457 plan is run by the state auditor's office, it's a plan that employees may have money taken out of their check for this plan and the town can match a certain amount if they want. A motion was made by Councilmember Barton to allow employees to participate in the 457-retirement plan seconded by Councilmember Roark. Motion passed. We will decide at the next meeting what we will contribute to each employee.

Mobile home clean-up. We have two mobile homes we have torn down that were abandoned. The owners have signed them over to the town. We are in the process of cleaning them up. There is a third one we are getting ready to demolish. Robert Keenan has been assisting us with this project by providing the excavator to demolish the structures.

No further business the meeting was open to public comment. Lisa Birdsong asked if there was anything we could do with the old Saunders home on Williams St. She would like it to be turned into a community center or something. She was asked if she had the authority to sell the property. She said no, she just wanted to see something done with it. She said it was still owned by the family and needs to be probated. She was advised we couldn't do anything about it if it was still in probate.

Clayton Young asked if the town is planning to put a lien against the property that the demolished trailers was sitting on to offset the cost of clean-up. He was advised that it would not be done at this time because the trailers were on rented property. He stated he hated to see us clean it up and the owners let the same thing happen again. Councilmember Barton stated he didn't think it would happen again.

Dee Gibson stated he would like to file a formal complaint against Police Chief Cox in Cedar Grove concerning the social media posting on the Cedar Grove Neighborhood Watch Group Page on Facebook regarding the school break in. Dee states Police Chief Cox commented on this social media post that the Kanawha County Sheriff's Department had the situation under control. Dee stated that the Kanawha County Sheriff's Department called him at home on the telephone and Dee provided the Deputy with information. According to Dee, Police Chief Cox commented on the social media post to the effect that one of the thief's children attends the school. Dee stated that another comment on social media by Chief Cox informed those who read the post that Dee had been interviewed by the Sheriff's Department. Dee stated that

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In another social media post by Police Chief Cox said Dee, could you tell the folks who the suspects are and about who is offering to sell stolen televisions. Dee stated in another comment, where Chief Cox replied to John Hess that we know who did it but I'll let Dee Gibson tell you. Dee invited all in attendance at the meeting to read the post and let him know if he said anything negative about the Town of Cedar Grove or Police Chief Cox. Dee believes that Police Chief Cox is making this personal against Dee and his family, also stating that he is not a thief. Councilmember Harrison asked Dee was his grandchild was named in the post? Dee replied no and would like his family left alone. Police Chief Cox states he would like to reply now and discuss the issue with Dee. Council member Barton said it should be done at a later date. Police Chief Cox said he would like to respond, and asked Dee why he feels like he is calling him a thief in that social media post? Dee responded that he has custody of his grandchild. Police Chief Cox asked how does that refer to you? Dee stated that the Police Chief Cox has been after his family. The mayor asked Dee if any names were mentioned in the social media post and Dee replied yes that his name is mentioned, just not as thief. Councilmember Barton states the social media post doesn't specifically say it is Dee Gibson's son. Comments were made by both Dee Gibson and Police Chief Cox, at this point Mayor Hudnall intervened and ended the discussion for another time.

Timmy Litton has an update on the batting cage at the baseball field. Timmy stated they did get the check from the town, and it was deposited. A tree has fallen on the batting cage. It has been removed. The little league is trying to get \$5000.00 from the County Commission to have the job done professionally. They are waiting on a letter to take to the County Commission. This is what the holdup is on the batting cage. Also, the league is having a movie night at the field on June 15th.

Tammy Gwinn inquired about paint for driveways. Mayor Hudnall that the town was ordering it.

Mayor Hudnall stated the Town Council was going into Executive Session to discuss some items.

After a short Executive Session, the meeting was opened back up to the public.

Mayor Hudnall stated that we would be filling the Town Recorder position at the next meeting. The former Recorder did not formally resign but has missed three meetings in a row, therefore it is determined she has resigned. Anyone interested in the Town Recorder job needs to leave their name and information with the Town Clerk.

With no further business needing to be discussed Council Member Barton made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Roark. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

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