

TOWN OF CEDAR GROVE

MAYOR

MELISSA YOUNG

RECORDER

JESSICA MORRIS

MUNICIPAL JUDGE

JAMES CONFERE

COUNCIL

RYAN COLEMAN

MARK HARRISON

LESLIE SIGLER

ASHLEY YOUNG

CLAYTON YOUNG JR.

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302 Alexander Street

Cedar Grove WV, 25039

Incorporated since 1906

Town Council Meeting

June 6, 2023

Meeting call to order.

Roll Call

Mayor James Hudnall	present
Recorder Jessica Morris	present
Kenneth Barton	present
Mark Harrison	present
Bill Holcomb	present
Lawrence Roark	present
Ashley Young	present

The minutes from the May 2023 Town Council meeting were reviewed by all council members. A motion was made by Councilman Harrison to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilman Roark All in favor, motion passed.

The May 2023 Financial Report was reviewed by all council members. Councilman Holcomb asked who approved the purchase of the house at 301 Alexander Street, the Mayor explained that the Council approved it at the laying of the levy meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Barton to approve the financial report, seconded by Councilman Harrison. Councilman Roark was in favor, Councilwoman Young was in favor, Councilman Holcomb did not vote. Motion passed.

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Old Business

New bid for the sewer jetter. Councilman Barton suggested we table the topic until the new Council starts next month.

There is a bid from Donnie Goodwin to replace the back doors at the Town Hall for \$9977.74. Councilman Holcomb suggested we table the topic until the new Council starts next month.

The Town needs a website and Recorder Morris received quotes from 2 different companies to build and maintain a website for the Town. ASP quoted a 10-page website for \$8,000.00 and \$125 a month to maintain. KDE Technology quoted a 3-page website for \$1,999.99 and \$70 a month to maintain. ASP does Glasgow's website and KDE does the Town of Bancroft as well as All Sport Trophies and More. She met with each company and looked at the website examples and concluded that we do not need more than 3 pages for what we need to accomplish with this website. Councilman Barton stated that we need to get this website up and running as soon as possible and made a motion to accept the quote from KDE Technology for \$1,999.99 to build the website and \$70 a month to maintain it, seconded by Councilman Roark. All in favor, motion passed.

A new Employee Handbook was passed out to all Council members prior to the meeting and there were no questions by the members. Recorder Morris suggested we table this topic until the new Council starts next month and Councilman Barton stated that since it goes in to effect on July 1 and the next meeting won't be until after July 1, we need to make the call. Councilman Harrison made a motion to adopt the new Employee Handbook, seconded by Councilman Roark. All in favor, motion passed.

Eva Tucker has started the Great Commission Outreach Summer Program for kids at the Community Center on Tuesdays from 3-5. It started today and there was Pizza and Ice Cream. All are welcome.

New Business

Laura Cox from Laura Cox Designs came to talk about her grant writing services. She has a background in design and planning. She worked doing grant writing and works in communities in WV. She just started working for the Town of Glasgow. They look for grants depending on a communities needs and helps to apply for them. Her services cost \$70 an hour with a \$2,000 retainer. Councilman Barton suggested we table this topic until the new Council starts next month.

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Town Clerk Jessica Morris stated that a customer asked if the town would make an adjustment on the sewer bill for pressure washing since the water does not go into the sewer. It is up to the Council to decide this. Jessica stated that WV Code states that Sewer Utilities must give a one-time pool fill adjustment when the customer fills up a pool since the water does not go into the sewer. Councilman Barton stated there was no way to know if they had pressure washed or how much. No motions were made.

Councilman Holcomb asked if John Smith offered to sell the Town the concrete pad across the street from the Town Hall next to 303 Alexander Street for \$6,000. Recorder Morris stated it was \$8,000 at the last meeting. Councilman Holcomb suggested we buy it for \$6,000 and Councilman Barton suggested we see if it can come down some more.

Councilman Roark asked when the roads will be fixed from the work done when WVAW took over the water. Mayor Hudnall will make a call. Mayor Hudnall said we will have Reed's Paving fix the roads while they are still in town working on the Basketball Court and paving some streets since it seems like no is going to come and fix it.

Police Chief Cox stated that he understands that at the last meeting that he was not present for, there was complaint made by someone about a vehicle being towed and Councilman Harrison investigated this and asked him for an update to clarify there was no wrongdoing done by the police department. Councilman Harrison stated that he was trying to reach the parole officers, but he did obtain the recording from Metro when the tow truck was called to have Dee Gibson's vehicle towed in London, WV back in February 2023. He has not reached the parole officers and the recording says Chief Cox called Metro on behalf of the parole officer. Dee asked that the Council table this topic until the actual parole officers involved can be reached to find out the truth. Councilman Harrison stated that Officer Murray has been off and will return to work on the 16th and Dee said he comes back tomorrow. Chief Cox stated that every meeting Dee comes up with some silliness. Chief Cox continued that Dee wasn't there when the vehicle was towed, Dee was not driving the vehicle, and the vehicle was involved in a police chase earlier that day. The man driving was an adult and Dee had loaned his vehicle to that man and Dee has no legal standing to make a complaint. Chief Cox continued that Dee coming to every meeting with complaints about the Cedar Grove Police Department is becoming harassment just like the Postmaster being harassed by Dee. Chief Cox feels he is being harassed by Dee personally and asked that the Council disregard these complaints because the questions have been asked and answered, the Metro recording

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has been listened to and there is no reason to believe anything else to be the truth. He then asked Dee if he had anything to say. Dee said that Chief Cox makes comments to irritate him and all Dee wants the truth about the vehicle and restitution for the tow bill if he is indeed due that. Councilman Barton asked why the Metro recording that revealed that Chief Cox called Metro and requested a tow truck on behalf of the parole officer wasn't enough to prove that this was the truth. Dee replied that according to the landowner his vehicle was parked, and that Chief Cox and the parole officer searched the vehicle with no search warrant or Dee's permission or the driver's permission. Chief Cox asked if the person driving his vehicle was in violation of parole and Dee said yes. Chief Cox continued that any person that is on parole can be searched at any time. The parole officers searched the vehicle because the driver had run from them in a chase earlier that morning. The parole officers made the choice to search the vehicle, there were half a dozen Deputies and a small S.W.A.T. team on the way there to catch the driver when it was discovered that the driver was not at the location of the vehicle, they turned around at that time. Dee wasn't there, he loaned his vehicle to the driver, who was in charge of the vehicle at that time. Therefore, Dee has no standing to make a complaint. Dee says he has standing because the vehicle belongs to him, Chief Cox said he lost control of the vehicle when he loaned it to the driver. Councilman Barton asked if since it is his vehicle, he is responsible for everything in the vehicle? Dee said if they searched his vehicle illegally, without a search warrant, Chief Cox interrupted that they did not search it illegally because the driver was on parole and is always therefore searchable. Dee said the driver was not in the vehicle. Councilman Holcomb asked where the driver ran from the police and was in the chase, Dee answered London. Chief Cox said they requested his assistance and the assistance of the Kanawha County Sheriff's Department. Chief Cox says this should be the end of it and Dee wants to reach the parole officers to get the truth, Chief Cox asked why? Councilman Barton asked if Dee was accepting responsibility for what was found in his vehicle and Dee answered no. Chief Cox asked Dee if he thought there was premeditation by him saying on the radio that at the request of parole, please send Hutch's tow truck? Councilman Barton agrees that the questions have been answered. Chief Cox then asked Dee how many family members he has incarcerated at this time and if that was the reason for his complaints about the police department? Dee said he wasn't talking about his family members and Chief Cox said that was the reason Dee comes to every meeting with these complaints. Mayor Hudnall said we are going to drop this right now since things were starting to get personal between Chief Cox and Dee. Chief Cox continued to engage with Dee and the Mayor stopped the conversation again.

No further business, Councilman Roark made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Barton. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

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