

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
January 10, 2023

Council Members: Mayor Paige, CM Reams, CM Venable, CM Baker

Council Members Absent: VM Moss, C M Harris, CM Frank

Others: Clerk Reams, Consultant Dennis Carney, Supervisor Gilliam, Jimmie O’Bryant, Sandra Moss

Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.

Open the Meeting: The meeting was held at 1030 Main Street, Dillwyn, VA (Town Hall). Mayor Paige established that a quorum was not present. This is an informational meeting only.

Supervisor Gilliam: Supervisor District 2: Two issues: The Town approved a decision for holding campaign meetings for other candidates for the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors, District 2. Mr. Gilliam stated that he is a business owner and pays taxes to the Town. Mr. Gilliam states that this could be seen as taking sides or support of one candidate over another. Mr. Gilliam disapproves of this decision.

CM Venable points out that the Dillwyn Town Council does not take sides or show partiality. The Town Council is a neutral party. Also, allowing meetings for the campaign is not illegal. The Town Hall building is a public building and open to anyone who would like to use it. There are other organizations that hold meetings at Town Hall like Habitat for Humanity as well as others. The candidates must understand that the building will not be used for campaigning, but strictly as a meeting place for campaign committees. There will be no signage or other political campaigning happening at Town Hall.

Mr. O’Bryant also does not agree with the decision for holding campaign meetings at Town Hall. Mr. Carney pointed out that the parking lot and Buckingham County Courthouse area was used for Mr. Bob Good’s campaign. Supervisor Gilliam stated that was used by the parties of the candidates and not for one specific political party.

Secondly, he would like to request the use of Town Hall for campaign meetings for the candidacy for Supervisor, District 2, Buckingham County Board of Supervisors for the election upcoming in November 2023. Mr. Gilliam is requesting the use of the building for his campaign meetings.

This discussion was tabled until the next Town Council meeting. The contact persons for setting up the dates and times for the meetings will be the Mayor or the Clerk. The cost is \$50 for each meeting for any candidate wishing to use Town Hall.

Dennis Carney, Consultant: Mr. Walton signed the contract for renovating Town Hall on January 6, 2023. Mr. Walton plans to begin work in February 2023. Council will need to choose the colors for paint and trim as well as the colors and styles for the bathroom. There are plans to install a glass door to replace the existing door. The door will open into Town Hall instead of opening out towards the street as it does now. The Clerk’s office will also have a glass door. Council is asked to reply to either the email or text message regarding this matter. The ADA lift is still in the beginning stages. The decision to where to install is still up in the air at this time. Town Hall needs an ADA lift on the building to become ADA compliant. Mr. Walton is excited to be working with the Town Council on this project. He will have a dumpster and a storage pod placed behind Town Hall during the renovations. The Clerk will email the

councilmembers to see what and/or where to hold the meetings during the renovations being completed.

A suggestion was made to appoint someone to check on violations that are happening in the Town. Mr. O'Bryant suggested to hire Mr. Carney for this position.

Mrs. Sandra Moss says that people are frustrated by not seeing any actions being taken to end these violations to the ordinances throughout the Town. Mr. Carney said that he may be interested in the position but may not be available for long. He has listed his home for sale and plans to move to another state when he sells the home.

CM Venable suggests creating a subcommittee for the Ordinances. Start with addressing the biggest concerns first under the existing Ordinance. It was pointed out by Mayor Paige that there is already an Ordinance in place and there is also a committee already formed.

A discussion was had regarding the enforcement of the ordinance. Also, a discussion about the steps to take in order to get them to Court. The Town Council cannot close a business that may be in violation of the Ordinance or Zoning. Only a judge can order a business to close.

COMMITTEES:

Finance – Linda Paige, Karen Sue Moss, Ossie J. Harris, III, Janel Venable

Town Buildings/Grounds – Ossie J. Harris, III, Gilbert W. Reams

Planning Commission – Karen Sue Moss, James O'Bryant, Bill Carmines, Joseph Patterson, Beverly Hudgins-King, Dennis W. Carney

Beautification – Gilbert Reams, Sandra Moss, Mark Brown, Tricia Taylor

Ordinance – Linda Paige, Karen Sue Frable-Moss, Sharon Baker, Janel Venable, Rachel Frank

Christmas Parade – Linda Paige, Diane Holman-James, Sarah Walker, Sharon Baker, Rachel Frank

Community Service Workers – Linda Paige, RW Maxey, Janel Venable

Halloween Event – Sharon Baker, Gilbert W. Reams, Melissa Wallace, Buckingham Chamber of Commerce, Adrian Jones, Rachel Frank

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.