

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 21, 2017
7:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert Bridges at 7:01pm.

Members present were Mayor Robert Bridges, Council Members Perry Barton, Gayle Steed, Betty Lyle, Hattie Thrasher and David Huth. Also in attendance was City Clerk, Mai Chang, City Attorney, Thomas Mitchell, Public Works Director, Sam Powell and Building & Code Enforcement Officer Randy Gordon. Media was represented by Ron Bridgeman of the Barrow Journal.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. COUNCIL MEETING, FEBRUARY 21, 2017

Betty Lyle made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2017 council meeting as written. Gayle Steed seconded the motion, unanimous.

3. OLD BUSIENSS:

A. BARROW COUNTY WATER AUTORITY REQUEST- Adding Fire Hydrant

Mayor Bridges stated that Barrow County Water Authority is requesting a fire hydrant to be installed on Craft Rd. for fire protection only. There was one there on the bigger water line before but it blew up so this time it is being installed on the smaller water line.

Perry Barton made motion to approve the Fire Hydrant for fire protection only. Hattie Thrasher seconded the motion, unanimous.

B. PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL AMENDMENT

City Clerk Mai Chang explained that if Council agreed with the changes made from last week's meeting regarding the vacation, sick time and the statement on the overtime worked on a holiday pay than we can move forward.

Gayle Steed made motion to approve the changes in the Personnel Policy Manual amendment. Betty Lyle seconded the motion, unanimous.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

A. JOHNNIE ELLINGTON- Variance on Building Codes

Gayle confirmed if this variance was for Johnnie's addition at the back porch.

Gayle Steed made motion to approve the variance. Hattie Thrasher seconded the motion, unanimous.

B. PAVING AT COMMERCIAL DR.

Mayor Bridges stated that some money need to be moved from another account to be able to do some paving at Commercial Dr. Mayor Bridges stated that that money will need to be added back to the budget in the new budget.

Gayle Steed made motion to approve/amend budget and move money from Community Center Maintenance & Repair budget of \$22863.66 to Street and Sidewalk Repair. David Huth seconded the motion, unanimous.

C. PROFESSIONAL PROBATION SERVICES, INC. (PPS)

Thomas Mitchell stated that his recommendation with this contract is to execute for this year but put it on the calendar 90 days out before it runs out and seek new proposals next year. The City will run the risk of being without this services if it is not renewed.

Perry made motion to approve the PPS contract. Hattie Thrasher seconded the motion, unanimous.

D. RUN ADS IN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR A FEE

Mayor Bridges stated the City feels like we can run advertisement in the monthly newsletter to help.

Motion made to approve running advertisement in the monthly newsletter with David Huth, Gayle Steed, Perry Barton and Hattie Thrasher voting "yes". Betty Lyle abstain from voting. Motion passed.

E. AUDIT

Thomas Mitchell explained he does not have any more information on the audit. He also did not have a chance to discuss it with Mai and understand that the City is looking at different proposals. The City will retain the services of a third party to come in and assist in getting the ledger done to a point where the auditor feels comfortable to finish the audit.

No action needs to be done.

5. PUBLIC HEARING:

A. NOTICE OF APPEAL- 1960 STATHAM DR.

Thomas Mitchell explained that there is an administrative appeal by Statham Industrial LLC. They were denied a grading permit by Mr. Gordon and has filed an appeal. Thomas is going to assist in presenting the City side of the case in this matter. Mike Pruett from the Hall, Booth, Smith, PC in Athens will be in Thomas' place to help advise Council with regards to procedures tonight. Mike also does local government laws and represents some municipalities for most of his career.

The City's does not have ordinance for these kind of procedures and relatively informal and probably appropriate for Mayor and Council and Mr. Dillard to do an opening statement to give an outline of the case or proceed with evidence.

Doug Dillard, attorney for Statham Industrial LLC gave his opening statements to Mayor and Council regarding the hearing.

Thomas Mitchell also gave an opening statement to Mayor and Council.

Witnesses called were Randy Gordon, Simon Garret, John Stell and Robert Wall to testify.

The Appeal was documented by a court reporter and video recorded by a third party. Both Mr. Dillard and Mr. Mitchell gave a short "closing statement" to Mayor and Council. The Appeal ended around 11pm.

Mayor Bridges called on Council to take a vote.

Gayle Steed made motion to deny the appeal. David Huth seconded the motion, unanimous.

6. CITIZENS CONCERNS:

A. KELLY PICKENS- Audit

Kelly stated that they will submit the request in writing.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

8. ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Council, David Huth made a motion to adjourn. Hattie Thrasher seconded the motion, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 p.m.