

City Meeting Of July 18, 2023

Mayor Shaw called the meeting of the Mayor and Board of Alderman to order at 6:35 p.m., Tuesday, July 18, 2023. The meeting was held at City Hall.

Invocation

Bro. Dan Russell offered invocation. Mayor Shaw led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Shaw, Alderman Gregory, Alderman Harrison, Alderman Martin, Vice Mayor Senft, Kelly Rider, City Recorder, Attorney Russell Freeman

Absent:

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of June 20, 2023 were presented for approval or corrections.

Motion made by: Alderman Gregory

Second: Mayor Shaw

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

Motion Carried.

Vice Mayor Senft commented he has appreciated working with the different one on the board. He stated at his first meeting Bro. John Briggs offered the invocation and used the term servant leaders and prayed for them to do their best for the city. Vice Mayor Senft stated this prayer affected him. He realized he was there to serve and do his best as a steward and collectively as a board for the City of Ridgetop and its citizens.

Vice Mayor Senft commented the basis of the annual audit is to ensure compliance with the State Regulatory Commission. Vice Mayor Senft shared some positive points from the November 11, 2022, audit report by reading certain portions and notes.

The auditors commended the City of Ridgetop for its transparency and for how it handles its matters. The report thanked the employees for their compliance and courtesy.

Vice Mayor Senft read from *Management Judgment and Accounting Estimates* the basis for our conclusions as to the reasonableness of the estimates when considered in the context of the financial statements taken as a whole, as expressed in our auditor's report, is our review and tests of the process used by management to develop the estimates. During the year ended June 30,

2022, we are not aware of any significant changes in methodology surrounding accounting estimates or in management judgements relating to such estimates.

Significant Accounting Policies the City's significant accounting policies appear to be appropriate and comprehensive under U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Disagreements with Management for the purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. No such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Fraud and Illegal Acts we did not identify any fraudulent or illegal acts during the course of our audit. In addition, there were no fraudulent or illegal acts disclosed to us by management or the Board.

Vice Mayor Senft stated his last comment comes from a letter written to the city from Crosslin CPA. It stated, we have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud that effects the city or involves management (Mayor), employees (Kelly Rider, Jannet Beasley, Amber Mathis), or others. This is no fraud, there is nothing they have to report and no knowledge of instances, noncompliance or suspected noncompliance with the provisions, laws, regulations, contracts, grants, agreements, waste or abuse. Vice Mayor Senft commended Mayor Shaw and Ms. Kelly Rider and all the office staff on their work and efforts and commented the report is a reflection of their efforts.

Vice Mayor Senft stated this shows him that the mayor and employees are operating as transparent and upright as possible and gives him great comfort. He is pleased and proud to serve on this board and do his very best to make the best decisions he can. He stated he appreciated Pastor Dan Russell's prayer tonight. We need help in everything we do and the wisdom he would grant to us to do it.

Citizens Comments

None

Commissioners & Department Reports

Utilities:

Mayor Shaw reported the gas department completed sixty-seven 811 locates and relocated two gas services.

Mayor Shaw reported the sewer department pumped 13 tanks for I/I inspection and 3 tanks due to bad pumps and/or high sludge, changed out 3 pumps, located sixty-seven 811 locate tickets and helped with new main on Lake Road.

Mayor Shaw reported two lights were added on the shed behind the Wilson House, the Wilson House was pressure washed and the rock bed around the house was cleaned up.

Finance:

Kelly Rider reported it is time to start working on the yearly audit again.

Park:

Alderman Harrison reported there was a small event of living history last weekend.

Alderman Harrison reported the park board is working on Smoke on the Ridge. The event is looking for sponsors and vendors.

Streets:

Alderman Martin stated bids are out for street paving.

Fire:

No Report.

Planning and Zoning:

No Report.

Business Reports:

City Recorder:

Kelly Rider stated Alderman Martin inquired about her 5% mandatory elected officials pay increase at the workshop. Kelly explained she was unaware of any such mandatory requirement for cities and then shared the city code with her but today checked into Alderman Martin's question. The compensation was for certain county officials only and a cost of living adjustment for general sessions judges.

Attorney Freeman:

Attorney Freeman gave a brief concerning the Watauga School sewer issues and the need to reach out to the new school board director and county attorney to resolve the pending Elite Septic invoice.

Mayor Comments:

No Comments

Old Business:

No Old Business

New Business:

Resolution 23-10, A Resolution for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Allocation to purchase a John Deere Backhoe

Mayor Shaw made the motion to accept Resolution 23-10, A Resolution for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Allocation to purchase a John Deere Backhoe from Meade Tractor in the amount of \$138,938.00. Alderman Martin seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

Motion Carried.

Resolution 23-11, A Resolution Authorizing the City of Ridgetop to Participate in the Pool "Safety Partners" Loss Control Matching Safety Grant Program

Mayor Shaw made the motion to accept Resolution 23-11, A Resolution Authorizing the City of Ridgetop to Participate in the Pool "Safety Partners" Loss Control Matching Safety Grant Program. Alderman Martin seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

Motion Carried.

Ordinance 2023-104, An Ordinance to set the property tax rate at the certified tax rate for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

Mayor Shaw made the motion to approve Ordinance 2023-104, An Ordinance to set the property tax rate at the certified tax rate for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Alderman Martin seconded.

Alderman Gregory...yes

Alderman Harrison...yes

Alderman Martin...no

Vice Mayor Senft...yes

Mayor Shaw...yes

Motion Carried.

Appoint Park Board Member

Alderman Harrison made the motion to appoint Ralph Carter to the park board. Vice Mayor Senft seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

Motion Carried.

Bid Approval for playground mulch, sand and landscaping

Mayor Shaw made the motion to approve the bid for weed removal and spraying, and playground mulch from Recon Elite Services, LLC. in the amount of 5,100.00. Alderman Gregory seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

Motion Carried.

Mayor Shaw made the motion to approve the bid for rock removal and dump fees, new rock and new plants from Recon Elite Services, LLC. in the amount of 7,300.00 contingent on the design and completion of project to be completed by third week of September. Alderman Gregory seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

Motion Carried.

Bid Approval for leaf guards for firehall

Mayor Shaw made the motion to approve the bid for leaf guards for firehall from Gutter Cure in the amount of \$2,520. Alderman Harrison seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

Motion Carried.

City Workshop

Mayor Shaw made the motion to schedule workshop for August 14, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. Alderman Martin seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

Motion Carried.

There being no further business to come before the board, Alderman Harrison moved for adjournment. Alderman Gregory seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

Motion Carried.

Mayor Tim Shaw

Kelly Rider, City Recorder