

Village of Folsom

Mayor - Bettye M. Boggs

Aldерwoman - Paulette Lee
Alderwoman - Jill Mathies
Alderman - Lance Willie



Andree Core - Municipal Clerk
Ronnie "Beau" Killingsworth -
Chief of Police
Delbert G. Talley - Village Attorney

General Meeting
December 14, 2015
7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Bettye M. Boggs
Alderwoman Paulette Lee
Alderwoman Jill Mathies
Alderman Lance Willie
Attorney Delbert Talley
Municipal Clerk, Andree Core

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bettye Boggs and the Municipal Clerk established the quorum. Mayor Boggs presented the innovation and pledge.

A motion by Alderwoman Lee was made to amend the agenda to include Beer and Liqueur Licenses. It was seconded by Alderman Lance Willie and the motion carried. (3 yeas, 0 nays.)

The monthly financial statement was presented. Mayor Boggs asked for approval of financial statements from November and October that had been tabled. Addressed first were the November financial statements to which Alderwoman Lee stated she continues to have the same questions as last month. Alderwoman Lee stated she intends to meet with Village CPA regarding several questions. Mayor Boggs recommended that we meet with the CPA before the meetings so we can be ready to address the issues at our meeting. A discussion followed. A motion was made by Alderwoman Lee to table the financial statements of November and October, seconded by Alderwoman Mathies and the motion carried. (2 yeas) Paulette Lee, Jill Mathies and (1 abstain) Lance Willie.

Mayor Boggs presented the approval of November General Meeting minutes. Mayor Boggs stated that the minutes are posted on the town website or anyone can pick up a hard copy at town hall. A motion was made by Alderman Willie for approval of the minutes, seconded by Alderwoman Mathies and the motion carried. (3 yeas, 0 nays.)

Old Business:

Item I – Team Waste Contract / Renewal

Alderwoman Mathies stated that we were sent a notice that our trial period for recycling is up and the village needs to decide how we would like to proceed. Team Waste will not be able to extend this

trial period offer. Team Waste informed the village that the trial included three 96 gallon bins and due to the high abundance of recycling there is overflow of the bins. Alderwoman Mathies stated that she inquired as to how many people we would have to sign up to do curbside. A discussion followed and the item was table until further information could be obtained. Two positive comments from the audience were presented with regard to the village offering recycling.

Item II – Credit Card Policy

Mayor Boggs stated that the development of the credit card policy was discussed during the previous work session with the aldermen. She stated that this has been on the table the last two months and asked the board if they are ready to present a credit card policy at this time. Alderwoman Mathies stated that work is being done on the policy but they did not have one to present at this time. Further discussion followed and Mr. Talley clarified that this needs to be addressed through an ordinance rather than a resolution.

Item III – Engineer Report

The Village Engineer Jay Pittman gave a report regarding the opportunity and potential to get a USDA grant or loan. He said the program is geared towards water and waste water treatment and he has had discussions with Scott Roth, Maintenance Supervisor, to look at sewer improvements. Mr. Pittman stated that unfortunately with USDA funding it comes with rate increases depending on how much we plan to fund the system. He plans to get the Maintenance Supervisor and review the system and will be able to give the village some recommendations for improvements. He stated that by just looking at the audit and our low rates, we are more than likely looking at a loan program verses a grant. He informed that based on the audit, the village has shown a loss from the last two years with the sewer system. He said typical systems of our size we would be looking at double what our existing rate is. Mr. Pittman will provide additional engineering information on the system needs and rates in the future at the January meeting.

A discussion followed on some current issues with the sewer treatment plant and Mayor Boggs indicated she would forward pictures to the aldermen. Mr. Pittman stated that the treatment plant itself is not that old and can adequately handle the existing sewer load but the past problems are due to infiltration. He will communicate with Mr. Roth and provide the village with recommendations.

Alderwoman Lee asked a question on a matter not on the agenda and with no objection from the board nor the audience, she asked about the property of Moise Square. A discussion regarding a possible dispute concerning a portion of the property followed. Mr. Pittman informed that different grants have different requirements and it depends on the funding source. Mr. Talley stated that the grant writer might put stipulations in it that the title must be cleared and that could be a hold up in the future.

New Business:

Item I – Mardi Gras Parade

Mayor Boggs stated that Mr. Greg Saurage had asked to address the board regarding the upcoming Mardi Gras Parade. Alderwoman Mathies stated that the theme this year will be “Countries of the World.” The Mardi Gras King this year will be Chief David Pittman, Queen is Kay Loup Loyd, and the Grand Marshall is Tina Pierre.

Item II – Utility Adjustments

Mayor Boggs presented the adjustments as a group. The first item is for Frank Prattini on Highway #40 for a reading of 57300 that should have been 51300 and a credit of \$7.65 is requested to that account. The second item is for Elizabeth Harrell on Railroad Avenue and the customer bill should have been \$37.75 for October and November but due to a faulty meter determined by the maintenance department the reading was incorrect. Therefore, this customer should be credited for \$70.19. The third one was for the Sidney Pittman on Austin St. where the customer needs to be refunded \$75.91. Mayor Boggs stated this one was also due to the faulty Infinity meters with which we are having problems.

The last item for adjustment is Cassandra McGeachy on St. John Church Road and this bill should be adjusted \$655.52. Mayor Boggs stated that is due to the wrong meter being read at this residence. Mr. Roth stated he will need to review this with the utility clerk for further information. Alderwoman Mathies asked how the status of our meters and Mayor Boggs stated that we are purchasing approximately \$11,000 for new meters with the balance grant money to replace faulty meters.

A discussion followed on the McGeachy water billed and approval of this adjustment was tabled for further information with no penalties incurring until a decision is made. Alderman Willie made a motion to approve the first three adjustments, it was seconded by Alderwoman Mathies and the motion carried. *(3 yeas, 0 nays.)*

Alderman Willie made a motion to table the McGeachy water bill until next meeting. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Mathies and the motion carried. *(3 yeas, 0 nays.)*

Item II – LGAP 2015-16 Resolution

Mayor Boggs read the Resolution for approval of the application for the LGAP 2015-16 for grant funds. A discussion of current LGAP grants followed. Alderman Willie made a motion to approve the LGAP Resolution, it was seconded by Alderwoman Mathies and the motion carried. *(2 yeas) Lance Willie, Jill Mathies. (1 abstain) Paulette Lee.*

Item III – Comp-time for Municipal Clerk position

Mayor Boggs stated that this item was discussed in detail at a work session prior to the general meeting. Alderman Willie stated that an ordinance addressing this issue will be presented at the next meeting. Alderwoman Lee asked if the policy could be drafted retroactive to her absences. A discussion followed and a plan will be presented next month.

Alderwoman Lee asked if we can vote on reinstating her time tonight. Mr. Talley stated that the previous town clerk did take comp time. He said that after looking into it the Attorney General requires you to have a written policy and procedure and we did not have it. Mr. Talley stated that he didn't have a problem with it as there is precedent for doing this as the previous town clerk took comp time and Mayor Boggs agreed. Alderwoman Mathies stated she did not have a problem with this. Mayor Boggs stated that we will return the policy and procedure to the table next month.

Item IV – Resolution for Appointing Village Attorney for Mayor's Court

Mayor Boggs read the Resolution for providing for the Mayor and the Village Attorney as prosecutor in Mayor's court and for appointment of the Village Attorney to serve as magistrate to preside over Mayor's court when requested to do so by the Mayor. Mr. Talley informed the board that we have had several calls regarding having fines changed from a moving violation to a non-moving violation. He stated that there are many reasons why but basically most municipalities can change this as long as you

have a prosecutor to do it. And under state law the mayor has the right to appoint the prosecutor upon approval of the Board of Alderman. Then after his approval she can appoint him to be the prosecutor and he can recommend whether or not to change the violations.

Mr. Talley stated regarding Magistrate court if the Mayor is absent the Mayor Pro Tem will sit in her place unless the mayor wants to appoint him with approval of Mayor Pro Tem. He recommended that we need that for procedural reasons. Alderman Willie asked if Mr. Talley was required to be there as the prosecutor at that court. Mr. Talley replied that he is required to make a recommendation and that can be made before as long as it is not the judge. A discussion followed.

Alderman Willie asked if the mayor or he cannot fill in is that when he would come in to place. Mr. Talley stated that the mayor can appoint him but by law the mayor pro tem would normally do it but if you cannot she would appoint him. Alderwoman Mathies asked the question so if by law does the mayor have to ask Lance first and he would have to opt out. Mr. Talley stated that the law states that the next one in line is the mayor pro tem so he would want both of them to approve it before he did it. Mayor Boggs asked for any comments from the audience. Alderman Willie stated that he would like to state in the policy the attorney can serve as magistrate if approved by the mayor and the mayor pro tem. Alderman Willie made a motion to approve the resolution with the suggested changes to be made, it was seconded by Alderwoman Mathies and the motion carried. *(3 yeas, 0 nays.)*

Item V – Contract with Curtis Environmental

Mayor Boggs stated that she and Mr. Roth have a meeting with Mike Curtis in which they will have additional information at that time. A discussion followed and Alderman Willie questioned eliminating some of their services. Alderman Willie stated that he recalls that we set an ongoing contract in which we can cancel or change up at any time.

Item VI – Work Session with Alderman

Mr. Talley addressed this item and indicated he reviewed the attorney general opinions and noted that anyone can go online and review the attorney general's opinions. Mr. Talley informed the board that they cannot make any decisions, poll other members, rolling poll, or call to see how the other members are going to vote. He stated that there is nothing wrong with them giving information to each other or helping the citizens in putting items on the agenda. Mr. Talley informed that as long as they do not say how they are going to vote or politic decisions outside of the general meeting they could meet. He provided two documents from the attorney general with different situations for the board to review. Mayor Boggs asked for any comments or questions from the audience and Mr. Beard asked who is the mayor pro tem and this was clarified.

Amended Item – Beer and Liquor Licenses

Mayor Boggs asked for the municipal clerk to present the status on the Beer and Liquor License renewals for the village. The municipal clerk stated that all businesses applications have been signed and received at town hall with the exception of El Milagro and Don Juan Restaurant. Mayor Boggs stated that this is the renewal for Beer and Liquor licenses for all businesses in the village which is done at the end of the year. She provided the board with a list of all businesses which includes what they have paid and informed them of the two businesses in arrears. She informed that these two businesses, Don Juan and Veer Off, will not be issued their licenses until there sales tax is paid in full. Alderman Willie made a motion to accept the 2016 Beer and License renewal based on the stipulations given, it was seconded by Alderwoman Mathies and the motion carried. *(3 yeas, 0 nays.)*

Mr. Beard asked the question concerning who enforces this in the village and Mayor Boggs referred this to Chief Killingsworth who stated that the sheriff's office will send them letters and they will try to work out a deal. A discussion followed regarding the procedure for those who have not paid their sales tax and received the Beer and Liquor License.

Mayor Boggs asked for any other questions from the audience. A question was asked regarding if someone is issued a moving violation ticket then can that person come to someone to ask them not to make it a moving violation. Mayor Boggs asked Chief Killingsworth to address this question and he stated that he has no control over helping anyone with a ticket but the judge is ultimately responsible. A question was then asked that they thought he had to be made prosecutor in order to help. He stated that in the past the judge and mayor in the end have the authority to change unless the laws have changed. A further discussion followed.

Announcements:

Mayor Boggs noted that a discussion of emergency situations was held in the work session. She states a situation that occurred recently when a property owner notified the village of a dead tree which had caused damage to his garage and that the village had a responsibility to take the tree down once we were made aware of the situation. A discussion followed due to the fact there was no purchase order signed prior to the removal of the tree. Mayor Boggs cited the revised statute which applied to this situation regarding the expenditure of funds in emergency situations. Further discussion followed.

Adjournment: There was a motion by Alderman Willie to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderwoman Lee and the motion carried (3 yeas, 0 nays).

Respectfully submitted,

Bettye M. Boggs, Mayor

I attest that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes taken at the General Meeting held at Town Hall on November 9, 2015.

Attest:

Andree Core, Municipal Clerk