

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

HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2009

The Town Council of the Town of Highfill, Benton County, Arkansas, met in regular session at the Highfill Community Building, Thursday, May 14, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Chris Holland called the Town Council meeting to order.

Attendance Roll Call:

The following were present: Mayor Chris Holland, Recorder-Treasurer Stacy Digby, and Aldermen: Keven Varner, James "Butch" Wiand and Sandy Evans. Alderman Toby Lester arrived late, during the first reading of the Ordinance abandoning the alleys and a portion of Augusta Street for the property owned by the Town. Alderman Richard Boles 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 April 14, 2009 were presented. The Mayor asked if there was any discussion. Alderman Keven Varner made a motion to waive the reading and accept the minutes for that meeting in their present form. Alderman James Wiand seconded the motion. Varner, Wiand 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

There was no discussion regarding the various reports.

Open Hearing

The Mayor opened the floor to the public. There was no public comment. The Mayor then declared the open hearing closed.

Old Business

The Mayor opened the floor for a public hearing on the Application submitted by the Town of Highfill to abandon the two platted alleys in Block 7 and the portion of Augusta Street between Block 7 and Block 8 all shown on the Plat of the Railroad Addition to the City of Highfill, Benton County, Arkansas. Administrative assistant Jeanetta Evans noted that she received a few calls, but no complaints. There was no comment from the public. The Mayor then declared the public hearing closed.

New Business

The first item of new business was an Ordinance for abandonment of a portion of Augusta Street and two alleys in Block 7 of the Railroad Addition to the City of Highfill, Benton County, Arkansas, owned by the Town of Highfill. A motion was made by Alderman Keven Varner 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 James Wiand. Varner and Wiand voted in favor of the motion. Evans voted no. The Mayor noted that the motion failed because it did not have the support of at least two-thirds of the members of the council. A motion was then made by Alderman Keven Varner to place the Ordinance on its first reading. The motion was seconded by Alderman James Wiand. Varner, Wiand and Evans voted yes and an ordinance entitled:

“AN ORDINANCE ABANDONING (A) THE 20 FOOT WIDE PLATTED ALLEY RUNNING EAST AND WEST ACROSS BLOCK 7 LOCATED SOUTH OF LOTS 7 AND 17 AND NORTH OF LOTS 8, 14, 15 AND 16; (B) THE 20 FOOT WIDE PLATTED ALLEY RUNNING NORTH AND SOUTH ACROSS BLOCK 7 LOCATED WEST OF LOTS 1 THROUGH 13 AND EAST OF LOTS 14 AND 17 THROUGH 20; AND (C) THE PORTION OF AUGUSTA STREET RUNNING NORTH AND SOUTH BETWEEN BLOCK 7 AND BLOCK 8; ALL SHOWN ON THE PLAT OF THE RAILROAD ADDITION TO THE CITY OF HIGHFILL, BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

was read, in full, by the city's attorney.

The next item was a Resolution setting a public hearing date on the Application for Abandonment of a portion of South Fourth Street, a portion of South Third Street, and a portion of Augusta Street, along with two alleys on the property owned by Grant and Donna Coonrod. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Alderman Keven Varner and seconded by Alderman Toby Lester. Lester, Varner, Wiand and Evans voted in favor. There were no votes in opposition. Motion passed. The Resolution was given No. 06-2009.

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 Keven Varner and seconded by Alderman Toby Lester. Lester, Varner, Wiand and Evans voted in favor. There were no votes in opposition. Motion passed. The Resolution was given No. 07-2009.

Financial Report

The Financial Report for the month of April 2009 was presented for review (see attached). Alderman Keven Varner asked about the lower than expected revenue as set forth in the budget. Mayor Holland said that it would be addressed at the mid-year budget review. 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, Varner, Wiand and Evans voted in favor. There were no votes in opposition. Motion passed.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Chris Holland gave the following report:

- a) There was a discussion regarding city wide trash service for the Town. The Mayor asked the members of the council if they had given any thought to the current trash service being provided to the Town and what they might like to see in the future. The Mayor noted concerns about consistent services being provided to all citizens and businesses in the Town of Highfill at reasonable and consistent charges. The Mayor felt the Town needed a contract with a company to provide the service. This would allow the Town to tell potential residents and businesses that trash service could be provided and a consistent price for the service. After some discussion it was determined the Mayor would look into some type of city wide service and the council was in agreement with this action.
- b) There was a discussion regarding the health insurance premiums for the Town's employees. Jeanetta Evans noted that an additional employee would be added to the health insurance for the Town. She also

noted that the premiums on the health insurance were increasing, which would mean higher than budgeted costs to the Town. She noted that two options were available to address these concerns. One was to raise the budgeted amount for the cost of the health insurance premiums, the second was to increase the deductible currently in place for the employees' health insurance from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00. She had discussed this with the agent for the Town and determined that this would create a significant cost savings. It was noted that the new premium year would start June 1st. After a brief discussion, the council agreed to increase the deductible from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 in order to lower the cost of the health insurance premiums.

- c) There was then a discussion regarding the Town's copier. Jeanetta noted that the existing lease on the Town's copier would end in December, and she presented quotes for purchasing a new copier. After some discussion, it was agreed that this item again be discussed closer to the end of the year.

Discussion

Alderman Toby Lester noted noise concerns from the airport. Officer Eric Jones voiced a concern about a need for setting a speed limit on Gailey Hollow Road since it was recently paved. The city's attorney and the police chief were asked to look into this situation. Alderman Sandy Evans then asked whether or not there was some type of curfew ordinance for the Park and whether or not the Town needed one. She wanted to set a 10:00 p.m. curfew at the park. A city wide curfew was discussed, but no decision was made to put such a curfew in place. The city's attorney was asked to look into a curfew ordinance for the Park.

Adjournment

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Chris Holland, Mayor

Stacy Digby, Town Recorder

(SEAL)