

**TOWN OF McBEE
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 2, 2018**

Present: Mayor John Campolong, Charlie Sutton, Beulah Bolton, A C McLeod, Jr., Marion Stephens, Martin Driggers – Town Attorney and Terri King (Administrator)

Absent:

Note to Minutes: Terri King, Administrator, typed minutes.

Meeting Called to Order: Mayor John Campolong called meeting to order.

Invocation: Martin Driggers

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion to Approve Minutes: Motion to approve minutes, as written, from the December 5, 2017, Regular Council Meeting, made by Mayor John Campolong and seconded by Council Person Beulah Bolton. All were in favor.

Reports:

Administrator Terri King

Latondra Johnson has returned to work. She is undergoing physical therapy and we are trying to work together so that the office will not be closed. There may be times when the office will be closed due to neither one of being available.

We have received reimbursement for legal expenses from the Pre-paid legal insurance. The balance has been submitted and the Town should receive the balance during January. This will give the Town \$15,000 of reimbursed legal fees for the expenses incurred with the Alligator Rural Water and Sewer case.

Mayor Campolong: Our Senior Dinner went well and I believe all enjoyed themselves.

Terri King: The Council may want to re-look the Senior Dinner. We had to prepare for 200 this year, with many take-out plates being requested in volume. Some requested up to 20 plates and we don't know who is receiving the plates.

Council Person Beulah Bolton: Yes, I witnessed this myself and agree that we need to make changes. Maybe we should find out who is home bound and take them plates ourselves and everyone else will have to eat in, with no take out plates allowed. I would be willing to take the plate to the homebound myself.

Mayor Campolong: I agree that we need to look at making some changes.

Council Person Beulah Bolton

I have talked with others about the Angel Tree too. Some do not want to participate because some of the children on the tree are not in need of receiving gifts. We need to look at how the children are chosen.

Terri King: The Town is a collection point only. We do not select the children who are on the tree. The McBee Elementary School gives us the names to put on the tree. It is my understanding that the teachers select which students are chosen.

Council Person Beulah Bolton: I will discuss this with the Principle then.

The sign coming into McBee on Number 1 from Bethune is missing. What can we do to get this replaced? Where did we get our current signs?

Council Person Kemp McLeod: I believe Chris Tiller made the signs years ago.

Council Person Beulah Bolton: We need to check with him to see if he could make us a new sign.

We need to do something about the dilapidated houses in the Town.

Council Person Marion Stephens: I've been working on this, but the problem we have is that the property owners don't have the money to tear them down and the Town has not determined how to allocate the budgeted funds toward this problem.

Council Person Beulah Bolton: We need to look at the ordinance and revise it so that we can start getting these properties cleaned up.

Mayor Campolong: I agree, look at the ordinance and bring to the Council your recommendations.

Council Person A C McLeod

I would like our emphasis for 2018 to be to get this matter with Alligator and AO Smith resolved. DHEC has approved our request to operate our own wells, but we are not able to do this because of the injunction that Alligator Rural Water and AO Smith has against the Town. Shame on them for preventing the Town from operating their own water system. Drop the injunction, let the Town operate its water system and if there is a territorial issue, let's resolve it from that point. But, don't continue to cause the Town to spend its funds on legal issues from an injunction filed by Alligator Rural Water and AO Smith. We need to get this settled this year, it has gone on long enough.

Did we get any applications for the vacancy in the maintenance department?

Terri King: We have received one application to date.

Council Person A C McLeod: We need to get the word out that we have a vacancy. Post the position on SC website to try and get the word out.

We had an extremely bad fire last night right outside the Town. 80 acres burned and residents close to the fire were concerned for their safety. Due to the dry conditions and low humidity I propose that we put a fire ban out until further notice.

Terri King: How long would the ban last?

Council Person A C McLeod: I would issue a ban on burning for the rest of the month. The conditions are too dry for any burning at all.

MOTION TO PLACE A BURNING BAN WITHIN THE TOWN OF MCBEE FOR THE REMAINDER OF JANUARY 2018 made by Council Person A C McLeod, Jr., seconded by Council Person Mayor Campolong. All in favor.

Council Person Marion Stephens

The funds for the dilapidated housing needs to be looked at and we need to decide how to allocate those funds. What priority are we going to give a prospective property owner when they

can't afford to clean their property up? What qualifications will be required to distribute the funds.

Council Person A C McLeod: Let's look at how neighboring Towns handle their fund and we'll see how McBee can do the same.

Mayor John Campolong

Kemp expounded on our water situation and I agree that the Town should be able to control its own destiny. They should not be allowed to control our growth or our rates. We should have our own water system.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mayor John Campolong and seconded by Council Person A C McLeod. All were in favor.