

COUNCIL MEETING
May 13, 2013

The regular meeting of Mayor and Council was held on the above date with Council members Lightcap and Letterman present with Mayor Horn presiding. Recording Secretary Melissa Knight, Town Foreman Hurlock, Solicitor Chambers, Corporal Scott, Joanne Masten, Dela Masten, Lisa Thomson, Drew Thomson, Howard Blackstone, Cordell Carr, Cleve Donavon, and Jenn Dailey were also in attendance.

1. Approve Minutes:

Council Meeting 04/08/13 – motion made by Mr. Letterman seconded by Mr. Lightcap to approve the Council Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report:

Motion made by Mr. Letterman seconded by Mr. Lightcap to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Communications:

- Mayor Horn read communications (see attached)

4. Inspections/Enforcement:

- Business Licenses Issued 24
- Contractor Licenses Issued 56
- Improvement Permits Issued 26
- New Construction Permits Issued 10

5. Electric:

- Mr. Hurlock – The 4KV conversion to start. This is a budgeted item.

6. Street:

- Mr. Hurlock – Once it starts to warm up the town crew will start to patch holes.

7. Equipment:

- Mr. Hurlock – Advised Council the trailer was purchased in the amount of \$1,500. This item was a 2013 budgeted item, which was a savings of \$1,500.

9. DEMEC:

- Mr. Hurlock – Will be attending the DEMEC meeting with Ms. DeBenedictis and a training session to certify all municipalities.

10. New Business:

- Swearing in the New Town Council Members - The Town Solicitor swore in Mayor Horn and Councilman Carrow.

- Mayor Horn advised the public the re-organization will take place in June due to two (2) Councilmembers being excused from tonight's meeting.
- Mayor Horn asked to wait on forming the committees for the closing of the car port and purchasing a ¾ ton 4X4 truck, due to two (2) Councilmembers being absent.
- Clayton Historical Society – Public Grant

Motion made by Mr. Letterman to table the Clayton Historical Society – Public Grant until June's Council Meeting seconded by Mr. Carrow. Motion carried unanimously.

- Huntington Mills HOA – Derrick Caruthers, President of HOA – No show.
- Clayton Historical Society – submitted an application for parades and assemblies license for Clayton Railroad Days Festival to close streets (S. Bassett Street and Railroad Avenue) for vendors see attached documentation.
Mr. Letterman – What is the timeline for the streets to be closed? Mr. Carrow advised the Mr. Letterman and the public the streets would be closed from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The time will allow the vendors to set up before the festival and break down their displays.

Motion made by Mr. Letterman to accept the Clayton Historical Society as written on the parade application seconded by Mr. Carrow. Motion carried unanimously.

- Clayton Historical Society – submitted an application for parades and assemblies license for Clayton Railroad Days Festival for the parade (see attached documentation.)
Mr. Letterman – Confirmed Main Street would only be closed for the parade and not during the festival. Mr. Carrow advised yes and an application has been submitted to Deldot for Main Street to be closed for the parade only. He said Deldot is still in the process of reviewing the application.

Motion made by Mr. Letterman to accept the Clayton Historical Society Parade route seconded by Mr. Carrow. Motion carried unanimously.

- Howard Blackstone – Extend polling hours from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., absentee ballot process, and how are they audited.

Mr. Blackstone thanked everyone for allowing him to speak. I like to take this opportunity to speak before Council and thank all my supporters who came out to vote for me for Town Council. I was reminded several times during my campaign by my opponents how long they have lived in Clayton. One went so far as saying they lived here all their life. That is all well and good and I respect that; but they are saying that we new comers don't deserve a voice and I say we do on Council. We provide 2/3 of Town of Clayton revenues. Revenues to run the public safety, utility maintenance, the administration office and anything else the town decides to spent money on. We pay through our property taxes and more importantly through our utility bills. A major portion of Clayton's revenues come from the

utilities you pay. Clayton says you are the middle man between the providers. They take their cut before passing it on to the utility providers. Why do you think Smyrna pays less for their utilities. God put us here and God willing we are staying. I say to the Town Council get used to it. We are here. We look at the Town of Clayton employees and all pretty white make-up. Not one person of color in the police department, school system, utility system or town council. Why is that? The request to extend the voting polling hours is the first step of gaining voting equality for the old, new, color, and white. Many of the new comers work in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and points well beyond the 50 miles of Clayton. The current voting hours of 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. is step up to disfranchise us. In the spirit of fairness I am asking Clayton Town Council to change the voting to 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. I will provide my constituents a petition to sign and will give to you the appropriate people in power. Thank you.

Mayor Horn thanked Mr. Blackstone for his opinion. Mr. Blackstone you are next regarding the absentee ballot process and how are they audited.

Mr. Blackstone - The last voting we didn't receive a print-out of the write in votes.

Mr. Blackstone – It shows on the Town's website about the absentee ballot and he wanted to know if this process is being followed. Showing I.D. etc...

Mr. Letterman said in respect in following rules the only one we did not follow to the law in fact was 50' off the polling place. This was disclosed to the Town last voting year. Candidates were across the street and we weren't going to enforce 13'. The only issue this year were people was close to the road waiving signs and simply had police ask you and other people to stand on the sidewalk. The voting hours cannot "willie nillie" be changed. This is in our charter and would need to go before Legislature. There is nothing we can do for this year. For those people working in Pennsylvania, the absentee ballot is available to them. Smyrna had people working there polls from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. We cannot have increase an increase in cost for the polling machines and the people working. I have looked into this, and we are willing to look into it more.

Mr. Blackstone said this is not a "willie Nellie" request. This request is from my constituents.

Mr. Letterman said we cannot just ignore our Charter.

Mr. Horn said that Smyrna did not have enough votes to support the additional hours.

Mr. Blackstone how much more?

Mr. Horn and Mr. Letterman said that we would look into this on how much it would cost the Town. Mr. Letterman went on to say that as chairman of the

budget, he is very conscience of what is spent and there are people in this room that can contest to this statement.

Mr. Blackstone said that his community wants the extended hours.

Mr. Letterman said he is not looking at it as different communities he looks at it as a whole community.

Mr. Blackstone I am not looking into an answer tonight. What I am looking for is a committee to be formed to look into changing the polling hours.

Mr. Horn advised Mr. Blackstone we are not forming any committees tonight. He asked what time the Town Hall opens. The residents that he spoke to are already at work or headed to work.

Mr. Blackstone said it was more informational purposes. Mr. Letterman offered Mr. Blackstone the guidelines from the Election Department he (Mr. Blackstone) said he has that information.

11. Public Forum:

- Mr. Carr and the residence would like to thank Council and Town Foreman for cutting the lots in Huntington Mills and to keep up the good work.
- Mr. Carrow would like to take this time to recognize Mr. Lightcap for his service to the Town.

12. Adjournment:

Motion made by Mr. Letterman and seconded by Mr. Carrow to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Recording Secretary,

Melissa Knight