

Town of Clintwood
Regular Town Council Meeting
Public Hearing
June 13, 2023

Record of Attendance:

Council Members:

Danny Lambert – Mayor / Town Manager
Ron Kendrick – Vice Mayor
Doris Rife
Talbert Bolling – Remotely
Jim Childress
Shelly Mullins

Others Present:

Susan Wood – Attorney
Judy Steele – Clerk
Chief Rick Mullins

Officer Lester Turner

Citizens – Robert Taylor, Jenna Taylor, Parker Taylor, Jordan Barton, Josh Barton, Spencer Lee, Dillard Lee, Ryder Taylor, Bobby Garrett, T.J. Fryatt. Andy Rose, Kaye Buchanan, Mildred Brooks, Glora Castle, Gary Castle, Kerry Phipps, Pun Yun Phipps, Juanita Blevins, Randall Phipps, Carolyn, Patsy Craven, and Rhonda Sluss.

Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence prayer.

Mayor Lambert said Talbert Bolling requested to attend the meeting remotely and asked for a motion to allow Council Bolling to attend the meeting remotely.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Rife and second by Councilman Kendrick to allow Talbert Bolling to attend the meeting remotely. Motion passed unanimously.

Talbert Bolling said he was currently in Williamsburg, Virginia and miscalculated when the council meeting was and is not able to attend the meeting in person tonight. He appreciated the council allowing him to participate by phone.

Mayor Lambert opened the public hearing on the budget and asked if anyone was present that would like to speak at the public hearing for the budget.

T.J. Fryatt said he wanted to oppose the proposed cigarette tax increase. In looking at the proposed budget, the cigarette tax increase is fifty percent from the previous which is more than any of the others. The next closest is the motel tax which is forty percent and cigarettes are fifty percent. He said that his store sells cigarettes. Food City and gas stations sell cigarettes and to his knowledge he is the only store that is locally owned and operated. He said with that increase he will lose revenue. The county does not have a cigarette tax so people can go to the Four Way or 83 and those stores would have a dollar fifty (\$1.50) a carton advantage over his store. He asked the council to consider that it is the highest increase of any that is proposed and the only ones it affects locally is his store. They try to be good citizens and sponsor as many things as they can that are going on and he asked for the council's consideration.

*Minutes -Regular Town Council Meeting
and Public Hearing
June 13, 2023
Page 2*

Hearing no further comments on the budget, Mayor Lambert asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Rife and second by Councilman Kendrick to close the public hearing. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Lambert asked for any agenda additions and Councilwoman Rife requested to add the Parade and July Fourth.

Hearing no other additions, Mayor Lambert asked for a motion to approve the agenda with the additions.

Motion was made by Councilman Kendrick and second by Councilwoman Rife to approve the agenda with the additions. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda item - Donation Requests – The Crooked Road Quilters Guild, Ridgeview High School Beta Club, Dickenson County Fair Association.

Mayor Lambert asked if anyone was present to speak on the donation request from The Crooked Road Quilter Guild, Ridgeview High School Beta Club, or the Dickenson County Fair Association and hearing no response, he said the Ridgeview Fishing Club was present and Robert Taylor said he would speak on their behalf.

Robert Taylor introduced the members of the fishing club which were Jordan Barton, Dillon Lee, Spencer Lee, Ryder Taylor, and Parker Taylor. They went to the State Championship and Dillon and Jordan received first place for the Ridgeview Fishing Club and Ryder and Parker placed second, and another group took third place so Ridgeview Fishing Club took it all at the state level. He asked the council for another donation for the two boys that took first place. They will get to go to Oklahoma and represent Virginia in the Nationals. Allen said that all the boys will be offered a college scholarship and he thanked the council for their support last time and asked for their support again. Mayor Lambert congratulated the boys.

Motion was made by Councilman Kendrick and second by Councilman Childress to give a \$100 donation to The Crooked Road Quilters Guild, Ridgeview High School Beta Club, Dickenson County Fair Association, and the Ridgeview Fishing Club. Motion passed unanimously.

Citizens Comments –

Gary Castle said he was speaking on behalf of the Christians present. He said he moved to Dickenson County in 1958. He has seen some of the changes taking place and recently he was

appalled by some of the so-called entertainment that was at the Jettie Baker Center. There was use of foul language, using God's name in vain, and using the F-word as if they were saying hello to people. What is more appalling than that is that when asking people to come and be with them this evening some were saying it won't do any good no matter what you say, there won't be any changes. That is more appalling than the language being used at the Jettie Baker Center. Louella Baker said if her mother knew it, she would roll over in her grave. Mr. Castle said he was here to not criticize but to give you information to let you know these citizens that are present and Christians in the county do not like that those things are taking place. God's name was used in vain throughout the songs like it was common words. Songs started out with the F word. Secondly, the serving of beer because everyone knows what the equation is when you add our culture and alcohol is and you always know what the result is. Those things are not necessary in our town. Especially having the young children and young people seeing those things go on. He said they plead that they understand and look into those things that are taking place at the Jettie Baker Center. Mildred Brooks said she does not drink and has never touched alcohol in her lifetime and does not want to sit beside someone that drinks and uses bad words and she does not intend to pay to go hear it. Kay Buchanan said she loved to go to the Jettie Baker Center and had she known that this man was there that was going to sing to them that they paid \$20 to come and see, she would have not gone. She said to let them know that there will be foul language and these singers are not worthy of listening too. Gary Castle said in our community that language is so unnecessary. Kay said to vet the singers. She complimented Sara on the great job she has been doing at the Jettie and asked the council to do something about this, so they can continue to go to the Jettie Baker Center and have good entertainment. Councilman Kendrick said he was glad they brought this to their attention because he for one did not know that happened. Mayor Lambert said he was there, and he left. He said in trying to have entertainment maybe it was not vetted. He listens on Youtube to the entertainer before he goes and maybe that is something everyone needs to do. There is a group of people out there that likes this and the Jettie Baker Center was almost full. About two weeks before that. Pro Art brought an excellent group to the Jettie and no alcohol was served and there were maybe thirty-five people there. Councilwoman Rife said Sara had no idea that man was going to talk like that. Rhonda Sluss said that her and Joe was there that night, and she appreciates that Nathan Stanley is bringing in acts to the Jettie Baker Center and saw his Christmas show and it was fantastic. He does not allow beer to be served at his entertainment and Mayor Lambert said it is not served. He did not see anyone act ugly other the man doing the show. His language was very foul. She commended Sara on the job she is doing, and she enjoys going to the Jettie. She feels the council will do what is right for our county and will make an effort to vet. Mayor Lambert said one thing that will help the Jettie is everyone's participation by coming out to the events. Councilman Kendrick said we are all neighbors, and we have strong morals in our community. He thinks the council will do their very best to prevent this from ever happening again. He is embarrassed that it happened. Mayor Lambert thanked everyone for coming.

Agenda item - July Fourth Celebration

Councilwoman Rife said at the last meeting it was thought the intersection was going to be done. She asked Allen Taylor if he knew what was going on with the intersection and he said he thought that trying to get some of the utility poles removed was holding it up. Mayor Lambert said he spoke to someone, and they told him once they get started it will take them about eight weeks to do the roundabout. They may have to plan for the parade as if it will be closed. Chief Mullins said the plan needs to be go down by the Gas n Go onto Chase Street. Mayor Lambert said the starting place will be the same and go down to the intersection to Gas n Go onto Chase Street and disburse at Food City. Andy Rose said he was the Kiwanis president. Last year, they started their activities at the walking park at 3 pm and when the parade started everyone left and then went home. He was thinking of doing the parade earlier in the day and then when it ends near the walking track, they would start their festivities there and go on until the fireworks. Maybe start the parade at 3 pm. Kiwanis will also be doing the pancake breakfast. He said he was open to suggestions. He asked about using the first two rows in front of the post office to set up the food trucks. Councilman Bolling asked about closing he roadway between Kids Korner Park and the walking truck and the fire department might could set up there. Mayor Lambert said they would need to find out if Food City has any food trucks coming in and that would be a possibility. Chief Mullins suggested starting the parade at 4 p.m. with line up at 3 p.m. Andy said the pancake breakfast will be from 9 p.m. to 12 p.m. at the picnic shelter. Councilwoman Rife said that the Ridgeview High School baseball coach wants to set up to do a fast pitch. Andy said his contact information is 419@gmail.com for anyone to sponsor an event or setup. Councilman Kendrick said the rescue squad can set up a misting tent. Councilwoman Rife said they can also contact her. Behavioral Health has a sound system to do the music.

Old Business – none

• Reports and Communication:

Town Attorney – none

Town Council –

Jim Childress - He reminded the council that next Saturday, 24th, is the car rally in town and that Main Street will be blocked off. There will be many cars, food trucks, and vendors.

Talbert Bolling – He expressed his appreciation for all the employees.

Ron Kendrick – none

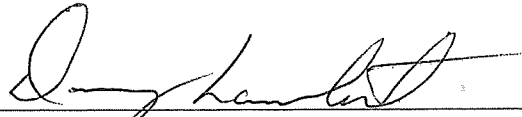
Doris Rife - She said the Lions Club had a great golf tournament and will make a good donation to the town.

Robert Garrett asked if anyone knew if the new Food City was going to install any fast charging stations for electric vehicles. Mayor Lambert said he had received an email that there may some grant money available to put some throughout town. Councilman Bolling asked if he had spoken to Walter about the field house and he said he is working on that to see if he could do that.

Mayor Lambert - The flowers have been put out and looks really good. The flags are up for Flag Day. He appreciates the police officers and all the town employees.

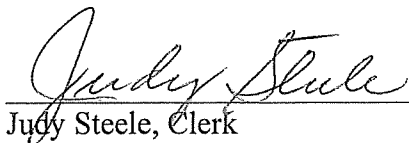
Motion was made by Councilman Bolling and second by Councilwoman Rife to recess the Council meeting until June 20 at 6 p.m. and to pay the bills and overtime. Motion passed unanimously.

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Mayor – Danny Lambert

Attest:



Judy Steele, Clerk