

TOWN OF MORRISON, TENNESSEE
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN MONTHLY MEETING

DECEMBER 4, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Morrison, Tennessee, met on Monday, December 4, 2023, at approximately 7:00 p.m. at Morrison Town Hall. Adequate public notice of the meeting was given by notices published in the Southern Standard, posted at Morrison Town Hall and on the Town's website.

Present were the following voting members: Mayor Sue Anderson; Vice Mayor Keith Youngblood; Aldermen William Dillard, Sr., Sue Jones, Donald Miller, and Jeannine Miller. Non-voting members present: Rhonda Sparkman, Town Recorder; and Darrell Julian, Town Attorney.

Others present: LaJuana Baker, Lee Baker, Pamela Laxson, Luanne Laxson, and Samantha Bouldin.

The meeting was presided over by the Honorable Mayor Sue Anderson, with Rhonda Sparkman, Town Recorder, recording the action taken at the meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Mayor Anderson stated that written copies of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of November 6, 2023 were presented to each member of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. She asked if any member of the Board wished to make any corrections, additions, or modifications to the minutes.

Motion was then made by Vice Mayor Youngblood to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of November 6, 2023, and approve them as written. Alderman Dillard seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Aldermen Dillard, Jones, Donald Miller, Jeannine Miller, and Vice Mayor Youngblood. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one signed up to address the Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Vice Mayor Youngblood mentioned that the Board had discussed last month of maintaining the ditch lines in Town. He explained the process of renting boom mower equipment through the State of Tennessee Department of General Services. Warren County Highway Department utilizes this state office. Vice Mayor Youngblood stated TriGreen Equipment, an approved State vendor, was asked for three pricing options: to rent the equipment for a month, to purchase new equipment, and to purchase used equipment. Leasing the equipment for a month costs around \$7,000. Purchasing a new boom mower is around \$150,000.

After reaching out to several companies to hire to do the mowing jobs, none of them responded. Therefore, Vice Mayor Youngblood suggested renting the equipment for a month and doing the work in-house. If that works out, then the equipment could be put in next year's budget for purchase.

A discussion was had as to whether the Town's work should be done in-house or by a contractor. Alderman Jones asked if anyone knew how to operate the new equipment. Vice Mayor Youngblood acknowledged Lee did or could be trained. Alderman Donald Miller asked if we really needed to lease or purchase this equipment, and what areas would be serviced. Vice Mayor Youngblood noted the advantages of doing the work in-house as opposed to hiring a contractor.

Vice-Mayor Youngblood made a motion to lease the equipment from TriGreen Equipment for one month for a total of \$7,000. The motion was seconded by Alderman Jones. Voting Aye: Aldermen Dillard, Jones, and Vice Mayor Youngblood. Voting Nay: Aldermen Donald Miller and Jeannine Miller. Motion carried. The equipment will be rented around April.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Anderson stated three people had applied to rent the café building. One person was a previous renter. The other person wanted to use it as a catering service instead of a daily operated café. Another person also would not have set hours of operation.

A short discussion was had. Members agreed that the potential renter should keep the café open on a consistent daily schedule, and pay the rent in a timely manner.

Vice Mayor Youngblood made a motion to rent to Dee Haley for \$600.00 per month for six months with an option to renew if she meets all the requirements. The requirements are to have the café open consistently, and to pay the rent on time. The motion was seconded by Alderman Jeannine Miller. Voting Aye: Aldermen Dillard, Jones, Jeannine Miller, and Vice Mayor Youngblood. Alderman Donald Miller also voted Aye, but only if Mrs. Haley meets all requirements. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

Last year the Town gave a Christmas bonus of \$500.00 to full-time employees and \$250.00 to part-time employees. Mayor Anderson asked the Board if they wished to give a bonus this year.

Alderman Jeannine Miller asked if these bonuses went on the paychecks and if applicable taxes were withheld. Mayor Anderson stated they were. Mayor Anderson asked if she wanted to make it \$700.00 with taxes coming out to make it \$500.00? Jeannine answered “No.” Alderman Miller proceeded to explain how bonuses should be given in relation to taxes being calculated.

Alderman Jones inquired if the reason Bonnie and Stan received \$250.00 was because they are part-time. Mayor Anderson indicated that was the reason.

Mayor Anderson asked twice for a motion. There was still discussion as to the taxes and the amounts to be given. Aldermen Jones and Donald Miller expressed their thoughts on \$500.00 being too much, and they wished they had received that kind of bonus when they were employed. Alderman Donald Miller did not think employees should be given an added amount to cover the taxes so they would get the full \$500.00 or \$250.00.

Vice Mayor Youngblood made a motion to give \$500.00 to each full-time employee and \$250.00 to each part-time employee, but added he would add an additional 20%, but he did not think the Board would agree to that. There was no second motion. Motion failed.

Vice Mayor Youngblood then made a motion to give \$500.00 to full-time employees and \$250.00 to part-time employees without the added 20%. Alderman Jeannine Miller seconded the motion and added to the motion that payroll taxes should be withheld on these amounts. Voting Aye: Aldermen Dillard, Jones, Donald Miller, Jeannine Miller, and Vice Mayor Youngblood. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

Alderman Jeannine Miller then asked if a separate bonus could be given to an employee as a “performance bonus.” Since the Town’s budget had been approved by the State with no adverse findings, she felt that Rhonda Sparkman, Town Recorder, should receive some type of compensation for all her hard work to fix past issues and maintain good recordkeeping. Mayor Anderson asked her to put that in motion.

Alderman Miller then made a motion to give Town Recorder Sparkman a one-time performance bonus in the amount of \$250.00. The motion was seconded by Alderman Jones. Voting Aye: Aldermen Dillard, Jones, Donald Miller, Jeannine Miller, and Vice Mayor Youngblood. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

Town Recorder Sparkman expressed her appreciation for the bonus.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 23-05, an Ordinance of the Town of Morrison, Tennessee to add a new Chapter 5 – General Provisions to Title 14 of the Morrison Municipal Code to regulate travel trailers; and to express the time when the ordinance becomes effective was introduced for second and final reading.

Alderman Jeannine Miller made a motion to pass Ordinance No. 23-05 on second and final reading. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Youngblood. Voting Aye: Aldermen Dillard, Jones, Donald Miller, Jeannine Miller, and Vice Mayor Youngblood. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 23-06, an Ordinance of the Town of Morrison, Tennessee, to amend the “Zoning Ordinance of Morrison, Tennessee” to allow for tiny houses with a special exception; and to express the time when the ordinance becomes effective was introduced for second and final reading.

Vice Mayor Youngblood made a motion to pass Ordinance No. 23-06 on second and final reading. The motion was seconded by Alderman Donald Miller. Voting Aye: Aldermen Dillard, Jones, Donald Miller, Jeannine Miller, and Vice Mayor Youngblood. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alderman Donald Miller asked about the status of the convenience center to which Mayor Anderson indicated it might be in operation next March.

Alderman Donald Miller commented on how nice the snowflake lights looked, and that at least ten more needed to be purchased next year.

A short discussion was had as to where to place future lights and if Ben Lomand could assist with the wiring. Vice Mayor Youngblood made a motion to purchase ten more lights next year, and to contact Ben Lomand about the wiring. The motion was seconded by Alderman Donald Miller. Voting Aye: Aldermen Dillard, Jones, Donald Miller, Jeannine Miller, and Vice Mayor Youngblood. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Anderson read a thank-you card from Planning Commission member, Roger Smith, on the Town sending windchimes to him when his mother passed away recently.

Mayor Anderson then acknowledged windchimes had also been sent to Constable Junior Pennington for the recent passing of his father. Constable Pennington expressed his appreciation.

Alderman Donald Miller asked if the Town had sent anything for Jaime Ashby who had recently passed as well. Mayor Anderson acknowledged windchimes were also sent to her family. She commented on Jaime's years of service as Town Recorder. The Board members expressed condolences for everyone's loss.

Alderman Donald Miller commented on the Christmas display at the Morrison Public Library. All the trees and decorations look good. He encouraged everyone to go and view them. Mayor Anderson agreed with Alderman Miller's comments, and wished more people would visit the Town's nice library.

Alderman Jeannine Miller asked about the status of the outside clock at the library. Town Employee Lee Baker has looked at it, but he indicated the motor may need replacing. Several ideas were discussed for getting someone to look at the clock.

Mayor Anderson stated she is still working on the post office situation. The contact person said Morrison is still in line to get a post office. Also, the old post office building is slated to be sold after the first of the year. The post office official indicated they are not interested in the former building as repairs are needed. Mayor Anderson will keep everyone informed of the matter.

Alderman Donald Miller asked about the town truck being at Reddick Brown Ford. Lee Baker explained the truck was there to have recent transmission problems diagnosed.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Youngblood made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Alderman Jones. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED;

MAYOR SUE ANDERSON

DATE _____

RHONDA SPARKMAN, TOWN RECORDER