

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2019  
TOWN OF SAWMILLS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
6:00 PM**

**COUNCIL PRESENT**

Mayor Johnnie Greene  
Keith Warren  
Clay Wilson

**STAFF PRESENT**

Karen Clontz  
Terry Taylor  
Julie A Good

**COUNCIL ABSENT**

Rebecca Johnson

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Johnnie Greene called the meeting to order at approximately 6:07pm.

**INVOCATION:** Reverend Frank Denny gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Johnnie Greene led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPT AGENDA:** Mayor Johnnie Greene asked for a motion to adopt the August 20, 2019 Agenda.

Clay Wilson made a motion, and Joe Norman seconded, to adopt the August 20, 2019 Agenda. All were in favor.

**APPROVE JULY 16, 2019 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:** Mayor Johnnie Greene asked for a motion to approve the July 16, 2019 regular meeting minutes.

Joe Norman made a motion, and Keith Warren seconded, to approve the July 16, 2019 regular meeting minutes. All were in favor.

**APPROVE JULY 29, 2019 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:** Mayor Johnnie Greene asked for a motion to approve the July 29, 2019 special meeting minutes.

Joe Norman made a motion, and Keith Warren seconded, to approve the July 29, 2019 special meeting minutes. All were in favor.

**APPROVE JULY 29, 2019 CLOSED SESSION MINUTES:** Mayor Johnnie Greene asked for a motion to approve the July 29, 2019 closed session minutes.

Keith Warren made a motion, and Joe Norman seconded, to approve the July 29, 2019 closed session minutes. All were in favor.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mayor Johnnie Greene asked if anyone had any questions or comments at this time.

No one wished to speak

**RECOGNITIONS:**

**RECYCLE REWARDS WINNER:** Mayor Johnnie Greene announced Mr. Adam Reese as the August Recycle Rewards winner. A credit of thirty-two dollars (\$32.00) will be added to his sanitation bill.

No Council action was required.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

**CALDWELL COUNTY SCHOOLS DONATION REQUEST:** Mayor Johnnie Greene stated that the Caldwell County Schools had requested a donation in the amount of fourteen thousand dollars (\$14,000.00).

Keith Warren made a motion, and Joe Norman seconded, to give a donation in the amount of fourteen thousand dollars (\$14,000.00) to the Caldwell County Schools. All were in favor.

**SURPLUS OF REFUSE TRUCKS:** Mayor Johnnie Greene stated that for the next three (3) years, the Town of Sawmills has contracted with Republic Services to collect trash for the town.

The Town currently owns three (3) refuse trucks. During the fiscal year 2019/2020 budget meetings, Council agreed to sell two (2) trucks and keep one (1) truck for possible future use. Once Council determines which trucks to sell, staff will begin taking bids and present them to Council.

Any funds collected for the trucks can be placed in a Capital Reserve, for future trash collection expenditure, if the Town chose to start collecting trash after the contract with Republic Services expires.

Estimates have been given from the original vendor for each truck as follows:

|                |                            |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| 2009 Mack/Heil | Approximately \$13,000.00  |
| 2013 Mack/Heil | Approximately \$30,000.00  |
| 2018 Mack/Heil | Approximately \$200,000.00 |

Keith Warren made a motion, and Joe Norman seconded, to start the bid process for the 2009 Mack/Heil truck and the 2018 Mack/Heil truck and any monies received are to be put in a Capital Reserve Fund. All were in favor.

**SURPLUS OF BALLFIELD POLES/LIGHTS:** Mayor Johnnie Greene stated that during fiscal year 2018/2019 the Town replaced the Baird Park ballfield lights and poles. The Town has received inquiries about purchasing the old ballfield poles and/or lights. There are nine (9) poles, that are approximately fifty-five (55) plus feet, sixty-three (63) lights and twenty-six (26) a-frames that can be sold, either together or separate.

Joe Norman made a motion, and Keith Warren seconded, to start the bid process for the poles and lights from Baird Park. All were in favor.

## **DISCUSSION:**

**TOWN CHARTER ADMENDMENT:** Mayor Johnnie Greene stated that during the June 18, 2019 Council Meeting, a resolution was presented to Council, for consideration, to change the form of government from Mayor-Council to Council-Manager.

During the July 16, 2019 Council Meeting, a Public Hearing was held to allow the public input regarding the charter amendment.

Clay Wilson made a motion, and Joe Norman seconded, to amend the charter for the Town of Sawmills, changing the form of government from Mayor-Council to Council Manager. All were in favor.

**AMI WATER METER SYSTEM REVIEW:** Mayor Johnnie Greene stated that the Town has partnered with MeterSys to conduct a feasibility and business analysis of installing an Advanced Metering Infrastructure water metering system in the Town of Sawmills.

The following is a proposed timeline for the project:

- Bid packets are due September 13, 2019 at 3:00pm
- Vender evaluations should be completed by October 10, 2019-Staff will review with the Public Works Committee
- Vender Selection, Capital Improvement Project and Budget Amendment should be on the October 15, 2019 Council Agenda
- Contract should be awarded with notice to proceed by October 31, 2019.

If Council approves the proposed project, Staff would like to discuss how to finance the project. The proposed project could be funded out of the General Fund with a Fund Balance Appropriation, out of the Utility Fund with a Net Asset Appropriation, an Equipment Installment Lease purchase contract, or a combination thereof.

Clay Wilson made a motion, and Joe Norman seconded, to finance the proposed AMI Water Meter System project out of the General Fund (60%) and the Utility Fund (40%), additional financing may be considered by Council, if the bids come in over the estimated costs of the

proposed AMI Water System project. All were in favor.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No one wished to speak

**AUGUST CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:** There are eight (8) code enforcement cases open:

- Chaney Carter, owner of 4361 Sawmills School Rd. Overgrown vegetation. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that a letter was sent on July 19, 2018, with a deadline of August 3, 2018. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that the nuisance was abated by the Town on August 10, 2018. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that a lien will be placed on the property for the cost of the mowing. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that a hearing was held on September 6, 2018, and Ms. Carter did not show so Town will proceed to demolish house. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that an asbestos test was performed on the property on July 25, 2019, and the test did find asbestos. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that DARI was contacted on August 8, 2019, to give the Town an estimate for abatement;
- Carolyn Bray/Robyn Brittian, 2570 Baker Circle. Abandoned mobile home. Town Planner Hunter Nestor states that he is working with Town Attorney Terry Taylor to abate. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that the Town can treat this as a junk and debris case and not minimum housing, and by doing so, can proceed after thirty (30) days with abatement;
- Horror Fields, Kiser-Sawmills, Helena St. Fence/buffer. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that a complaint was received on April 10, 2019. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that the property is not in compliance with the conditions set in CUP. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that a NOV letter was sent out on April 11, 2019, with a deadline of May 10, 2019. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that he made a site visit on May 30, 2019 and owner is working to get property in compliance but there are still some other areas that need to be addressed;
- Charles and Patsy Crotts, 4200 Crotts Mobile Home Park Dr. Overgrown vegetation. Town Planner Hunter Nestor received a written complaint on May 21, 2019. Town Planner Hunter Nestor sent a NOV letter with a deadline of June 3, 2019. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that the letter came back and was resent to updated address on May 28, 2019. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that he has not received a response and no progress has been made at the property as of August 13, 2019;
- Debra Baker, 4476 Rual Dr. Overgrown vegetation/garbage and rubbish. Town Planner Hunter Nestor received a written complaint on May 22, 2019. Town Planner Hunter Nestor sent a NOV letter with a deadline of June 11, 2019. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that he has received no response, but the property had been mowed as of August 13, 2019. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that the rest of the property is still not in compliance, but no other complaints have been made;

- Timberline Lumber Co, Inc, 4221 US Highway 321A. Overgrown Vegetation/Property Maintenance. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that he received a complaint on July 5, 2019 and sent a NOV letter on July 16, 2019. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that he has had no response as of August 8, 2019. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that he sent a second NOV letter on August 8, 2019, with a new deadline of August 20, 2019;
- Paul West, 2514 Crest Ln. Overgrown Vegetation/Garbage and Rubbish. Town Planner Hunter Nestor received a complaint on July 5, 2019. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated a NOV letter was sent on July 5, 2019 with a deadline of July 29, 2019. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that the letter was returned and was unable to forward. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that he contacted the taxing office and received a different address for the owner. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that he sent an additional NOV letter on August 13, 2019 with a deadline of August 26, 2019;
- Brian Poarch, 4166 Duff Dr. Overgrown Vegetation/Property Maintenance. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated that he received a complaint on August 7, 2019. Town Planner Hunter Nestor stated a NOV letter was sent on August 8, 2019 with a deadline of August 27, 2019.

No Council action was required.

**COUNCIL COMMENT:** Mayor Johnnie Greene asked if anyone on Council had any comments or questions at this time:

Clay Wilson stated that several people had called him about the homeless people at the farmer's market field again. Councilman Wilson stated that he had been asked if we can move the gazebo and lock the porta jons and handwashing stations so the homeless would not use them.

Keith Warren asked if Timberline had been sold and if not what our next step would be. Town Attorney Terry Taylor informed Council Timberline had not been sold and the Town could talk again about foreclosing on the property with a tax lien.

Interim Town Manager Karen Clontz stated that she had received information from Duke Energy that the walking trail at Veteran's Park should be started in 2021 and finished in 2022. Also, Interim Town Manager Karen Clontz stated that the new playground equipment at Baird Park should be delivered and set up by the end of September or the first of October.

**COUNCIL ADJOURN:** Mayor Johnnie Greene asked for a motion to adjourn.

Joe Norman made a motion, and Keith Warren seconded, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:40pm.

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Johnnie Greene, Mayor

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Julie A. Good, Town Clerk