

TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2008
TOWN OF SAWMILLS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 P.M.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Bobby Austin
Bob Gibbs
Gerelene Blevins
Beverly Fry
Eddie Bowman
Joe Norman

STAFF PRESENT

Robert Frye
Susan Noll

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Austin called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: Reverend Buford Pennell gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Austin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 3rd SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Austin asked for a motion to approve the June 3, 2008 minutes.

On a motion made by Eddie Bowman and seconded by Gerelene Blevins, the special minutes were approved. All were in favor.

ADOPT AGENDA: Mayor Austin asked for a motion to adopt the agenda.

On a motion made by Beverly Fry and seconded by Joe Norman, the agenda was adopted. All were in favor.

CONTINUE FY 2008-09 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING UNTIL JUNE 30th 2008:
The Town will be unable to hold a public hearing on June 17, 2008 for the proposed FY 2008-09 budget due to changes after being presented to the public.

On a motion made by Joe Norman and seconded by Eddie Bowman, the Council will hold a public hearing for adoption of the FY 2008-2009 budget to be held at a special Council meeting on June 30, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. All were in favor.

FINANCIAL MATTERS: PRESENTATION OF REVISED FY 2008-09 BUDGET:

Town Administrator Robert Frye presented the Council with the 2008-2009 FY Budget.

Total budget of: \$2,324,950.00

General Fund Budget of: \$1,743,850.00

Utility Fund Budget of: \$581,100.00

As required by State Law the budget is balanced.

The budget does not include any rate or tax increases.

Included is a \$376,900.00 fund balance appropriation to balance the budget.

There is also included in the budget a three percent cost of living raise for employees.

A first year debt service payment on a new automated trash truck for the Sanitation Department for \$79,000.00 is also included.

The Town's PART-F Grant in the amount of \$245,000.00 for the first year match is included in the budget also.

On a motion made by Gerelene Blevins and seconded by Joe Norman, the Council will present this budget at the June 30, 2008 public hearing. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION: LAWN UPKEEP ISSUES: The town is currently looking at properties inside the town that have issues with lawn upkeep.

Some of the property either is abandoned or is vacant and some of the owners of the property cannot afford to hire someone to help or is incapable of keeping up with the lawns.

Attached you will find a copy of the current ordinance that pertains to lawn upkeep.

After much discussion, Gerelene Blevins made a motion and Eddie Bowman seconded to send out enforcement letters to all property owners before proceeding with further action. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION: LAWN OF THE WEEK PROGRAM: Councilwoman Gerelene Blevins discussed the town sponsoring a yard of the week. The Mayor suggested Councilwoman Blevins talk to some of the people at her church to see if they would be willing to sponsor this.

No Council action is required.

DISCUSSION: PERSONNEL HIRING PROCEDURES: Town Administrator Robert Frye would like to change the hiring procedures for Public Works personnel.

This would be the new hiring procedures if Council approves:

The Council would hire Public Works Director (1) and Assistant Public Works Director (1). The Public Works Director and the Town Administrator would hire Sanitation Department Team Leader (1), Water Department Team Leader (1). Public Works Team Leader (1), General Laborers (4) as long as the position is funded in the budget and there are no additional salary adjustments.

On a motion made by Joe Norman and seconded by Eddie Bowman the Public Works, hiring procedures will be changed. Those opposed to the new hiring procedure were Councilman Bob Gibbs, and Councilwoman Gerelene Blevins. Those for the hiring procedure were Councilman Joe Norman, Councilwoman Beverly Fry, and Councilman Eddie Bowman.

JOINT TOWN/FIRE DEPT. 20TH AND 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Mayor Bobby Austin stated that Chief Greg Wilson from the Fire Department has approached him and asked if the town would like to have a joint celebration for the town's 20-year anniversary and the Fire Departments 50 year anniversary.

Mayor Austin stated that Chief Wilson was gone this week. When Chief Wilson returns Mayor Austin will get together to discuss when and how the celebration should take place.

Mayor Austin stated that this item would be discussed at the next meeting to give enough time to discuss this joint celebration with Chief Wilson.

No Council action was required.

TOWN HALL MEETING: Mayor Austin asked if anyone had signed up to speak at the Town Hall meeting.

The following people spoke:

Mr. Johnny Wilson spoke on the budget and stated that he would be willing to help with the lawn of the week.

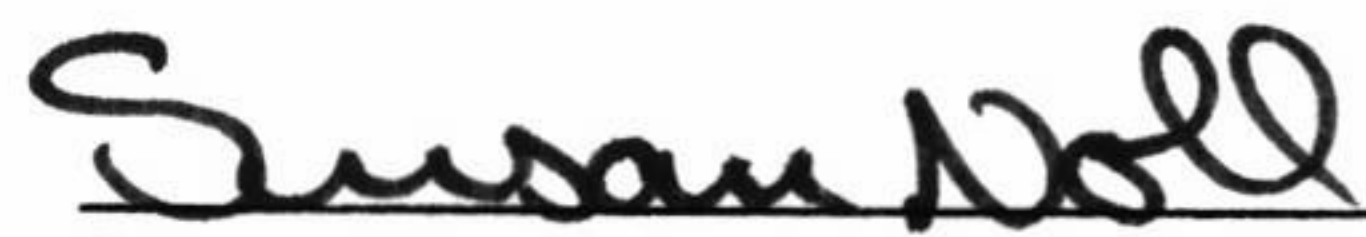
Mr. Lewis Miller expressed his concern over Town Administrator Robert Frye's conduct.

Mr. George Featherbay spoke on raising taxes and said that he felt the parks were a waste of town money.

Mr. Clarence Fare is concerned about raising taxes, how hard it is for people to get permits, and the town's debt.

ADJOURN: Mayor Austin asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion made by Joe Norman and seconded by Eddie Bowman, the meeting was adjourned.



Susan Noll, Town Clerk

Bobby Austin, Mayor