

**Village of Folsom  
General Meeting  
February 10, 2014  
7:00 p.m.**

**Present: Mayor Phillip Bickham  
Alderwoman: Jill Mathies  
Alderman: Donald Burris  
Alderman: Lance Willie  
Attorney: Delbert Talley**

**Absent: CPA: Minda Raybourn**

The meeting was called to order and a quorum established. The invocation and pledge were led by Alderman Donald Burris. The Agenda and financial statements were approved on motion of Alderman Burris, seconded by Alderman Willie. The motion carried. (3 Yeas, 0 Nays)

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

**Item 1 = Introduction Ordinance No. 2014-1**

**Execute debt and issuance of \$150,000 of Activity Center Loan:**

Mayor stated that we have been discussing the activity center for a long time and the board asked to return remaining funds of the \$150,000. He stated that we have spent money on fire marshal, bonding commission and paid interest on this loan. Mayor stated, "I am still not in favor of returning this and continue to building the activity center." Alderman Burris also stated "lets do what we have to do to come together," this will be a great asset to our town and I would like to ask my colleagues to do what we have to do to sit down to come to an agreement, in order to move forward with our activity center. Alderman Willie stated he still stands by what he has said in the last four meetings that we can't financially afford this building along with expenses such as lift stations, new cars for police station and requesting a raise for employees in the last three years, I've been told that the town doesn't have any money. I'm not comfortable with getting a building right now and our CPA Mrs. Rayburn also shows that we can't financially afford this building. We need to come into this a little more prepared and financially secure. I support a building and I think Folsom needs something that we can call ours, but we aren't financially stable at the moment. Alderman Burris stated for the last three years we have been operating the town successfully and when we got the loan it was stated in the ordinance each year we should have enough in our budget. Alderman Willie stated "why is it that the Mayor tells me we can't even afford a raise for our town employees?" Alderman Burris stated let's deal with the activity center. Alderwoman Mathies stated in the last three years she has asked on multiple occasions how we are going to generate the funds, and several questions and I have yet to see a budget, building specs to review and how this building will fund itself. Plans were never outwardly given to the public for viewing or myself, I think we were a little unprepared, I'm not against it but I have a lot of unanswered questions and how long do we continue to pay interest and how can we really move forward. Mayor stated we have had an architect come in draw and approve

plans, a fire marshal approved plans, board said we would take bids and was told this will be a turn key building, not a partially built building. Maybe we can upgrade it in the future, stated Mayor. This budget we have presented was enough for the building, but how do we know if we can't present the bids. The board then came to a point that they didn't want to do this at all, Mayor replied. Alderwoman Mathies said that's not how I feel the situation was presented or occurred to some truth but there were three different estimates that were given but never presented talked to some board members but not presented to others and you want me to make a decision over information that I felt was never given or received. I still don't feel by where we stand financially that I can ultimately say I'm comfortable in order to move forward. Alderman Burris stated I have visited many activity centers/Senor centers and have gotten papers on how the City of Mandeville rents out their center. I have told you all that I have been and still am available to answer questions. Alderman Willie stated, I still don't feel we can financially afford this expense. I have taken our CPA Mrs. Raybourn's opinion, my opinion and citizen's opinion that they don't feel we are ready for a building by what they have seen on the budget. Mayor asked Alderman Willie if he knew how much we generate in sales taxes a month? Alderman Willie stated no I don't off hand. Mayor stated, we take in \$50-55 thousand a month on Sale Taxes. If we don't have \$2000 to invest into a building for the citizens of this community, I've looked at our budget and I don't think it's a financial issue. We are introducing this tonight and will have public hearing next meeting. Alderwoman Mathis asked Mayor so you think that the \$1900 or \$2000 we have been taking out, we can afford it that you don't have any major needs that the money needs to go to things prior to the building? Mayor stated no major needs that we can't address, we use grants for issues like the pumps for the sewer. There is always things that you can spend money on, what's important to some people may be not as important to others. Alderwoman Mathies stated I think sewer, water non back-up would be important to every citizen prior to a building and don't think that would be up for controversy. This is where I think it's best appropriate we get out of this debt and introduce this ordinance. Mayor said I understand your concern with sewer and water but I'm not aware that we have any major sewer and water issues, and if there were some I feel that should have been aware of, but I respect ya'll opinion and we have introduced it. Mr. Talley stated I need to clarify one thing this ordinance I drafted authorizes the Mayor to cancel those certificate, it doesn't instruct him to cancel them and it doesn't say we are not going to build this building. My recommendation is that we cancel those certificates because we are not at a point were anyone is willing to say let's build it. Alderwoman Mathies stated, we need to go ahead and introduce the ordinance, it needs to be put in front of a public hearing next month, and then the public can ask him what his intentions are or the board and at that time we should be able to do so.

### **Item 2 = Advertisement for Garbage renewal Service Bids**

Mayor stated that we aren't previously in contract with our garbage collector. We are introducing a contract where the board is authorizing myself as the Mayor to enter into signing a contract for garbage service that gives us the lowest bid. Mr. Talley stated he hasn't seen a contract, so I have drafted a contract. I did get a document that has SDT LLC its hand written September 1, 2013, basically what it is, is a copy of the 2008 agreement and on the front it's got written on it \$12.50 SDT and \$14.75 CW (Coastal Waste). There's nothing signed but I have this document where it appears it might have been a verbal document or proposal from SDT, but I did want you all to know about it. Alderman Willie asked how does this take place. Mr. Talley stated, what we will do is put it out for public bid and ask them how much they would charge per resident per

month and then hopefully it would come in under the amount he the village is charging. I did put a clause if it comes out to be the amount we are charging or more that we can reject then bids, because we have to cover our administration expenses. First thing you all would need to do is approve the contract, then secondly we have to see if anyone will come in at our present rate or below. I need everyone to look over contract very closely before you make a decision. Mr. Talley also briefly read the introductions of the contract that indicated the procedures of the bid process. A resident asked who will be chairperson and who will sit on the committee for the bids? Mayor stated that we all will look at them as a collective group, myself and the board. Motion of Alderman Burris that we do the proper procedures to advertise for garbage renewal services, second per Alderman Willie. (3 Yeas, 0 Nays), the motion carried.

Mrs. Ziifle from the audience stated that she would like to request a refund or credit for the last few months, where she has only had garbage picked up once a week or none at all. "I feel I'm due a credit of at least one month." Mayor asked Mrs. Ziifle if she had called the office so that the utility clerk would contact garbage company to have them come out and pick up your garbage if its skipped. Ms. Ziifle stated, yes several times. What I will do is get your number after the meeting and contact you tomorrow about this issue.

### **Item 3= Introduction Section 31.71**

#### **Ordinance revoking the dedication of Willow St.**

Mayor introduced the ordinance to revoke the dedication of Willow St. Alderwoman Mathies stated that she is familiar with this request because she attended the planning and zoning meeting.

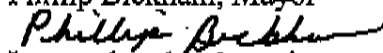
#### **Announcements:**

Mayor introduced Greg Saurage president of Folsom Mardi Gras, he announced this 2014 Folsom Mardi theme will be Super Hero's, March 4<sup>th</sup> and our Folsom King will be George Guzman owner of Veer Off, Queen Theresa Bruhl, long term teacher from Folsom Elementary, Grand Marshal Jack Loup, our school board member and our parade this year is dedicated to past royalty Ms. Jane Pittman. Town hall will have registration forms. Alderman Burris thanked residents that attended meeting tonight.

Meeting was adjourned on motion of Alderman Burris, seconded by Alderman Willie. (3 Yeas, 0 Nays) The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip Bickham, Mayor



I attest that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes taken at the General Meeting held February 10, 2014.

Attest:

Susan Willie, Municipal Clerk