

The Alberta Town Council held its regular scheduled Town Council meeting on February , 2023, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was conducted via Zoom also. Mayor Robert Hayes, presiding.

Council Members Present:

Elizabeth (Beth) Crowder, Freida Peterson, Charles Moore, Curt Williams, Rebecca Spengler

Also present:

Joe Whitby

Sylvia Allen

Savannah Hall, Town Clerk

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda

Rebecca motioned to approve the agenda with adding an addition to new business for Technical Upgrades and additional bill added to the monthly standing bills list, Fuel Freedom in the amount of \$440.11, seconded by Beth, unanimously carried the agenda for the February meeting was approved.

Approve Minutes

Minutes were provided in the council packs for each council member. On motion by Beth, seconded by Rebecca, unanimously carried, the minutes of the January 9, 2023, Town Council meeting were approved as presented.

Citizens' Comments

Approve Bills

Total Bills for the month of December amounted to \$3,645.96. On motion by Beth & seconded by Rebecca, unanimously carried, the approval was granted to pay the bills in the amount of \$3,645.96.

Attorney Report-Joe Whitby

Joe had no report at this time.

Clerks Report- Savannah Hall

Savannah reported to the Town of Alberta council that Cheryl Murnae donated four boxes to the Alberta Yard Sale Items. Savannah contacted VDOT regarding the cleaning of the pipes under the road on Virginia Avenue by the sawmill. Ticket #1715928. Twenty-five hundred dollars was received by Ameresco Solar for the submittal of their CUP Application. This was deposited into account number 1863 Revitalization/Planning/Zoning. On January 13th Savannah issued Alberta Volunteer Fire Department their second trench of funds for the year in the amount of \$5,250.00. Post cards were mailed to Town Residents/Post Office box holders. This was the cheaper route to take, and they wouldn't be returned. The total cost for postage to mail 250 post cards was \$120.00 where it had been anywhere from \$150-\$160 dollars for postage to mail these. Delinquent tax notices were mailed on January 18 for taxes delinquent from 2021 to previous

years. A total of \$25,317.07 was billed out. Child at Play signs were installed by maintenance. J.R Price Construction will begin the work on the drain by the caboose in the amount of \$2,500. This will be paid directly from the funds that were allotted from Virginia Outdoor Foundation. Southside Planning will pay this invoice directly as these funds are not in hand for the Town. Received notice from the Town of Lawrenceville that they will be hosting their 1st annual firework display on Saturday June 24th, 2023, in Lawrenceville and are requesting sponsors to make monetary donations to help with the event. Everyone who sponsors will have their name mentioned and displayed at the event.

Monthly Budget Report- January

Curt motioned to approve the budget for December, seconded by Rebecca, unanimously carried the budget for the month of December was approved.

Committee Reports

Fire Report – Ted, Fire Chief with Alberta Fire Department was not present at the meeting to give the Fire Report. Mayor, Robert Hayes, reported on behalf of Alberta, they had run 16 fire calls for the month, 8 MVC, 2 calls within town limits, 12 out of town limits, 70 EMS calls dispatched, 17 Aid given, 31 BLS calls, 5 ALS calls. 39 Transported, 39 EMS calls out of town limits, and 18 calls out of the district.

Police Report – Mike, Alberta Police was present at the meeting to give the Police Report. Mike reported on behalf of the Alberta Police Department that he had 10 speeding, 4 reckless driving, 0 DUI, 5 public assists, 3 assisting other agencies, & 4 court hours.

Administrative & Finance/Economic Development – Becky stated that Savannah expressed concerns about the process of creating the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. 2023-2024 budget needs to be approved by the June Town Council meeting. Savannah went over accounts that were areas of concern as of today's meeting. Office Expenses are over budget by \$765.91, Dues and subscriptions are over budget by \$174.88, the police department has several line items that are over budget. She stated to the committee that the fire department must have more income with the hiring of more personnel and the cost of living, etc. They are currently \$20,000 in the red for the current year. Maintenance and Personnel need a cost-of-living raise. We also need to remember minimum wage is going up to \$15/hour. A big concern is local businesses that will be registering vehicles in other locations, this will take away a good portion of revenue. Savannah made the suggestion to have a meeting with the committee on a Tuesday or Thursday after 1:00 to go over the budget in more detail before hopefully presenting a draft in April.

Caboose Committee – Beth stated that the Caboose Committee did not meet this month.

Public Safety- Chair Person William Holmes wanted to give compliments to our Maintenance Department for going above and beyond to making Alberta look great again.

Personnel Committee – Savannah presented the committee with the Employee Handbooks from the Town of Brodnax and the Town of Lawrenceville. Freida, Beth, and William will review these and will meet on Wednesday February 15 at 5:00 PM to discuss how to implement these into a copy which will fit the needs of the Town of Alberta. This copy will then go to the Mayor,

Robert Hayes, and Joe Whitby for suggestions/review. If need be, we will meet again this month. The goal is to receive approval by the Town Council at the March 13th Town Council meeting. It was questioned whether we would need to hold a Public Hearing before adopting the handbook?

Special Events Committee – Beth stated how at the last meeting we never took a vote on the expenditures for the Special Events Committee. It suggested that the Special Events Committee get the approval to spend the allotted money requested up until July then revisit the budget. On motion by William, seconded by Curt, unanimously carried it was approved to spend the requested amount of money for Special Events until July 2023. Beth also let the citizens know the second Saturday yard sales would start in March. Beth stated that a lot of things are hoping to be happening in the upcoming year!

Old Business

New Business

Everette Gibson and Tamara Anderson with Virginia Department of Health in regards to water project in the Town of Alberta- Everette Gibson spoke on behalf of the water project that is in the process of happening in the Town of Alberta. May 5th is the deadline for the grant application and this project will cost a total of \$4.9 million whether the grant is approved for the town or not. It was suggested that if the locality had ARPA money they could use to put up a portion to go toward the grant, they would stand a better chance of receiving the grant and to help cut down on some of the cost or remaining amount of the loan that isn't issued in grant money. Becky suggested that we table this until further information has been obtained regarding the project and Town Council has time to review the PER. Robert suggested that we call a special meeting to get the approval to utilize a portion of Alberta's ARPA funds to help assist the Town of Lawrenceville with the project. On motion by William, seconded by Curt, unanimously carried it was approved to call a special meeting on February 27, 2023, at 5:30 PM.

Ameresco Solar to present CUP Application- Ameresco and Kimley Horn did a presentation to Town Council for the upcoming Solar Generation Facility coming to Alberta. They presented all the information and what the project would look like once completed. They will present the CUP Application on March 13th for approval from the Town of Alberta Town Council.

Don Bright with Meherrin River Lumber regarding closing road going thru the sawmill and General Iron and Steele- Don Bright, owner of Meherrin River Lumber expressed concerns to Town Council regarding the high speed traffic on Virginia Ave / North Street by his business and General Iron and Steele. His biggest concern is that someone is going to get hurt due to not seeing trucks unloading in the road and the high rate of speed that pedestrians drive through that road. Don stated that he is hoping to expand his business and wants to do that in Alberta, but he can't do so with such heavy traffic through that road. It was suggested that we close the road to thru traffic during business hours. On motion by Rebecca, seconded by Beth, unanimously carried it was approved to close the road to through traffic during the hours of 6:00 am and 5:00 pm. Savannah will be contacting VDOT to see what the requirements will be to have this done.

Bernard Jones and Polly Cole to present MOU for 2023 Community Garden Project- Bernard or Polly could not be present to present the MOU for the upcoming year so Rebecca presented to

council the MOU for the 2023 Community Garden Project. She stated how excited she was for this be coming back to Alberta as she knows many people in our community enjoyed having their own gardens last year. On motion by Rebecca, seconded by William, unanimously carried it was approved to sign the MOU for the 2023 Community Garden Project.

Proposing to purchase zero turn lawn mower for maintenance to maintain grass- Robert stated to Town Council that Savannah had obtained quotes to purchase a zero turn lawn mower for our maintenance department to be able to maintain the grass in the Town Limits instead of having to accept bids and find a independent contractor to do so. After reviewing the quotes some have the mower package and some were just the mower. On motion by Rebecca, seconded by Freida, it was approved to table this until the March meeting to make sure all quotes are on the same package.

Proposing to accept Kyle Pulleys bid to do the technical upgrades to the town office- Robert stated to council that Savannah has been having issues with the network and with our software needing updating on with our Zoom. The Wi-Fi has not been pulling at the meeting hall due to poor wiring to the main connection. On motion by Rebecca, seconded by Curt, it was approved to accept the bid from Kyle Pulley to do the technical upgrades if Curt was unable to get this done.

Citizens' Comments

Linda Gilliam from Rawlings Virginia stated to our Town Council that she would be running in the upcoming term for the Board of Supervisors. She was very excited to be attending the meetings and getting to know everyone as she has lived here her whole life. She stated that she does have a petition going around for the Red Oak district Board of Supervisors seat.

Closed Session

Adjourn – There being no further business, on motion by William, seconded by Rebecca, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

Robert Hayes
Town of Alberta Mayor

Savannah Hall
Town Clerk/Treasurer