

NITRO CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2013

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

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

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES: RECORDER RITA COX MOVED THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 15, 2013 MEETING OF COUNCIL BE APPROVED WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILWOMAN LAURIE ELKINS. COUNCIL VOTED UNANIMOUSLY FOR THE MOTION TO CARRY.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Jeff Elkins of the Nitro Fire Department reported to Council on January responses with the total incidents being 94: five fire, 61 rescue and ems, one hazardous condition, five service call, 17 good intent calls, four false alarm and false calls, and one special type. He said the average response call for January was four minutes. He said the department has been awarded a capital improvement grant of \$1000 from the WV Department of Health and Human Resources.

WELLNESS PROGRAM: Mayor Casebolt introduced Dr. Roland Meffert of River City Chiropractic who is interested in implementing a Wellness Program with the city. Dr. Meffert said the cost would be minimal and could be put into use citywide. Mayor Casebolt said Dr. Meffert is dedicated to this concept and Mayor Casebolt said he would like to see the city take part in it. Councilwoman Laurie Elkins and Councilmen Al Walls and Andy Shamblin volunteered to participate in the start of the plan. Mary Beth Burt was suggested by several to participate in the formation of the plan.

OLD BUSINESS

RECOMMENDATION OF STREETScape COMMITTEE/ENGINEERING FIRM: RECORDER RITA COX MOVED THE RECOMMENDATION OF STREETScape COMMITTEE IN THE SELECTION OF AN ENGINEERING FIRM FOR THE CONTINUED STREETScape WORK BE TABLED UNTIL A FUTURE MEETING OF COUNCIL. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN AL WALLS AND COUNCIL VOTED UNANIMOUSLY FOR THE MOTION TO CARRY.

FIRE DEPARTMENT PENSION CONTRIBUTION: John Young presented Council with the following amounts to be contributed to the Fire Department Pension: City contribution for covered employees hired prior to January 1, 2010, fiscal year ending June 30, 2011-\$36,816.71; City contribution for covered employees hired on or after January 1, 2010, fiscal year ending June 30, 2012-\$5618.35; WV Share-\$114,829.36; total-\$275,397.77. RECORDER RITA COX MOVED THE APPLICATION OF DISTRIBUTION FROM THE MUNICIPAL PENSIONS SECURITY FUND AND CERTIFICATION OF MUNICIPAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MUNICIPAL PENSIONS AND RELIEF FUND BE MADE A PART OF THE MINUTES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN ANDY SHAMBLIN AND VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

NEW BUSINESS

SALARY INCREASE/CITY ATTORNEY: Mayor Dave Casebolt said the new attorney for the City of Nitro is Johnnie Brown of Pullin Fowler and Flanagan Law Firm. He said that the city had been represented well by former attorney Richie Robb and his service was appreciated. Mayor Casebolt said he believed Johnnie Brown and his firm can bring more resources to the city. Johnnie Brown said he would attend meetings and also Jill Harlan would be attending as his representative. COUNCILMAN AL WALLS MOVED THE MONTHLY PAYMENT TO THE ATTORNEY BE INCREASED FROM \$2500 TO \$3000. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BILL RACER. Recorder Rita Cox asked John Young what line item it would come out of and if the budget would be able to afford the increase. John Young said it would come from the City Hall budget and there are sufficient funds to allow for the increase. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

GARBAGE BAG BIDS: Mayor Casebolt said he was asked frequently about renewing the practice of distributing garbage bags to city residents and would like to look into it for the next fiscal year budget. COUNCILMAN BILL JAVINS MOVED COUNCIL SEEK BIDS FOR GARBAGE BAGS AND THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN LAURIE ELKINS. Councilwoman Brenda Tyler said she thought the money would be better spent on road repair. Recorder Rita Cox said she was concerned that once the practice is started it will be hard to stop and that the bags get used for other things. VOTING FOR THE MOTION WAS COUNCILWOMAN ELKINS, COUNCILMEN JAVINS, WALLS, RACER AND SHAMBLIN AND RECORDER COX. VOTING AGAINST THE MOTION WAS COUNCILWOMAN TYLER. THE MOTION CARRIED.

TREASURER REPORT: RECORDER COX MOVED THE TREASURER REPORT BE ACCEPTED WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILMAN RACER. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

ATTORNEY REPORT: Johnnie Brown said he would be doing employee training and work on personnel procedure and making sure the civil service commission is staffed and functioning.

MAYOR COMMENTS: Mayor Dave Casebolt said that work had been started on renovating the Mayor's office in City Hall and he thanked Bob Schamber for the \$1000 donation he made to the project. He apologized that he had work done that went over the \$1000 amount where bids are required and that he had reported it to the WV Ethics Commission. Mayor Casebolt said the city has sent the authorization for the riverbank erosion and backwater study with the Army Corps of Engineers.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilwoman Brenda Tyler asked the status of the proposed plaque for Ridenour Gazebo in memory of Halley Smith. Captain Ron King said that a sundial had been considered by Sherrie King and former Councilman at Large Craig Matthews but he would check on the status of the project. Mayor Dave Casebolt said he thought the CVB was also involved and he would follow up on it.

COUNCILMAN BILL JAVINS MOVED THE JANUARY MINUTES OF THE CVB MEETING BE MADE A PART OF COUNCIL MINUTES WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILMAN AL WALLS. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION TO CARRY. He said the CVB had voted to pay for pool renovation planning.

Councilman Al Walls said there is not a handicap accessible bathroom in City Hall.

COUNCILWOMAN LAURIE ELKINS MOVED THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCILMAN AT LARGE CRAIG MATTHEWS BE ACCEPTED WITH A SECOND BY RECORDER RITA COX. Mayor Dave Casebolt said he wanted to acknowledge some of the things that former Councilman Craig Matthews had accomplished as a member of Council: grant for trails at Ridenour, the new gazebo, litter control grants which put trash cans around town, memorandum of understanding with the Nitro Fire Department, handicap accessible pier at Ridenour Lake, building inspector/fire marshal position, 5k run (known as the world's longest in some circles), movie night at the Nitro Park, dog park at Ridenour, the city pool budget. Mayor Casebolt said this was not a complete list of what Councilman Matthews had gotten done. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION. Mayor Casebolt asked anyone interested in being appointed to the vacancy left by Councilman Craig Matthews to get in touch with a Council member.

Councilman Andy Shamblin said the NDA will meet February 12, 2013. He said that former Councilman at Large Craig Matthews had given him a Litter Control Grant Audit Report to distribute to members of Council. COUNCILMAN SHAMBLIN MOVED THE LITTER CONTROL GRANT AUDIT REPORT BE MADE A PART OF THE MINUTES WITH A SECOND BY RECORDER COX. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bob Schamber presented a report to Council on the bingo program that the Senior program is in charge of and a report on the distribution of funds.

Jim Carrier thanked Council for looking into the backwater in the Dupont Avenue neighborhood.

ADJOURNMENT: COUNCILMAN AL WALLS MOVED THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AND THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BILL JAVINS. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

MAYOR DAVE CASEBOLT

RECORDER RITA COX