**TOWN OF YACOLT, WASHINGTON**

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE: January 20, 2014**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE**

**PRESENT:** Mayor, Carothers

Councilmember(s): Josh Karl, Dave Hancock, Lewis Gerhardt, Vince Myers, Rick Urias

**ABSENT:** Councilmember(s): None

**STAFF:** Town Clerk: Cindy Marbut

Public Works Director: Pete Roberts

Town Attorney: Not Present

**APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

MOTION: Councilmember: Urias

SECOND: Councilmember: Gerhardt

VOTE: 5- 0

YES: Councilmember(s): Karl, Myers, Hancock, Gerhardt, Urias

NO:

ABSENT:

\*Motion unanimously passed.

**LATE CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

None

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

Ross Hollister was present to discuss C-Tran composition board vote that was upcoming. He was a council member for the city of Vancouver and talked to the council about how the By Laws were intended when created in 1977. He stated it was for representation and protection of jurisdictions it was never intended for more voice or powers. He asked the council to think carefully about any decision they make, Vancouver could easily state they want no part of C-Tran due to the expenses they incur. He asked the council to be very careful of the opinion and vote to make sure that services continue, there has been much hard work put into servicing the area, services should continue at the same costs.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. NOW (Neighbors on Watch Program) Teresa Miller / Commander Horch**

Commander Horch was present and introduced the staff that he brought from the Clark County Sheriff’s Dept to help answer questions about the NOW program. Teresa Miller, Brandon Walker west precinct and Linda Hayes the new liaison for the town out of the central precinct. This program design is for neighbors to get to together to implement safety and awareness of crimes; that the Sheriff’s office often cannot not see or address not readily being in the area due to the short staff of the Sheriff’s office. Commander stated how they were doing the best they could under the circumstances. The areas they cover are so large and spread out. The program would require a background check of the individual(s), a training course of 24 hours which would include ride a longs. The applicant(s) would be taught appearance of suspicious behaviors. There would be a police radio. Commander indicated there could be a work around but currently the radio would be checked out daily when the patrols were on. This program is critical to the Sheriff, as residents of the town are readily available and see what happens long before they do. Depending on the call it could be a longer than usual response time for an officer to get to Yacolt the NOW program allows for more timely responses to be developed. He gave some examples of how it would work depending on the call. This is a volunteer program, the individual(s) would be issued a uniform, participate in other events or activities.

The requirement to maintain certification is 4 hours per month earned in various ways. Pamphlets were left for anyone interested in the program. Mayor encouraged those who are interested to apply.

Mayor asked for some specific updates from Commander Horch on the patrols that had recently been taking place in town. Mostly seatbelt violations, 2 DUI’s and speeding was on the rise. The citations written have tripled over the last year.

\*\* Presentation Only

**B. Public Hearing Zoning**

Mayor closed regular council meeting and opened public hearing. There was no one who spoke on this topic. Mayor reopened regular council meeting.

**C. Ordinance # 515 Zoning Amendment**

Mayor asked town attorney David Ridenour to give an update as to how the zoning amendment changes came about. David gave the history of the ordinance and explained how this would allow equal and transparency for anyone in the town who wished to apply for a permit for the purpose of utility telecommunications under the provisions of the conditional use permit processes. This change was uniform throughout the town zoning areas.

MOTION: Myers

SECOND: Gerhardt

VOTE: 5-0

YES: Councilmember(s): Karl, Gerhardt, Hancock, Myers, Urias.

NO:

ABSENT:

\*Motion passed

**D. Public Hearing Cell Tower**

Mayor closed regular council meeting and opened public hearing. There were 7 citizens signed up to speak. ( Mike Bauer, Curtis Muonio, Nathan Norrlun, Alexander Service, Claire Kuolrn, DeAnn Blakeman, Charlie, Witt) The discussions ranged from support of the tower to non support in the location proposed. There were a few comments about health of citizens being affected. One resident for the location/cell tower stated that they had been in attendance of the all the meetings and thought it to be a good thing for the town for revenue. Those against were concerned about property values and sightlines of the tower. Mr. Witt discussed the terms of the sale of land to the town and his opposition to the towers. There were several residents who felt that the location should be changed. The Mayor stated he wanted to make it perfectly clear that there were things being said about the cell tower that are not factual. The town did not solicit AT& T to come and put a tower in the location that was being proposed. He stated that it was entirely up to AT&T where the best place was for their tower and up to the council to decide if the permit is to be approved or not. He also stated that no matter where the tower was located it would be in close proximity of schools, business’, and parks. The town is just that small. He stated he wanted everyone to know the facts. Not the gossip, that the town council was being completely transparent about the transactions and he didn’t like that people were not representing the facts. The floor was opened for some further discussions that emulated the same as those who spoke on the matter. David, town attorney addressed the citizens and noted that there was a lot of information that many citizens did not have and that it had been made a available, he stated the staff report could answer many questions and it was available on the table for anyone who would like a copy. Noah Grodzin from AT&T explained the process of how his clients came to the determination of the proposed location. He stated that no one from the town asked AT&T to place the tower in any specific location. There had been several locations scouted. Council made a point to Noah that they did not state that any one location would be denied. Noah confirmed that it was their decision to locate at the proposed site which was based off his perception of the approval process.

Mayor closed public hearing and opened council meeting.

**E. Approval Conditional Use Permit Cell Tower**

Council Myers stated he didn’t know how the approval could take place without further information from Clark County on the property issues that had been discussed in previous meetings. Council Gerhardt stated he was for the cell tower but was conflicted on how to proceed on the issue. Council all agreed item should be tabled pending further information.

MOTION: Karl

SECOND: Hancock

VOTE: 5-0

YES: Councilmember(s): Karl, Gerhardt, Hancock, Myers, Urias.

NO:

ABSENT:

\*Motion passed

**F. C-Tran Appointment of Bill Ganley**

Clerk stated that in the last meeting Lewis Gerhardt had been appointed to continue to represent / liaison on the C-Tran Board, but that she forgot that they needed to appoint the actual representative since the by-laws had not changed and the Composition Board had not changed. Clerk stated a formal appointment was needed. Appointment was made of Bill Ganley to continue representation.

MOTION: Gerhardt

SECOND: Karl

VOTE: 4-1

YES: Councilmember(s) Urias, Karl, Gerhardt, Hancock

NO: Myers

ABSENT:

\* Motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Ordinance # 516 Donation Reader Board Materials**

Public Works Director Pete Roberts asked Charlie Witt to stand and take a bow for the donation of the materials to build another reader board that is located on Railroad Ave. He stated the only condition was that it had to be built prior to tonight’s meeting. There was laughter.

MOTION: Myers

SECOND: Hancock

VOTE: 5-0

YES: Councilmember(s): Karl, Gerhardt, Hancock, Myers, Urias

NO:

ABSENT:

\*Motion passed

**B. Christy St. Property Proposed Sale- Ron Baumgarten**

Mr. Baumgarten was present to ask the town council to sell a piece of town owned property easement to him for the purpose of building a shed/shop and garden addition. He would be willing to pay cash out right for the purchase. He stated as his property was he could not build the shed/shop on it due to the septic and sizing of lot. Council asked what specific size he was looking at building, he responded with a 24x24 shed/shop. Paul Tester former public works was asked about the easement, he stated that it was platted 50x90 ft easement and was there for the potential to tie into other streets. Pete, public works director stated that the property adjacent was 12 acres owned by the Evangelical Church and was included in the recent Growth Management and could potentially be annexed to the town if they approached the council for approval. He also stated that it could tie into other streets if developed.

Pete also stated there were other properties located in town that were like this, also in the past there were other properties that had been vacated however that was done under a different process with former council members.

David, town attorney, was asked about the procedure if the council did consider the sale, he stated there were various ways to go about the sale but there would have to be more investigation into the proper processes available to the council for consideration. Item tabled.

MOTION: Gerhardt

SECOND: Karl

VOTE: 5-0

YES: Councilmember(s) Karl, Hancock, Gerhardt, Myers, Urias

NO:

ABSENT:

\* Motion passed

**D. Building Permit Application- Ron Krieitzer**

Mr. Krieitzer has appeared before the council in previous meeting to search out the council’s stance on building a home on Blackmore Ave. He did indeed purchase the property and was ready for building a home on the property. He submitted his application for the home to be built, he had a new PERC for septic and removed all the old debris. Council noted it would a nice addition to the area.

MOTION: Myers

SECOND: Hancock

VOTE: 5-0

YES: Councilmember(s) Karl, Hancock, Gerhardt, Myers, Urias

NO:

ABSENT:

\* Motion passed

**Mayor Comments:**

Mayor stated he wanted citizens to have the facts, the true facts about decisions that the council is faced with making. He encouraged citizens to keep attending meetings so that when approached by other citizens they could give true facts not gossip. He stated he is always open for suggestions. He also expressed his disgust for the trash that is laying around town on the roads and local streets. He noted that it was one of his pet peeves. He mentioned the Spring Clean Up event coming up in April and how citizens get together and gather trash on that day. He wants to more pride in the appearance of the Town.

**Public Works:**

Pete stated that with the new park the town may want to look into a new camera system for it, with the location being rural it was likely that there might be some vandalism. The MCI property has cameras that currently point at the driveway so we could get footage from them if we needed it. Clerk stated this would be a good opportunity for grant application.

**Clerk Treasurer:**

Cindy let the council know that Gov-Net would soon be delivering the pin pads so the town can accept electronic payments

**WARRANTS**

\*Current Expenses: $ 32,628.45

\*City Streets: $4,591.28

\*Cemetery $ 103.50

Pay Bills presented in the amount of $37,323.23

MOTION: Karl

SECOND: Hancock

VOTE: 5-0

YES: Councilmember(s): Gerhardt, Hancock, Karl, Myers, Urias

NO:

ABSENT:

Motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURN** 9:15 P.M.

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Cindy Marbut Jeff Carothers

Town Clerk Mayor

Minutes approved on February 3, 2014