

NITRO CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Rusty Casto. In attendance along with Mayor Casto were Recorder Rita Cox, Ward 1 Councilman A. A. "Joe" Savilla, Ward 2 Councilman Bill Racer, Ward 3 Councilman Craig Matthews, Ward 4 Councilman Bill Javins, Councilmen at Large Dave Casebolt, Bob Fields, Jim McKay, City Attorney Richie Robb and City Treasurer John Young.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Invocation was given by Charles Riecks and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chase Gunnoe.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES: RECORDER RITA COX MOVED THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 15, 2011 BE APPROVED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN A. A. "JOE" SAVILLA AND VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

FUTURE DATES OF COUNCIL: Mayor Casto said the future dates of Council meetings are March 15, April 5 and 9 and Budget Meetings to be announced.

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH: Mayor Rusty Casto said the March Citizen of the Month is Chase Gunnoe. Chase is a Nitro resident who had a photo selected for the Spring/Summer 2010 Amtrak schedule. He was introduced by Charles Riecks, a member of Friends of the Cardinal, who read a proposed resolution in honor of Chase Gunnoe. COUNCILMAN JIM MCKAY MOVED THE RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF CHASE GUNNOE BE HONORED BY COUNCIL WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILMAN CRAIG MATTHES. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION TO CARRY. Mr. Riecks said Chase was to be honored by the Delegate Patrick Lane on Friday at 11:00 in the House chambers.

PROCLAMATION PEACE CORPS MONTH, MARCH 2011: Mayor Casto introduced Councilman Bob Fields who reported March, 2011 was the 50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps and celebrations were being held all over the United States in honor of this occasion. Councilman Fields said he served in India from 1966 to 1968. There is a celebration at the Charleston Civic Center on March 12 and a seven day celebration to be held in Washington, DC which he will attend with his wife. COUNCILMAN BOB FIELDS MOVED COUNCIL ADOPT A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MARCH PEACE CORPS MONTH IN NITRO, WEST VIRGINIA WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILMAN SAVILLA. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

OLD BUSINESS

NITRO-ST.ALBANS BRIDGE MEETING: Mayor Casto said there was to be a meeting at Nitro High School on March 8 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm with an overview at 5:30 on the rebuilding of the Nitro-St. Albans Bridge.

CITY HALL COMMITTEE REPORT: Mayor Casto said the City Hall Committee had met and schedule a second meeting for March 8 at 2:00 pm in Council Chambers. Recorder Cox said she had advertised for Statement of Qualification for interested businesses in helping assessing city hall needs. They are due into City Hall by March 15.

RESOLUTION OVERTIME PAYMENT POLICY: COUNCILMAN CRAIG MATTHEWS MOVED COUNCIL PASS A RESOLUTION TO AMEND EMPLOYEES EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONS, SECTION 157.01 ON OVERTIME PAYMENT TO EMPLOYEES THAT HAVE OVERTIME HOURS IN A WEEK OR WEEKS THAT EARNED TIME OFF IS TAKEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN SAVILLA AND VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

SECOND READING AN ORDINANCE ADDRESSING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT TO QUALIFIED ANNEX BUSINESSES: Richie Robb asked Recorder Rita Cox if she had made a legal notice for a public hearing concerning the ordinance. She said she had not so he recommended the second reading be postponed so a public hearing can be held.

INVOICES BAKER ENGINEERING: John Young said he had received two invoices from Baker Engineering and would like some direction on how to pay them. He said he had been told that they could be paid from the hotel motel tax money. Recorder Cox read from the minutes of November 8, 2010 when that money was approved and it was stated by Councilman Matthews, Councilman Savilla and Councilman Casebolt that it should come from the contingency fund. Councilman Savilla said that was his understanding that it was to be paid from the contingency fund. Councilman Matthews agreed. COUNCILMAN SAVILLA MOVED THE INVOICES FROM BAKER ENGINEERING FOR STREETScape AND PEDESTRIAN MASTERPLAN AND STREETScape DESIGN BE PAID FROM THE CONTINGENCY FUND WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILMAN FIELDS. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

NEW BUSINESS

GAZEBO CONSTRUCTION: Councilman Matthews said the gazebo at Ridenour Lake gets used frequently for weddings and is falling into disrepair. He has plans for a metal gazebo that has two wings that would cost \$27,000.00 with a concrete pad and labor to be supplied by the city. COUNCILMAN MATTHEWS MOVED COUNCIL ALLOT \$33,000.00 FROM THE HOTEL MOTEL TAX TO BUIL A REPLACEMENT GAZEBO. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN SAVILLA. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

SALE OF USED SENIOR VAN: Councilman Casebolt said that the seniors have received two grants, one for \$34,000.00 and the other for \$9,000.00 to purchase a new van for the senior citizens. COUNCILMAN MATTHEWS MOVED THE CITY SELL THE EXISTING VAN WHEN THE NEW VAN BECOMES AVAILABLE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN SAVILLA AND VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION. Councilman Savilla asked if the purchase of the new van is covered under state bid. Councilman Casebolt said that is was. COUNCLMAN CASEBOLT MOVED HAT THE CITY TREASURER AND CITY ATTORNEY RESEARCH AND BROKER THE SALE OF THE OLD SENIOR VAN AND THE PURCHASE OF THE NEW SENIOR VAN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MCKAY. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION TO CARRY.

ATTORNEY REPORT: Richie Robb introduced James and Linda King who have a lot at Brookhaven which they would like to sell. The area is under a moratorium imposed by a previous council due to the condition of the streets. No new construction is allowed because it is believed the streets will not hold the weight of equipment needed for building. Mr. and Mrs. King would like to sell the property since they cannot build there but the value of the property has diminished since there is no building allowed. Councilman Savilla said the streets will not hold cement trucks. Mayor Casto said that an engineering study needs to be done. Brookhaven resident John Montgomery said that an engineering study was done in the mid to late 1980's. Mayor Casto said he would call S & S Engineers for guidance.

TREASURER REPORT: John Young reported there would be copies of the proposed budgets available for Council that were compiled from budget requests of Department Heads. COUNCILMAN SAVILLA MOVED A MEETING FOR BUDGET PREPARATIONS BE HELD ON MARCH 8 AT 7:30 PM IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILMAN MATTHEWS. Councilman Javins said he could not attend and Councilman Matthews said he would attend but may be late. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

COUNCILMAN JAVINS MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE CVB BE MADE A PART OF THE MINUTES THE COUNCIL MEETING WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILMAN FIELDS. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

Councilman Matthews said the Parks and Recreation are having an Easter egg hunt at Nitro City Park at 1:00 on April 23. Donations have been paid so that prizes can be awarded. He said the city had received a check for \$1000.00 as a grant reimbursement for garbage cans.

Recorder Cox said that former Councilwoman Brenda Tyler is organizing a rally in support of Bayer Crop Science to be held on March 10.

Councilman Casebolt said there are seven trees on First Avenue that are a nuisance. He suggested they be cut down. Councilman Savilla suggested they be trimmed but not cut down. Councilman Matthews said he thought the railroad should be billed for grass cutting on the railroad right of way that the city does like St. Albans does. Debra Jordan said she was told by a Norfolk Southern representative that they have never been billed by the city. Councilman Casebolt said the Senior Center had received a \$20,000.00 grant for new machines and mirrors had been added to the weight room in the Kingsway Center. COUNCILMAN CASEBOLT MOVED THE CITY OF NITRO PAY \$1000.00 FOR MIRRORS FOR THE SENIOR EXERCISE ROOM IN THE KINGSWAY CENTER. COUNCILMAN MCKAY SECONDED THE MOTION. Councilman Matthews asked if the mirrors were to be permanently installed. Councilman Casebolt said they could be moved if the seniors move. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

Councilman McKay said there is a Conway Twitty Tribute Show with Dave Parsons performing on April 9 at 7 pm at the Nitro Moose. The cost is \$10.00 and \$1000.00 was given by the CVB.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bob Schamber said the Western Dance brought in \$400.00 for the Seniors. They had a covered dish dinner. Shelly Hodges is currently in Haiti doing her humanitarian work. He said that his wife recently said that moving to Nitro was one of the best things they ever did.

John Montgomery said the Ordinance will meet at 7:00 pm on Thursday, March 3 in the NDA Boardroom.

Charles Riecks urged people to call Senator Manchin and Senator Rockefeller to save Amtrak and the Cardinal.

ADJOURNMENT: COUNCILMAN MATTHEWS MOVED THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILMAN JAVINS. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

RUSTY CASTO, MAYOR

RITA COX, RECORDER