

**AGENDA BRIEFING AND WORK SESSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 6, 2023
MINUTES**

The Rural Hall Town Council held their agenda briefing and workshop meeting on September 6, 2023, at 3:00 PM in Town Hall Council Chambers. The following members were present: Mayor Timothy M. Flinchum - presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Susan H. Gordon; Councilman Terry M. Bennett; Councilwoman Janet M. Carithers; Councilman Eddie Horn; Interim Town Manager Ron Niland; Interim Finance Director Homer Dearmin; Public Works Director Jason Hill; Fire Chief Mike Simone; and Town Clerk Lynette E. Hendrick.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Town Clerk Lynette E. Hendrick.

A moment of silence was held.

Adoption of Agenda:

Councilman Terry Bennett made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Susan Gordon to adopt the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements and Meeting Updates:

The proclamation for 9/11 Day of Remembrance was read by the Mayor Timothy Flinchum Rural Hall Citizens Academy Graduation September 11.

Unfinished Business

Fire Chief Mike Simone stated that the committee has been working on the floor plans of the new Fire Station and will have something in October to present to the council. Interim Town Manager Ron Niland stated the Town Attorney, Hugh Campbell, is working on the documents with the owners of the Stauber Apartment Buildings on Broad Street. The documents will be presented at the regular meeting on September 11. The Council will vote on the resolution to authorize the Interim Town Manager Ron Niland to sign the documents associated with the purchase of this property. Interim Town Manager Ron Niland stated the funds to purchase this property are in the FY 23/24 Budget.

Fire Chief Mike Simone has received a quote from Double D Construction on the testing and demolition of the Stauber Building, this will also be presented to Council to vote on at the September 11 meeting.

New Business/ Items of Discussion:

Public Works Director Jason Hill explained to the Council the reason for not wanting to close Broad St. this year for Halloween. Highway 74 is directing a lot of large truck traffic, and this would cause a hazard if we tried to direct them into the neighborhoods. Jason also mentioned we do not have the authority to send the larger vehicles a different direction at Highway 74 and US 52. Instead of closing Broad St. we asked the neighbors that wanted to join the Town at Covington Park for a trunk or treat. The Council stated the kids would still come to Broad St. to trick-or-treat and requested the officers and staff arrange designated crosswalk safety at a few locations across Broad St. The Council agreed this would be a good option as long as the kids were safe. Town will have a Halloween event on October 28, in conjunction with several of the area churches.

Deputy Michael Collins reported that Rural Hall Elementary staff like having him at drop off and pick up each school day. Traffic has been operating smoothly. Deputy Holley has settled in nicely.

Interim Town Manager Ron Niland mentioned that in the agenda package is the Towns existing Peddlers and Solicitors Policy. If this is something that needs to be revised to address panhandling and homeless camps, we can ask Town Attorney Hugh Campbell to draft something that can be voted on at the next meeting.

Interim Town Manager Ron Niland stated he had asked Town Attorney Hugh Campbell to update our public comment policy and it was in the agenda package for the council's review. Ron asked the council to review

the proposed policy, and it will be voted on at the next meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Susan Gordon and Councilwoman Janet Carithers wanted the time limit to 5 minutes instead of 3.

Mayor Timothy Flinchum stated that the Clerk had emailed him the list of names that were submitted to her for five members who were willing to serve on the Recreation Advisory Committee. Mayor Timothy Flinchum stated there would be five on this committee, the names are as follows: Tim White, Josh Chunn, Randy Thomas, Torri Miller, and Kasey Norman. Councilwoman Janet Carithers stated she had already asked James Crawford and that he was expecting to serve on this committee. Mayor Timothy Flinchum approved the sixth member. Letters will be sent to these members letting them know the Council has voted and approved them to serve on the Parks Recreation Committee.

Interim Town Manager Ron Niland stated he had received information from two companies interested in developing the Recreation Master Plan for Rural Hall. Ron and the Interim Finance Director will review these packages and bring a recommendation to the board at the September 11 regular meeting.

Interim Finance Director Homer Dearmin gave the financial report for FY 22/23. He stated the Town was in good financial condition and was working with the CPA firm to get documents ready to complete the audit. He mentioned there will be a budget amendment presented at the September 11 meeting for transferring funds for the Recreation Master Plan.

Interim Town Manager Ron Niland mentioned he had been approached by Lyndel Payne requested to use Town Hall for a Candidate Forum. This will not be organized by staff and completely facilitated by Lyndel Payne and Alison Coward. The Council agreed the forum could take place in the Town Hall facilities.

Board Comments/Questions

Interim Manager Ron Niland introduced the newest town employee Alston Brown. He will be working part-time Wednesday-Friday with Fridays being remote until he graduates from ASU.

The Council wanted to thank everyone for coming, welcomed Alston, and thanked staff for all their hard work.

Councilwoman Janet Carithers mentioned the Historic Depot was having an open house September 16.

Interim Manager Ron Niland mentioned the town had received 9 applications for the Town Managers position so far. The last date to receive applications is September 15.

Mayor Pro Tem Susan Gordon made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:16 pm

Lynette E. Hendrick
Town Clerk