

Minutes of the Work Session of  
The Liberty Town Council  
Held on November 18, 2024 5:30 PM

Present

Mayor: The Honorable Filmore York

Council: Terry Caviness, Larry Coble, Don Herndon, and Greg Carpenter

Town Manager: Scott Kidd

Town Clerk: Jessica Brown

Staff: Public Works Director; Joseph Walsh, Finance Director; Kathy Bond, Police Chief; David Semrad, Library Director; Brenda Heindl, Assistant Town Manager; Janie Phelps, Parks & Recreation Director; Kolby McPherson

Town Attorney; Robert Giles II

To Order

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and welcomed department heads and those watching on Facebook.

Adoption of Agenda

Council Member Don Herndon made a motion to adopt the agenda. Council Member Terry Caviness seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Council Members Larry Coble, Terry Caviness, Don Herndon, and Greg Carpenter voted yes and adopted the agenda.

Information

**Monthly Reports**

Each Department's Monthly Reports are included for review. Mayor York asked Public Works Director Joseph Walsh about the leaf schedule. He said it is their goal to start the route on Mondays and run the complete route every week. Limb and leaf pick ups are limited to CDL drivers. The leaf truck is back in service and they have one employee out on medical leave. Council Member Herndon asked about the parking spots in front of Grace Lutheran that make it difficult to see when pulling out from the connecting street. Mr. Walsh said he has submitted to DOT and they will review. The parking spots do belong to the Town. Council Member Herndon said he thinks traffic has increased there. Mayor York thanked Parks and Recreation for their hard work on the Trunk or Treat at Freedom Park. Council Member Herndon said it looks like the library has a lot of new

visitors. Library Director Brenda Heindl said it is a sixteen percent average per month increase for foot traffic and program participation.

#### **Code Enforcement Update**

Paul Fuller with State Code Enforcement came forward to give the update. Overgrown grass complaints have slowed down since grass is dying. The daily fine continues to increase on 122 Swannanoa. There are two more cases on New Street.

#### New Business

#### **2025 Council Meeting Schedule**

This is the Town Council Meeting Schedule for 2025

#### **Town of Liberty Holiday Schedule 2025**

This is to adopt the Town's holiday schedule for 2025.

#### **Budget Amendment # 10 - Parks and Recreation**

This amendment is to move funds from General Fund Appr to the Parks and Recreation Department for advertising. (This is Grant monies received from Randolph County for Tourist Development on Ck # 520051 in the amount of \$2500.00. An invoice needed to be paid so funds were moved from the Non-Athletic line item. This budget amendment will repay the Non-Athletic line item.)

#### **Sandy Creek property access discussion**

This is a discussion on entering into an agreement for access to the Sandy Creek property used by Public Works. This pre-dates former Town Attorney Bill Flowe. The road was put there in the 1930's. There is no legal easement. The Town Manager has spoken to the owner multiple times. The Town has been using it more than in the past. We added gravel but it was not to his liking. He wants to charge the Town \$100.00 per month to cover maintenance. There is no other good access and no paper agreements. Our current Town Attorney thinks this is a fair agreement. The consensus is to move forward with the agreement and bring it back for a vote and signatures. The Town Manager said he can propose three years at this price.

#### Manager's Report

Town Manager Scott Kidd gave the report. ASADRA/ARPA contract bids are due November 21, 2024 2 PM. If we do not get three we will have to advertise again. There will only be one Council Meeting in December on December 2nd 2024. The Employee Christmas lunch will be Friday December 13, 2024 at the Reitzel Center. Our WWTP (Wastewater Treatment Plant) report is due on the 30th. It is one of our SOC milestones. The goal is to be done with the audit by December 1st. Once this is complete we can ask the league again about purchasing a fire truck. Since we are on the unit assisted list we must get approval to purchase something for more than \$50,000. He will be starting on the budget and retirement contributions are increasing. We will have to bid out trash services. We are under a five year contract with Republic. He will come to Council with the results of the bids. Bret Pedigo is looking at the safety and liability of our parade routes.

#### Public Hearings announcement - Janie Phelps

Assistant Town Manager Janie Phelps said there will be two Public Hearings at the Council Meeting on Monday December 2, 2024 at 5:30 PM. One will be for text amendments for murals, subdivisions, and parking ordinances. The second one will be a

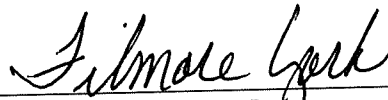
legislative rezoning request. She will follow up with an email and is handing out quasi judicial handbooks to Council members.

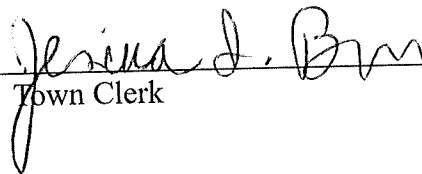
Mayor Comments

Mayor York asked the Council about the Christmas Parade and the consensus was to ride together in it.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, Council Member Larry Coble made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Council Member Terry Caviness seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Council Member Larry Coble voted yes, Council Member Terry Caviness voted yes, Council Member Don Herndon voted yes, and Council Member Greg Carpenter voted yes. The meeting was adjourned.

  
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Mayor Filmore York

ATTEST:   
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Town Clerk

