

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
OF THE TOWN OF HIGHFILL, BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS**

HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2009

The Town Council of the Town of Highfill, Benton County, Arkansas, met in regular session at the Highfill Community Building, Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Chris Holland called the Town Council meeting to order.

The Mayor introduced the Town's newly elected Alderman, Mr. Richard Boles.

Attendance Roll Call:

The following were present: Mayor Chris Holland, Recorder-Treasurer Stacy Digby, and Aldermen: Toby Lester, Richard Boles, Keven Varner and Sandy Evans. Alderman James Wiand was absent. The city's attorney Steve Miller was present. See attendance sheet for others attending.

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Town Council dated December 11, 2008 were presented. The Mayor asked if there was any discussion. Alderman Toby Lester made a motion to waive the reading and accept the minutes for that meeting in their present form. Alderman Keven Varner seconded the motion. Lester, Boles, Varner and Evans voted yes. There were no votes in opposition. Motion carried.

Review of Department and Commission Reports

Written reports were submitted by the following persons for the following departments and commissions, and copies of each are attached:

<u>Department / Commission</u>	<u>Report Submitted By</u>
Street and Maintenance Department Report	Kently Insko
Fire Department Report	Chief Jeremy Jackson
Police Department Report	Chief Jack Sanders
Parks Commission Report	NONE SUBMITTED
Water & Wastewater Report	Frank Holzkamper
Building Inspection /Code Enforcement Report	Rob Holland

Kently Insko addressed the council and informed them that he had located a used tractor at Williams Ford, a Model TL-90 with a cab, 82hp and 4-wheel drive. The cost would be approximately \$33,000.00. It would also be possible to lease the tractor for up to two years. It was a lease return with 300 hours. The Town could purchase an additional warranty on the tractor for \$1,500.00. After some discussion among the council members, it was agreed not to purchase this tractor and that Kently would continue to try to locate one for the Town.

Chief Jackson addressed the council. He noted that he had applied for and received a grant from the State of Arkansas in the amount of \$2,900.00 for the Highfill Volunteer Fire Department. He wanted to use the grant funds for the purchase of two water intake valves for a truck. He noted that there was no cost to the Town for this purchase, but he did need the Council to approve the grant and appropriate the grant funds for the purchase of the two water intake valves. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Keven Varner to approve the Town of Highfill receiving a grant from the State of Arkansas in the amount of \$2,900.00, and to appropriate said funds for the purchase of two water intake valves for the Town's fire truck. The motion was seconded by Alderman Richard Boles. Lester, Boles, Varner and Evans voted yes. There were no votes in opposition. Motion carried.

Chief Jackson also announced a Chili Supper for March 28th. He wanted to use the proceeds for community relations and safety such as buying smoke detectors and batteries. The council was in favor of that use. He also told them he wanted to build a training facility on city land purchased for a new town hall. The council did not object to this proposal. He was also going to look into FEMA grants. He made the council aware that if the city received any of them, it would have to match a certain percentage.

Open Hearing

The Mayor opened the floor to the public. There was no comment from the public. There being no discussion, the Mayor declared the open hearing closed.

Old Business

There was no old business to be conducted by the council.

New Business

The first item of new business was an Ordinance annexing property owned by the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter, Inc. John Mack was present on behalf of the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter, Inc. There were no questions to him with regard to the annexation. A motion was made by Alderman Toby Lester to suspend and dispense with the rule requiring the reading of an ordinance, in full, on three different days and read said Ordinance by title only, and the motion was seconded by Alderman Keven Varner. Lester, Boles and Varner voted in favor of the motion. Evans voted no. The Mayor cast the fourth vote in favor of suspending the rule. The motion carried. The Mayor declared that at least two-thirds of the members of the council voted in favor of the motion and an ordinance entitled:

"AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE ANNEXATION INTO THE TOWN OF HIGHFILL, ARKANSAS, OF CERTAIN LANDS OWNED BY THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S SHELTER, INC., CONTIGUOUS TO AND ADJOINING THE TOWN, AND MAKING SAME A PART OF THE TOWN OF HIGHFILL, BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS."

was read by title only.

Next, a motion was made by Alderman Toby Lester to adopt said ordinance and the motion was seconded by Alderman Kevin Varner. Lester, Boles, Varner and Evans voted yes. There were no votes in opposition. The motion carried. The Mayor then declared the Ordinance adopted and signed the Ordinance, which was later attested by the Town Recorder and sealed with the seal of the Town. The Ordinance was given No. 2009-01.

The next item of new business was a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to transfer excess sales tax revenue from the Water Improvement Fund to the General Fund. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Alderman Toby Lester and seconded by Alderman Keven Varner. Lester, Boles, Varner and Evans voted in favor. There were no votes in opposition. Motion passed. The Resolution was given No. 01-2009.

Financial Report

The Financial Report for the month of December 2008 was presented for review (see attached). After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Toby Lester to approve the Financial Report. The motion was seconded by Alderman Keven Varner. Lester, Boles, Varner and Evans voted in favor. There were no votes in opposition. Motion passed.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Chris Holland gave the following report:

- a) The Mayor noted that he was looking into the possible formation of a Chamber of Commerce for the Town of Highfill. The city's attorney addressed the council and briefly explained the function of a chamber of commerce. The Mayor noted that this would be an ideal partner for the Town to implement a bigger and better Highfill Hay Daze Festival for the Town to try to add more events and activities at the festival in order to attract more people and more businesses to the Town of Highfill.

Discussion

The Mayor noted at the December meeting that the council had voted in favor of burning the existing house on the Young Property in order to clear the way for the future construction of a new Town Hall. The Mayor then noted that LaJoyce Vann had offered to pay the Town of Highfill \$1.00 and perform the labor necessary to haul off the brick from the burned house in exchange for the brick. A motion to approve this action was made by Alderman Toby Lester and seconded by Alderman Keven Varner. Lester, Boles and Varner voted yes. Evans abstained. Motion carried. A new fireman, Francisco Cabrera, was introduced. He was to attend the fire academy in Camden soon. The Chief also reported the exercise equipment was getting a lot of use. He appreciated being allowed to move it into the station.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Toby Lester and seconded by Alderman Keven Varner. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Chris Holland, Mayor

Stacy Digby, Town Recorder
(SEAL)