

Tyrone Town Council Minutes

August 6, 2009

Present:

Mayor Don Rehwaldt
Councilman Tracy Young
Councilwoman Grace Caldwell
Councilwoman Gloria Furr
Town Manager Chris Venice
Town Attorney Dennis Davenport
Town Clerk Nancy Goedker
Finance Manager Penny Hunter

Councilman Eric Dial was not present.

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

A short invocation was given by Nancy Goedker, Town Clerk, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

Hank Sanak, 2035 Castle Lake Drive, asked who was responsible for paying the electrical bill for the street lights in the Castle Lake Subdivision. He stated that when a home owner called to have a street light repaired, EMC stated that the bill has never been paid. Mr. Sanak added that all the street lights were supposed to be installed when the subdivision was built, but the lights he is referring to were not installed until about four years ago. Mr. Sanak's understanding is that all subdivision street lights are paid for by the Town.

Approval of Minutes:

There were no minutes to approve.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilwoman Caldwell, seconded by Councilman Young, approved 3-0.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION:

There were no presentations or recognitions.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration of Employee Group Insurance Plans and Rates.

Karen Larkin, Midsouth Planning, stated that Midsouth Planning is an independent broker, representing the Town of Tyrone with the employee benefits program. She stated that 60 days

prior to renewing a benefit plan Midsouth receives a quote from Aetna with a renewal increase, decrease, or no change. This year the renewal was increased by 10 percent. She added this is very reasonable, however it is Midsouth's job to look at other options to get the Town the best rate. Coventry, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Kaiser, Assurant, Humana, UHC and Principal were all contacted and none of these carriers were able to compete with Aetna's renewal rate for the Town. Ms. Larkin stated that a buy-up option has been included to give the employees a choice; to keep their current plan or to buy-up to a plan which offers a lower deductible and a lower co-pay. She stated that the current medical plan has a \$1,500 deductible with 100 percent coverage, after the deductible has been met, and a co-pay of \$30. The buy-up option has a \$1,000 deductible with 100 percent coverage, after the deductible has been met, and a co-pay of \$20. The employee will have to pay about \$17 extra per month if they choose the buy-up option. Ms. Larkin stated that Midsouth also went out to the marketplace in regards to the Dental plan. Midsouth recommended that the Town stay with Ameritas. She added that the Town has a very good benefit plan with Ameritas. Even with a 12 to 13 percent increase, Ameritas is still much lower than any other carrier. Ms. Larkin added that there was no increase to the voluntary Vision plan, Long Term Disability, Life Insurance or Short Term Disability. Ms. Larkin added that many employers are introducing an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to help employees deal with personal problems that might adversely impact their work performance, health, and well-being. She stated that both Aetna and Mutual of Omaha offer a telephonic assistance program where the employee and their families can call and speak with a counselor. If additional assistance is needed the employee or family member is referred to an outside service.

Councilwoman Caldwell asked for confirmation that there is a 10 percent increase in the premiums with Aetna and a 12 to 13 percent increase for the Ameritas Dental plan. Ms. Larkin affirmed that this is correct. Councilwoman Caldwell asked Penny Hunter, Financial Manager, how much the budget was increased to cover health benefits. Ms. Hunter stated that a 15 percent increase was budgeted for the Dental and Vision plans and a 10 to 12 percent increase was budgeted to the medical benefit plan.

Councilman Young asked if staff is requesting the renewal of the Aetna POS 704 plan and offer the POS 912 plan as a buy up option to the Town employees. Ms. Larkin affirmed that was correct. Councilman Young asked what was being offered for the Dental. Ms. Larkin stated that the Town will stay with the current Ameritas plan. Ms. Larkin added that the renewal start date for coverage will change from September 1st to October 1st.

Motion to renew the POS 704 Aetna Health Plan, renew the same Dental and Vision plan and offer the buy up POS 912 plan for the Town employees was made by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilwoman Furr, approved 3-0.

2a. Consideration to adopt the resolution in support of the Fayette County Board of Commissioners calling for a Special Election regarding the renewal of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) in November 2009.

There was no discussion on this item. (Resolution #2009-008)

Motion to adopt the resolution in support of the Fayette County Board of Commissioners calling for a Special Election for SPLOST was made by Councilwoman Caldwell, seconded by Councilman Young, approved 3-0.

b. Consideration to adopt the resolution of the Intergovernmental Agreement with the County for the use and distribution of proceeds from the 2009 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) for Capital Outlay projects.

Councilwoman Caldwell thanked Jack Smith, Fayette County Board of Commissioners for attending the meeting. Councilwoman Caldwell stated that she had several concerns with the SPLOST agreement between the County and the Town. One item of concern is the extension of the current SPLOST. Councilwoman Caldwell's understanding is that the current SPLOST was for five years, which expires on March 31, 2010 and was for transportation use only. She added that the proposed agreement is for an additional six years and the expected revenues to be generated during this six year period will be approximately \$136 million, to begin on April 1, 2010. She asked when the current SPLOST was presented, a formula was agreed upon and the proposed agreement put Tyrone's percentage 4.29 percent and she asked how is this formula calculated? Jack Smith stated it was based on statutory requirements shared by population of the qualifying cities in the County based on the census. He added that since there will not be another census until 2010 the County had to fall back to the 2000 census. This is the same census that used to calculate the formula for the proposed SPLOST. Councilwoman Caldwell stated that Tyrone has had a growth period since 2000 and that 4.29 percent is low and it would be nice if Tyrone could get an increase that was reasonable the Town's growth. Another concern that Councilwoman Caldwell addressed was the \$11 million for transportation; she asked Mr. Smith to define transportation. Mr. Smith stated that the existing SPLOST calls for two primary bypasses in the County; the East Fayetteville Bypass and the West Fayetteville Bypass. When the existing SPLOST began, the anticipation of the SPLOST funds were to be used as matching funds against both the State and Federal grants. When the State and Federal trust funds, for road construction, dried up the County realized then that without these grants these two bypasses would not be constructed. Mr. Smith stated that the County looked at what the cost was to complete the East Fayetteville Bypass versus the West Fayetteville Bypass. The West Fayetteville Bypass was chosen based on cost. He stated that the East Fayetteville Bypass was not terminated, the County only voted to slow down spending. Within the next six years period there may be a resurgent of State and Federal grants. The \$11 million earmarked for transportation will be used as matching funds to complete the East Fayetteville Bypass, which is on the existing SPLOST as a County wide transportation plan. He added that the dilemma that the County faces is that they are restricted by law to spend the money explicitly for what the County says they are going to spend it on. The County does not know at this time if they will be able to garner either State or Federal or both grants to complete the East Fayetteville Bypass. He added that if the County commits this money to the East Fayetteville Bypass in writing, in the SPLOST, they are restricted to that use. If the County does not receive any grant funds to finish this bypass then the County is stuck. Mr. Smith stated that the County is trying to leave the description for transportation general enough so if they do not receive any SPLOST fund assistance, State or Federal, the County can use this funding for other identified transportation projects. Councilwoman Caldwell asked if she could be assured that the \$11 million for transportation will not be used for mass transportation. Mr. Smith affirmed absolutely. This money would not be used for mass transportation. Councilwoman Caldwell clarified that at the

first level the County gets \$55 million to pay for the Justice Center. Then at the second level the County gets \$18 million, for a total of \$73 million and the cities get what is left based on the formula. Mr. Smith stated that the County has reworked the formula and set up a cash flow sharing and as the money is collected it will be shared between these projects, the cities and the unincorporated County. Councilman Caldwell asked Mr. Smith to expand on the \$5 million for the University Campus. Mr. Smith stated that there has been a movement within the County to get a higher education facility. The original intent was to have a campus for Griffin Technical College. But about four or five years ago Clayton State showed an interest in opening a campus in Fayette County. Through the Chamber of Commerce and the Development Authority Clayton State arranged to have rooms at the Tennis Center. Clayton State has been utilizing these rooms for classroom instruction, starting with non-credit courses and the college has now moved into credit courses. The County has continued to offer something for Clayton State and they now have a campus in a rented facility. Mr. Smith stated that if Clayton State had the facilities they would offer full degree programs. Mr. Smith stated that the \$5 million is seed money to have a campus; whether is it Clayton State, Georgia State or Griffin Tech, that will provide resources for higher education. There is no preconceived notion of what college or university, where the facility will be located or what the dynamic will look like. Councilwoman Caldwell asked what if no college or university is interested in Fayette County. Mr. Smith stated that there are several higher educational institutions interested in coming to the County.

Motion to adopt the resolution for the Intergovernmental Agreement with the County for the use and distribution of proceeds from the 2009 SPLOST for Capital Outlay projects was made by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilwoman Furr, approved 3-0.

c. Consideration of the Town Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) projects list.

There was no discussion on this item

Motion to approve the Town SPLOST projects was made by Councilwoman Caldwell, seconded by Councilman Young, approved 3-0.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda was made by Councilwoman Caldwell, seconded by Councilwoman Furr, approved 3-0.

3. Approval to adopt a resolution to appoint the Town Clerk as the Election Superintendent and the Administrative Assistant as the Assistant Election Superintendent for the November 3, 2009 General Election. (Resolution #2009-007)
4. Approval of contract with SAFEbuilt to provide building inspection services.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Staff Comments

Chief Perkins presented a change order quote from Green Forest Construction for an additional \$5,500 to have the Police Department basement renovations engineered. He stated that when Green Forest went to pull the permits, they were told they needed an engineering drawing. He added that the quote is from a conversation between SAFEbuilt and Green Forest. He stated that in order to have the basement meet Town code, Green Forest will need to have blue prints drawn up to show HVAC, plumbing, electrical and handicapped access. Chief Perkins asked for approval to spend an additional \$5,500, out of drug funds, to have the basement renovations engineered.

Motion to approve the additional \$5,500 was made by Councilwoman Caldwell, seconded by Councilwoman Furr, approved 3-0.

Nancy Goedker, Town Clerk, presented Council with an Intergovernmental Agreement for Fayette County to conduct the Municipal Election on November 3, 2009. Ms. Goedker asked for Council's approval of this agreement.

Motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Fayette County to conduct the Municipal Election on November 3, 2009 was made by Councilwoman Furr, seconded by Councilman Young, approved 3-0.

Penny Hunter, Finance Manager, stated that the Town has received the property tax and millage digests from the County. She stated that Council will have to decide whether to keep the rate the same, or have an increase. She stated that the digest has to be submitted back to the County by August 28th. She added that if there is an increase there needs to be three public hearings, two on the same day. The public hearings will have to be advertised one week prior to a scheduled meeting. Ms. Hunter stated that the first public hearing will be held on August 18th. One meeting will be held in the morning and a second meeting will be held in the evening. Ms. Hunter stated that a third meeting, to adopt the millage rate, will be held either Tuesday, August 25th or Wednesday, August 26th. After a short discussion it was decided to have two meetings on August 18th, one in the morning and one in the evening and to have the third meeting, to adopt the millage rate, on Thursday, August 27th at 6:30 pm.

Ms. Hunter also stated that the year end revenue over expenses is at \$350,000. The accruals for vacation, sick and compensatory time, as required by the auditors, has reduced the previous revenue to expense number reported to Council. She added that there is still about \$10,000 to \$20,000 in revenues that still need to be booked. Ms. Hunter stated that she was currently working on the liabilities and expenses.

She added that staff was working very hard and made reference to all the reconciliation journal entries that have been completed in the last three weeks. She added that the extra temporary assistance from the CPA has been a big help.

Council Comments

There were no Council comments.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilwoman Furr, approved 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.

By: _____
Don Rehwaldt, Mayor

Attest: _____
Nancy J. Goedker, Town Clerk