

NITRO CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Dave Casebolt called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers. Attending were Mayor Casebolt, Recorder Rita Cox, Ward 1 Councilman Al Walls, Ward 2 Councilman Bill Racer, Ward 3 Councilwoman Laurie Elkins, Ward 4 Councilman Andy Shamblin, Councilwoman at Large Brenda Tyler, Councilmen at Large Craig Matthews and Bill Javins, City Attorney Richie Robb and City Treasurer John Young.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Invocation was given by Councilman Andy Shamblin and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Al Walls.

FUTURE DATES OF COUNCIL: Mayor Dave Casebolt said the future dates of Council are February 5 and 19.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES: RECORDER RITA COX MOVED THE APPROVAL OF THE ORIGINAL DECEMBER 18, 2012 MINUTES OF COUNCIL BE RESCINDED WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILMAN AL WALLS. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION. Recorder Cox told Council she had omitted a portion on journeyman pay for the Fire Department that Council had approved. RECORDER RITA COX MOVED THE AMENDED COPY OF THE DECEMBER 18, 2012 MINUTES OF COUNCIL BE APPROVED WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILMAN CRAIG MATTHEWS. VOTING FOR THE MOTION WAS RECORDER COX, COUNCILWOMAN LAURIE ELKINS, COUNCILMEN JAVINS, MATTHEWS, WALLS, RACER AND SHAMBLIN. COUNCILWOMAN BRENDA TYLER ABSTAINED AND THE MOTION CARRIED.

TOWN CLEANUP: Mayor Dave Casebolt reported that cleaning up the city was a priority of his and the work had begun. A house on 10<sup>th</sup> Street was torn down and a few other properties were targeted. The spring cleanup is being planned and some new plantings will be done. His hope is that the organizations and citizens will become part of the effort. The Property Maintenance Board is working on cleaning up the town and billing property owners. Ron King has distributed quite a few property maintenance violations and A. J. Hill is addressing trash that is being put out too soon. Nitro Police Department is putting notices on vehicles on city streets that are illegal. Public Works has hired an evening shift person who is also picking up trash around town but we still need to address littering all over town.

INTRODUCTION OF FIRE CHIEF JEFF ELKINS: Mayor Casebolt presented the new fire chief, Jeff Elkins. Members of Council congratulated him on his new position.

OLD BUSINESS

STREETSCAPE GRANT: Mayor Dave Casebolt said the city had recently been awarded a Streetscape Grant from the state to continue work up 21<sup>st</sup> Street. Mayor Casebolt said the grant was for \$300,000 from the DOH and the city will be required to put in \$75,000. Mayor Casebolt and members of Council attended a meeting at the Culture Center on January 7 to accept the grant from Governor Earl Ray Tomblin. Mayor Casebolt said he would call a meeting soon of the Streetscape Committee.

RIDENOUR LAKE TROUT STOCKING AND BAIT SHOP: Councilman Craig Matthews said the lake was recently stocked with trout by the DNR and the bait shop is opened.

## NEW BUSINESS

CVB REPORT: Councilman Bill Javins said the CVB is working closely with the NDA to achieve the same goals. They are trying to not overlap on projects. He said the events for 2013 are as follows: March 30 is the Easter Egg Hunt, April 19 and 20 Bass Tournament (rain dates May 3 and 4), May 18 Salute to Armed Forces Day, July 4 through 6 Wing Fest and 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, September 5 through 7 Nitro Boomtown Days and Antique Car Show, October 26 Halloween Hoedown, and December 7 Christmas Parade. COUNCILMAN BILL JAVINS MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF THE CVB BE MADE A PART OF COUNCIL WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILMAN CRAIG MATTHEWS. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

NDA REPORT: Councilman Andy Shamblin said that the NDA was committed to working with the CVB and delegating events to different groups. He said the NDA is finalizing goals and objectives for 2013 and he would inform Council of more at a later date. COUNCILMAN SHAMBLIN MOVED THAT WILLIAM R. HAYNES II BE APPROVED AS A MEMBER OF THE NDA WITH A SECOND BY RECORDER RITA COX. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION. Mayor Casebolt said the NDA is looking for ways to help the city and are considering helping fund a building at Ridenour Lake. COUNCILMAN SHAMBLIN MOVED THE DECEMBER 11, 2012 MINUTES OF THE NDA BE MADE A PART OF COUNCIL MINUTES WITH A SECOND BY RECORDER COX. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

ATTORNEY REPORT: Richie Robb said he wanted to clarify the October 16, 2012 meeting of Council in which property belonging to the city was abandoned to Larry Brannon. He said he did not know if the city is abandoning the property or are we conveying to Mr. Brannon. He said he understood that Mr. Brannon will pay for the engineering work to be done. Ron King said the Planning Commission recommended abandoning the property with the condition that Mr. Brannon pay for the engineering work. The Planning Commission made the recommendation to Council who voted to uphold the Planning Commission recommendation. He said the property was about a 10 feet long patch in front of his house and Mr. Brannon was willing to pay for the engineering work.

TREASURER REPORT: John Young said members of Council should have a Balance Sheet and Revenue Income Statement. He said there was a mistake on the Fire Department budget on the approved salaries and it will take about \$35,000 to \$50,000 to make up the difference. He said the Fire Department cannot come in on budget. COUNCILMAN JAVINS MOVED THE TREASURER REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN ELKINS. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

MAYOR COMMENTS: Mayor Dave Casebolt said that Bob Schamber's donation of \$1000 is being put to use by the renovations being done to the Mayor's Office in City Hall. He said drywall is being installed, carpeting and new tile. He said he would like to do a summer concert series and may have more information at the next Council meeting.

### COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilman Andy Shamblin congratulated the new fire chief, Jeff Elkins. COUNCILMAN SHAMBLIN MOVED THE COUNCIL GIVE THE NITRO SHOW CHOIR \$1000 FROM THE HOTEL MOTEL TAX MONEY WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILWOMAN ELKINS. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION. Councilman Shamblin said the Nitro High School Show Choir has agreed to do approximately three performances for

the city in the coming year. Councilman Andy Shamblin congratulated Treasurer John Young for his management of the city finances.

Councilman Craig Matthews said there was a Fire and Police Committee Meeting recently. One of the items was the pay for firefighters which we have already discussed. Another concern is the fact that our firefighters go out of the city more and more to fight fires which leaves the city vulnerable, our equipment vulnerable and we are not being compensated. He said those in these areas could be contacted to tell them we are not going to respond without being compensated. Councilman Matthews said it can also present problems with workers compensation and insurance coverage. Mayor Casebolt said he is optimistic that an agreement can be worked out. Councilman Matthews recommended Council consider during budget talks allowing a cellphone stipend for the Police and Fire Chief since they currently use their own phones. He said it can be done as a set amount each month. Also, a phone for each shift commander for Police and Fire shift so that they have a phone available. Parks and Recreation will meet at 2:00 pm Friday in Council Chambers.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Schamber said he can't understand trash being thrown out of a vehicle. He said that he would have a report at the next meeting from the bingo. He said attendance has been up due to the money being given out.

ADJOURNMENT: COUNCILMAN AL WALLS MOVED THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILWOMAN LAURIE ELKINS. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION TO CARRY.

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DAVE CASEBOLT, MAYOR

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RITA COX, RECORDER