

JANUARY 3, 2008

The Clarksburg City Council met in REGULAR SESSION on Thursday, January 3, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. at the Clarksburg Municipal Building – Council Chambers, 222 West Main Street, Clarksburg, West Virginia, with Mayor Thompson presiding.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Bailey
Sam Lopez
Martin Shaffer
Patsy Trecoast II
Vice Mayor B.K. Vanhorn
Mayor Dan Thompson

ALSO PRESENT:

Martin Howe, City Manager
Greg Morgan, City Attorney
Annette Wright, City Clerk

COUNCIL MEMBER(S) ABSENT:

James Hunt

The opening prayer was offered by Vice Mayor Vanhorn with Councilwoman Bailey leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Thompson called for petitions, communications and public hearings with the following individual appearing therefor:

Ugo Annibale – appeared before Council and opined that the City needs something to assist code enforcement remarking that the last Council meeting was very productive. Mr. Annibale voiced concerns with neglected property stating that landlords (being the property owner) are ultimately responsible for the property.

MOTION by Vice Mayor Vanhorn, **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Bailey for approval of the minutes of the regular session held on December 6, 2007 and the conference (work) session held on December 13, 2007. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: CITY MANAGER'S REPORT/UPDATE

City Manager Martin Howe discussed the following written report provided to Council:

Follow-up/General Updates

1. We have begun preparations for the budgeting process for fiscal year 2008-2009. The goal is to have the proposed budget to council by late February/early March for review.
2. The administration is in the process of developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) soliciting primary towing services for abandoned and junk vehicles to be utilized by the Code Enforcement and Public Works Departments.
3. The administration has also been speaking with a salvaging company in which the city could possibly partner with for the demolition that will be conducted by city personnel. This partnership would allow for the removal of all items out of the structure so the house can be demolished by our crews. This will be more cost effective for the city by drastically decreasing our labor hours and tipping fees to have the structures cleared on non-C&D material.

Fire and Police Departments

1. Chief Keough has officially retired as of Monday, December 31. The Fire Civil Service Commission has met and authorized the City Clerk to research a testing company to provide and/or administer the Chief's test.
2. The position to fill the Chief's position has been posted as of Wednesday, January 2, 2008. This posting will be until Friday, January 11. At the next FCSC meeting, the administration will ask that a notice be posted for a vacancy in the rank of Captain and, subsequently, Lieutenant (with a list in place therefor).
3. Police testing for new officers is steadily moving along. There are currently sixty-nine (69) applicants on the list. The physical ability test will be conducted Saturday, January 12, 2008 at RCB High School.
4. The in-car video cameras are in the process of being installed into the police cruisers. To date, we have had five completed with two remaining to be installed. We will be working with the Governor's Highway Safety Coordinator to seek additional funding to secure more cameras for our fleet of vehicles.

Brownfields and Construction Projects

1. Quality Foundry Project – We have received formal notice from the WVDEP that we have been accepted into the Voluntary Remediation Program. The administration will begin arranging a site visit for the DEP Project Manager and prepare the information for the public notice.

CITY CLERK'S INFORMATION:

- A. ZONING FORM IN CONNECTION WITH A "NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO OPERATE: A PRIVATE CLUB, PRIVATE WINE RESTAURANT OR TAVERN" FILED BY MATT'S HOT SPOT, 315 BROADWAY AVENUE – RETURNED TO APPLICANT ON 12/20/07

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. **CONSIDERATION OF A PETITION FILED BY TERRY AND KATHY POWELL REQUESTING THE ABANDONMENT OF AN ALLEY LOCATED BETWEEN 614 AND 616 HART STREET**

MOTION by Councilwoman Bailey, **SECONDED** by Vice Mayor Vanhorn to deny the above-stated petition per the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

In other Unfinished Business, Councilwoman Bailey recommended that the City Manager check with the Police Chief as to needs of the Police Department wherein such may be presented to the Governor's Highway Safety Program for assistance therewith.

Councilwoman Bailey remarked that she hoped that Council would continue to make their voice heard with the School Board with respect to the attention needed to our city schools.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Shaffer extended his condolences to Mr. Papa upon the loss of his sister.

Councilwoman Bailey inquired of the City Manager and the Mayor as to their top goals for the new year with Mr. Howe citing the budget and Mayor Thompson listing the Stonewall Jackson House replica project and the Rose Garden Theater project.

Councilman Lopez inquired if we could assist Health Access in their search for property. Mr. Howe informed that a redevelopment plan would be prepared by URA for the Adamston Flat property which might be a suitable location for Health Access as well as possibly other health care uses. Mr. Howe noted that the administration is working to get the application through pursuant to the DEP guidelines for this property.

With regard to properties, Councilwoman Bailey commented that she hoped that Mr. Papa would be able to work with the City in hopes of a positive project for his Main Street property.

There being no further business to come before Council, **MOTION** by Vice Mayor Vanhorn, **SECONDED** by Councilman Trecost **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY** for adjournment.

Mayor Dan Thompson

January 17, 2008

Approved

Annette M. Wright, City Clerk