

DECEMBER 16, 2004

TOWN OF BROOKLET
COUNCIL MEETING

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER; Mayor Grooms

2. INVOCATION; Mayor Grooms

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER MEETING.

Council reviewed the minutes and Councilman Newman noted an error in the 4-H Group discussion. The BCD A (Brooklet Community Development Authority) not DCA would like to help. Councilwoman Prosser noted on page 4, repairs are being done (not one) on broken water lines. Councilman Wynn made a motion the minutes be accepted as presented with the corrections made as noted. Motion seconded by Councilman Rich and passed with all ayes.

4. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

Councilman Rich reviewed the balances from the General Fund and Water Fund accounts, noting the purchase of the new patrol car last month, also expenses of \$11,813.43 for the new Administrative Building. He also mentioned the increase in the Water fund balance from two years ago. Councilman Rich also had a recommendation concerning the employee's Christmas Bonus. He would like to offer employees \$500.00 each for a Christmas Bonus. The budget has contingencies under each department to be used. The employees have given us extremely good service in the past years. Councilman Newman asked how much bonus was being paid at this point. Mayor Grooms read from minutes of 12/09/96 meeting. \$50.00 base for the first year and \$10.00 for each additional year and \$100.00 was the limit. Mayor Grooms thinks we should wait till next budget. Councilman Rich is willing to come up with a budget amendment next month to increase employees salaries contingent on what we do tonight. We can afford a bonus this year. Councilman Wynn thinks it should be based on our bottom line at the end of each year. Councilwoman Prosser would like to increase the base more than \$50.00, but new employees should not get as much as ones working for several years. Councilman Wynn asked what if we made a base of \$250.00 plus \$50.00 per year till it reaches \$500.00. After some discussion, Councilman Rich made a motion to start Christmas Bonus at \$250.00 and \$50.00 added for each year of service with the city up to \$500.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis and passed with all ayes. Next year there will be another review, maybe more, maybe less. Councilman Rich made a motion to accept the financial reports as distributed. Motion seconded by Councilman Newman and passed with all ayes.

S. RECOGNITION OF GUEST;

1. SHERRY RICH, FOLLOW UP FROM LAST MONTH.

Mayor Grooms reports at present time, our employees are pretty close to what, not exactly but you got to consider the town pays 100% of their health insurance, \$473.00 a month per person and retirement. Take all of this into consideration. This is his follow up at this time.

Ms. Rich feels this does not have any bearing on what the employee is being paid. Salaries are still below average for a town this size. Benefits and vacations vary in different places. From hearing the financial reports it seems the town can afford to give a pay raise and the better use for this money is to pay your employees. The bonus is a good gesture, but you still need to take a good hard look at the salaries. Councilwoman Prosser is in favor of giving employees a raise each year. Councilman Wynn thinks since we have had a request from a citizen representing the other citizens, why don't we review this at the next meeting and see what we can do. Ms. Rich thought this a was good idea and she does not want it to get shoved under the table and forgotten about.

2. BARNEY SINEATH had stopped by the cafeteria and it looks good, but asked about the interior floor plans. Councilman Newman said some carpet, some tile, and some hardwood floors. Everything will be covered. Mr. Sineath assumes the fence on the school property is still on hold. He asked if Mr. Hall was going to resign as the town attorney of if it was just a rumor. Mayor Grooms had not heard that he was going to resign. Councilwoman Prosser feels this is something we need to think about, after what Mike said last month. Councilman Rich advised it may come up under other business.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS;

1. COUNCILMAN RICH; No further report.

2. COUNCILMAN DAVIS; Billy Taylor had to cut another hole in the road because of a broken water line. Councilman Davis had Billy go out and but an impact hammer drill. The county dug up a fire hydrant last night, while digging out ditches.

3. COUNCILWOMAN PROSSER thinks everything is running today. There is a water leak on the garbage truck and the heater is not working. Councilman Wynn wants council to think about the purchase of a new truck in the near future.

4. COUNCILMAN NEWMAN had more bids to present.
B. H Construction for trim work, labor, hang doors, and door knobs. Labor \$3,800.00.

Howard Lumber Buldg. Center for casing and Base Molding, \$1,741.60. The quote from Lowe's for this was \$3,158.40. Councilman Rich made a motion to accept the bids from B. H Construction and Howard Lumber Co. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Prosser and passed with all ayes.

The only quote available for installing suspended ceilings was from Teddy Parker & Co. To install the tile gird and material and labor would be \$6,800.00. The quote including insulation would be \$8,400.00. Councilwoman Prosser made a motion to accept the bid from Teddy Parker. Motion seconded by Councilman Wynn and passed with all ayes. Councilman Newman needs to find a painter with W. C. Insurance.

The BCD A is donating four old pictures of Brooklet to hang on the back wall of the council room.

5. COUNCILMAN WYNN had no report.

6. CHIEF MUNDY; Officer Buchan completed radar class and is doing required riding time with a certified officer. He advised everyone to be safe for the holidays and sign up for house checks if you go out of town for a few days. The new police car (2005) is now in service so there was a discussion on what to do with the old car. Blue Book value on a 1999 Crown Victoria is \$4,510.00. Mileage is 109,000, and the tires are in good shape. Chief Mundy feels we should advertise and ask for a minimum bid of \$3,000.00. Councilman Newman made a motion to start with a minimum bid of \$3,500.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Rich and passed with all ayes.

7. OTHER BUSINESS FROM CITY COUNCIL.

1. MAYOR GROOMS advised council he had ordered a windshield for the backhoe. Yancey will bring it and install **it**.

2. REVIEW OF THE TELEPHONE ORDINANCE.

CRAIG BONNELL was covering the meeting for Attorney Hall. He advised the contract provides the city will receive 5% of the annual gross revenues within the city. He gave a review of the Charter on ordinance readings. Section 2-15 paragraph E page IS, requires ordinances be read once but not after the initial reading. Section 2-16 of the Charter identifies what has to be in the form of an ordinance. 6-5 page 30 provides for council's ability to grant franchises. Our conclusion is that this franchise ordinance is not subject to the requirement to be read once and acted upon. Council can act on the agreement tonight.

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Councilman Wynn would like to have a copy of the revised Franchise Agreement for reviewing. Copies were made for all members. Councilwoman Prosser is in favor of having another cable choice. Following a brief discussion, Councilman Rich made a motion to table this decision till next month. Motion seconded by Councilman Wynn and passed with all ayes.

3. COUNCILMAN RICH brought up the subject of legal representation for the city. We need to take a look at other firms including Attorney Hall and look at someone who specializes in Municipal Law. Council members will have names to submit at the January meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Rich and seconded by Councilwoman Prosser and passed with all ayes.