

NITRO CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Rusty Casto called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers. In attendance 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, and Jim McKay, City Attorney Richie Robb and City Treasurer John Young.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Invocation was given by Councilman Jim McKay and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Bob Fields.

FUTURE DATES OF COUNCIL: Mayor Casto said the future dates of Council are February 21, March 6 and 20, and April 3 and 17.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES: RECORDER RITA COX MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 3, 2012 MEETING OF COUNCIL BE APPROVED WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILMAN A. A. "JOE" SAVILLA. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH: Mayor Rusty Casto introduced Eva Hunt, a Nitro Elementary student, as the February Citizen of the Month to recognize her fundraising efforts for St. Jude's Children Hospital.

SUPPLEMENTAL RETIREMENT PLAN: Roger Hughes of the WV Treasurers Office explained to Council that he was requesting Council's advice and consent on making a condition of employment with the City of Nitro an automatic \$10.00 deduction per pay period in the WV Supplemental Retirement Plan (457). He said that was the way the state employees are done. The new employee when hired may opt out, leave it at \$10 or increase the amount withheld. Richie Robb said he would check on the legality of this being added to the new employee paperwork.

Mayor Rusty Casto introduced Rick Parsons who is running for Sheriff of Putnam County.

Mayor Rusty Casto said there is to be a ventriloquist at Kathy Mattea Theater who talks against bullying. Nitro and Rock Branch Elementary students are to attend.

OLD BUSINESS

INA THOMAS PLAQUE/NITRO LIBRARY: Mayor Rusty Casto said he would wait until Nitro Elementary Principal Pack could be present to submit the plaque.

WV DOH RECREATIONAL TRAIL GRANT: WARD 3 COUNCILMAN CRAIG MATTHEWS MOVED COUNCIL PASS A RESOLUTION THAT AUTHORIZES THE CITY OF NITRO TO SUBMIT \$4900 AS THE PORTION OF THE \$25,000 TRAIL GRANT FROM THE DOH. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JIM MCKAY AND VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION. Councilman Matthews said the City portion is \$4900 and the WV DOH portion will be \$19,600. He said the city portion can be in workers hours. He said the gazebo has been torn down and the new one would be built around the beginning of March. Councilman McKay asked what could be done to repair around the lake. Councilman Matthews said rocks are needed with underlayment. He said there are plans to make improvements at Ridenour Lake and this trail money will help.

WV DOT GRANT NITRO/ST. ALBANS BRIDGE: Nitro Historian Rich Hively submitted some ideas to Council in how to spend the \$20,000 that has been awarded to Nitro to commemorate the historical aspects of the Nitro-St. Albans Bridge that is to be replaced in 2013. He said the DOT needs to approve and some ideas have been tentatively approved.

ELECTION 2012/APPOINTMENT OF BALLOT COMMISSIONERS: RECORDER RITA COX MOVED BESS STAHL, REPUBLICAN , AND LEONARD WOMBLE, DEMOCRAT, BE APPROVED AS BALLOT COMMISSIONERS FOR THE 2012 MUNICIPAL ELECTION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BILL JAVINS WITH A UNANIMOUS VOTE FOR APPROVAL. Recorder Rita Cox said the election will be held June 5 and the filing dates for candidates are March 12 through close of business on March 30. Filing is to be in City Hall and the forms required are the Certificate of Candidacy and the petition form. She said that both forms are available in the Recorder's Office in Nitro City Hall.

NEW BUSINESS

5K RACE APRIL 14/OFFICER JAMES LEE: Nitro Policeman Jason Garbin said there is a 5k race planned in Nitro for April 14 with all the proceeds to go to Officer James Lee and family while he continues rehab in Georgia. COUNCILMAN SAVILLA MOVED THE 5K RACE BE PERMITTED WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILMAN MATTHEWS. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION. Councilman McKay said the CVB will help.

PROPERTY DONATION TO CITY BY MARK SANDERS: Mayor Casto said Mark Sanders has offered to donate property on 10th Street hill to the City of Nitro. COUNCILMAN MATTHEWS MOVED A COMMITTEE BE FORMED CONSISTING OF JOHN YOUNG, COUNCILMAN BILL RACER AND A. J. HILL TO CONSIDER THE MATTER AND REPORT TO COUNCIL WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILMAN JAVINS. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION FUNDING: Bill Fortune said he works with the Nitro Food Pantry and the Nitro Mission team to help alleviate hunger in the Nitro area. In the past he has received meat from the Mountaineer Food Bank but the funding has not been available recently. He said the cost is approximately \$900 per delivery for food for about 300 families. COUNCILMAN JIM MCKAY MOVED COUNCIL CONTRIBUTE \$900 FOR FOUR FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS IN A YEAR FOR THE NITRO FOOD BANK WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILMAN DAVE CASEBOLT. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

ATTORNEY REPORT: Richie Robb said he is waiting for the Police Department response on the police funds inquiry and when he gets the report from Leonard Womble he will present it to Council. He said there is a request by the Warner family for the city to abandon a right of way behind what was the old Byrd house. The Planning Commission had met in June, 2011 and recommended to Council that the property on Kanawha Avenue South be abandoned. The Warner's have had done the necessary mapping. RECORDER RITA COX MOVED THE CLOSURE AND ABANDONMENT AT 700 KANAWHA AVENUE SOUTH BE ALLOWED TO PROCEED WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILMAN JIM MCKAY. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION TO CARRY.

TREASURER REPORT: John Young said that January has not been a good cash flow month. He said Rich Hively has been helpful in researching the original costs of some properties that now belong to the city. In the past the WV Auditors have said this is an issue and so it is now being taken care of.

COUNCIL COMMENT: Mayor Casto said Frank Sergent is to begin working in the fountain in front of City Hall.

COUNCILMAN BILL JAVINS MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY CVB MEETING BE MADE A PART OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES WITH A SECOND BY RECORDER RITA COX. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

Councilman Craig Matthews said there will be a Parks and Recreation meeting on Thursday beginning at the Nitro Pool at 2:00 pm. Then there will be a meeting following that in Council Chambers about the Little League fields. The Easter Egg hunt will be March 31.

Councilman Bill Racer asked if the Nitro Fire Department is making plans for the closing of the Nitro Bridge since they work with St. Albans Fire Department. Chief Ernie Hedrick said they are making arrangements with Dunbar for mutual aid. They will work with Tyler Mt. Volunteer Fire Dept. on structure fires. Councilman Racer said if the budget will allow it we should proceed with hiring new firemen.

Councilman A. A. "Joe" Savilla said the Police and Fire Committee will meet Thursday at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers. He said there will be a fund raising spaghetti dinner at Holy Trinity on February 18 to raise money for Jimmie Lee from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm. All money raised will go to Jimmie Lee. He said there will be an Annexation Committee meeting following Council.

Recorder Rita Cox thanked Rich Hively for all the work he has done for the city.

PUBLIC COMMENT: John Montgomery said there would be an Ordinance Committee meeting following Council.

Bob Schamber said there is a Western Dance on the 18th and a covered dish dinner on the 25th for the Seniors.

ADJOURNMENT: COUNCILMAN DAVE CASEBOLT MOVED THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILMAN JIM MCKAY. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

RUSTY CASTO, MAYOR

RITA COX, RECORDER