**MINUTES**

**TURBEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**January 11, 2022**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Mayor Kathryn Turbeville, Councilmembers Herbert Mims,

Albert Mobley, Judy Coker, and Doyl Gray

**Others Present:** Town Clerk Kaitlin Alexander, Town Administrator Bill Taylor, and Clarendon County Councilman Benton Blakely

Mayor Turbeville called the town council meeting to order at 6:30 pm and declared that a quorum was present. **Councilmember Mims** offered the invocation.

1. A motion was made by **Councilmember Mims** to adopt the meeting agenda as presented**.** The motion was seconded by **Councilmember Coker** and passed by unanimous vote.
2. Mayor Turbeville asked if anyone was present who wished to address the council. County Councilman **Benton Blakely** asked if the Town of Turbeville had spoken with Duke Energy to see about possibly applying for funding from one of their grant programs. Mayor Turbeville stated she would contact Theo Lane, District Manager with Duke Energy, about the programs and what would qualify for funding. He stated that Clarendon County is wanting to get the new fire station completed in a timely manner. The new station will be located near the children’s home property. Councilman Blakely asked what improvements could be made to the recreational fields and the parking area in Turbeville. Mayor Turbeville noted that the county currently has a lease with the town for that property and that that could be discussed further.
3. Mayor Turbeville introduced for council’s consideration the minutes from the November 9, 2021, regular council meeting. Councilmember Mims made a motionto approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by **Councilmember Gray** and passed by unanimous vote.
4. Mayor Turbeville introduced the first reading of **Ordinance No. 2022 – 01. An Ordinance to Amend Certain Planning and Zoning Fees.** Town Administrator Taylor stated the original ordinance was adopted in 1995. The current rates will not even cover the cost of placing public notices in the newspaper or cover other administrative costs. He also stated the new fee rates are similar to towns and counties that are similar in size to Turbeville, but the new fee rates are still lower than most. Councilmember Coker made a motion to approve the new fees. The motion was seconded by **Councilmember Gray** and passed by unanimous vote.
5. Mayor Turbeville introduced for council’s consideration **Resolution 2022-R-01. A Resolution Approving a New Fee Schedule for Building Permits and Inspections.** Administrator Taylor stated the town’s building permit and inspection fees are significantly lower than they should be and that he has been working with Town Inspector Curt Whaley to develop a new fee schedule. **Councilmember Gray** asked if the council could take the new fee schedule table so he could look over them and stated he did not agree with charging people for certain projects. **Councilmember Mims** asked for a copy of the current rates and rates from other counties and towns so he could compare them to the new proposed rates. Administrator Taylor said council could take a copy of the new fee schedule to review and that he could develop a chart that would show the difference with the new rate schedule. The council opted not to vote on the ordinance until further review.
6. Mayor Turbeville introduced for council’s consideration the adoption of policies relative to compliance with requirements of Section 504 and the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. Administrator Taylor said that any entity receiving federal funding is required to be compliant with these regulations which requires that local governments make every effort possible to ensure that those with disabilities have access to town facilities and programs. Because of that, compliance requires an evaluation of the town properties open to the public that looks at the access to the property and any issues that might hinder such access. For example, the Turbeville Town Hall parking area is required to have two handicapped parking spaces but only one space is currently designated. He noted that when elections are held at Town Hall the back door is not easily accessible to anyone with physical disabilities and the only ramp is at the front door. **Councilmember Gray** made a motion to approve the adoption of these policies. The motion was seconded by **Councilmember Mobley** and passed by unanimous vote.
7. **Councilmember Gray** asked Administrator Taylor what lawsuit he was referring to in his Administrator’s Report and that he was under the assumption that the police department lawsuit was dead. Administrator Taylor said the plaintiffs in the lawsuit against the town’s police department have appealed the judge’s decision to deny a class action lawsuit against the department. The judge’s decision was based on the fact that the town had disbanded its police department and municipal court. The town did not include much in the way of legal fees in the current budget but needs to continue to defend the case. The town had also submitted all past due assessments to the state for victims’ assistance. These funds had originally been withheld from the state pending the disposition of the case and the possibility that they might need to be returned to those receiving the challenged traffic violations should the town lose the case.
8. **Councilmember Gray** also asked who owned the beauty shop/history center on the town square. Administrator Taylor told him the town owns it and there, apparently, was some type of arrangement, years ago, that allows Mrs. Boykin to use the beauty shop located on one side. He noted, however, that he had yet to locate any sort of lease or other agreement to that effect in any file or in previous council meeting minutes. **Councilmember Gray** stated he believed we should charge Mrs. Boykin rent to use the beauty shop. Taylor indicated that he would do some further investigating and provide council with that information at an upcoming meeting.
9. Mayor Turbeville reported that there was an issue that needed to be discussed in Executive Session**.** The issue was an **employment matter** in accordance with **§30-40-70(a)(1)** of the State Code. **Councilmember Mims** made a motion to enter Executive Session. The motion was seconded by **Councilmember Gray** and passed by unanimous vote.
10. The Council returned from Executive Session**. Councilmember Gray** made a motion to re-enter the regular session. The motion was seconded by **Councilmember Mims** and passed by unanimous vote. Mayor Turbeville stated that while in executive session, no decisions were made, nor votes taken.

1. **Councilmember Gray** made a motion to approve **Resolution 2022-R-02**. **A Resolution Approving Premium Pay to Certain Employees with American Rescue Plan Funds and Declaring that Such Pay is a One-time, Lump Sum Payment and Not Part of the Regular Salary Base.** The motion was seconded by **Councilmember Mobley** and passed by unanimous vote.

1. There being no further business, **Councilmember Mims** made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by **Councilmember Mobley** and passed by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at **7:30 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Kaitlin Alexander**

Town Clerk