

NITRO CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Dave Casebolt called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. In attendance were 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, Councilman at Large Bill Javins, City Attorney Johnnie Brown and City Treasurer John Young.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Invocation was given by Councilwoman Brenda Tyler and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by members of Boy Scout Troop 68 of Cross Lanes.

FUTURE DATES OF COUNCIL: Mayor Casebolt said the future dates of Council are March 5 and 19 and budget meetings for fiscal year 2013-2014 to be decided later.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES: RECORDER RITA COX MOVED THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2013 MEETING OF COUNCIL BE APPROVED WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILMAN BILL JAVINS. COUNCIL VOTED UNANIMOUSLY FOR THE MOTION.

OLD BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL AT LARGE REPLACEMENT: Mayor Casebolt said the only application for the replacement position for Council at Large which was left empty by the resignation of Craig Matthews, was John Montgomery. COUNCILWOMAN LAURIE ELKINS MOVED JOHN MONTGOMERY BE APPOINTED COUNCILMAN AT LARGE WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILMAN BILL JAVINS. COUNCIL VOTED UNANIMOUSLY FOR THE MOTION. Mayor Casebolt administered the oath of office to John Montgomery and he took his seat with the other members of Council.

RECOMMENDATION OF STREETScape COMMITTEE/ENGINEERING FIRM: Recorder Rita Cox said the Streetscape Committee met on January 21 to discuss the engineering firm selection for Phase 2 of the Streetscape program which involves 21st Street from First to Second Avenue. The Committee recommends that the city continue with Baker Engineering to do the work. RECORDER COX MOVED THAT BAKER ENGINEERING BE RETAINED FOR PHASE 2 OF THE STREETScape PROGRAM WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILMAN AL WALLS. Johnnie Brown said the wording in the original bidding process allowed the same engineering firm to be used for Streetscape projects and related work. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

REPORT ON PLAQUE SELECTION FOR RIDENOUR LAKE GAZEBO: Mayor Casebolt said the project to place a plaque at the new gazebo is still in the works with the money in the Public Works budget and former Councilman Craig Matthews and Sherry King working on the project.

NEW BUSINESS

ADOPTION OF WV CODE FOR LITTERING VIOLATION/REFER TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE: Recorder Rita Cox said that at a recent meeting of the Property Maintenance Board the decision was made to bring the Nitro Ordinance on littering to the same level as the WV Code. RECORDER COX MOVED THE ADOPTION OF THE WV CODE FOR LITTERING BE REFERRED TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILWOMAN BRENDA TYLER. COUNCIL VOTED UNANIMOUSLY FOR THE MOTION TO CARRY.

ORDINANCE ADDRESSING FEES FOR VACANT STRUCTURES/REFER TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE:
Recorder Cox said at the recent Property Maintenance Board meeting the problem of vacant structures was address. Mayor Casebolt said that Dunbar and St. Albans are both working on ordinances to assess vacant buildings because of the extra fire fighter and police department services they potentially require in the community. RECORDER COX MOVED COUNCIL REFER TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE THE CONSIDERATION OF THE DUNBAR/ST. ALBANS ORDINANCE ADDRESSING EXTRA FEES FOR EMPTY STRUCTURES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN AL WALLS AND VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE BOARD REPORT: Mayor Dave Casebolt said the Property Maintenance Board met on February 14 at 2:00 pm in Council Chambers. He said that along with the adoption of the WV Code for littering and the fees for vacant structures that were both referred to the Ordinance Committee, the Board discussed other ways to encourage property owners and renters to clean up the lots and homes. He said the Board is ready to go to the next step to hold property owners accountable for not maintaining property by taking them to court when invoices for work done by the city are not paid.

NDA REPORT: COUNCILMAN ANDY SHAMBLIN MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2013 MEETING OF THE NDA BE MADE A PART OF COUNCIL MINUTES WITH A SECOND BY RECORDER RITA COX. COUNCIL VOTED UNANIMOUSLY FOR THE MOTION TO CARRY. Councilman Shamblin said some items talked about in that meeting is the legality of boat slips at the boat launch, NDA possibly funding a new police department and indoor reception area at Ridenour Lake, rv camping at Ridenour and a brochure about the city.

ATTORNEY REPORT: Johnnie Brown said among some of the projects he is working on for the city is drafting a personnel policy for the city, helping the police department with policies, FOIA work, determining the bidding process for the engineering firm for Streetscape and the Council appointment replacement procedure.

TREASURER REPORT: COUNCILMAN ANDY SHAMBLIN MOVED THE TREASURER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILWOMAN LAURIE ELKINS. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

MAYOR COMMENTS: Mayor Dave Casebolt said he would like to appoint Councilwoman Laurie Elkins to chair the Parks and Recreation Committee and Councilman Andy Shamblin to chair the Police and Fire Committee. RECORDER COX MOVED THAT COUNCIL APPROVE MAYOR CASEBOLT'S APPOINTMENTS OF COUNCILWOMAN LAURIE ELKINS TO CHAIR PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE AND COUNCILMAN ANDY SHAMBLIN TO CHAIR THE POLICE AND FIRE COMMITTEE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN WALLS AND COUNCIL VOTED UNANIMOUSLY FOR THE MOTION TO CARRY.

Mayor Casebolt said he is starting a recycling program in City Hall and it is open to the public. On the last Saturday in March a truck will be parked near City Hall and those who are interested can bring paper, plastic and cardboard. He said the Wellness Program Committee with Dr. Meffert has had a meeting to start getting organized and there will be another meeting soon. He said there is a meeting Thursday to consider allowing boating on the lake and a plan for 3D archery at the lake.

Police Chief Brian Oxley said an application has been made for a PRO grant to put policemen in the public schools in the area.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Andy Shamblin said that Council needs to consider budget meetings for fiscal year 2013-2014. RECORDER RITA COX MOVED COUNCIL MEET AFTER THE MARCH 5 MEETING OF COUNCIL FOR A BUDGET MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN AL WALLS AND VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION TO CARRY.

Councilwoman Laurie Elkins said she was pleased that the sewer problems in the 500 block of Washington Avenue have been addressed. She said she is optimistic about the Wellness Program and hopes to see more people get involved. Among activities proposed are a charity walk, health education for schools and seniors, health fairs, and 5K walks. She said the next meeting is on Tuesday March 26.

Recorder Rita Cox thanked Boy Scout Troop 68 from Cross Lanes for attending and participating in Council.

Councilman Bill Javins welcomed newly appointed Councilman John Montgomery and said he looked forward to working with him on Council.

Councilman John Montgomery thanked everyone for the support they gave him and said he would like to continue attending the Planning Commission meetings to help with the Comprehensive Plan. Mayor Casebolt said he had no objection even though he would not be a Planning Commission member.

Councilwoman Brenda Tyler welcomed John Montgomery and said his Council seat was long overdue because of all the work he does for the city as a volunteer.

Chief Brian Oxley said the Police and Fire Committee recommendation that was presented at the December 18, 2012 Council will have to be adjusted to a two phase policy. In the first phase the position of corporal in the Nitro Police Department is done away with and those affected will become sergeants. There will also be a position created for a deputy chief. The second phase of the policy changes will require action by the civil service commission regarding testing. Council will have what is necessary for that on the next agenda for the March 5, 2013 Council meeting. Chief Oxley said retired Nitro Policeman John Joyce had passed away.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Schamber said his grandson is the Buckskin Council Scout of the Year. Mayor Casebolt presented Bob Schamber with a certificate to recognize his work for the city.

ADJOURNMENT: COUNCILMAN WALLS MOVED THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AND RECORDER COX SECONDED THE MOTION. COUNCIL VOTED UNANIMOUSLY FOR THE MOTION.

DAVE CASEBOLT, MAYOR

RITA COX, RECORDER