

MINUTES

MONTEAGLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING April 29, 2008

PRESENT: Charles Rollins
Dean Lay
Bud Knott
Marilyn Nixon
Lex Orr

This meeting of the Monteagle City Council was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Charles Rollins.

Following the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance led by the Boy Scouts, approval of the Minutes of the meetings of March 25, March 31, April 7, April 14, and April 21, 2008, were tabled until the next meeting on a motion by Lex Orr which was seconded by Bud Knott and passed 4/0.

REPORTS

1. **POLICE DEPARTMENT – Copy attached**

Chief McNeece also reported that the engine on the 1997 Blazer was blown and recommended getting it repaired. He will get some estimates for the next meeting. Chief McNeece noted that the city was awarded \$10,000.00 of the money that was confiscated from the Lucky Spa. He said the owner had pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of prostitution. He also said that there are people living in the building. Ald. Orr made a motion to have the police chief to take action on the use of this building as a residence. Ald. Knott seconded the motion and it passed 4/0.

2. **FIRE DEPARTMENT – Copy attached**

Chief Layne asked the council to approve the purchase of new radios for the fire department. He said they would cost about \$1400.00 Ald. Orr made a motion to purchase the radios from the \$2000.00 donation given to the city by Grundy County for the fire department not to exceed \$1475.00. Ald. Knott seconded the motion which passed 4/0 on roll call vote. Chief Layne also reported that the fire department used 8750 gallons of water in April.

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3. **PLANNING COMMISSION – Copy attached**
4. **MAYOR – The mayor introduced Enrique Madico Magnani who asked the council to consider a donation to help sponsor the first Interantional Soccer Youth Tournament to be held in Sewanee this year. The tournament is for eight to fourteen year olds and will be held in July. They will need an answer within the next 30 days.**
5. **ALDERMEN – Ald. Knott reported that he had taken one of the police cars to Murfreesboro to have a new camera installed. He will be taking one car per week until all the new cameras are installed. The police department received a grant to pay for the cameras.**
6. **CITY RECORDER – None**

OLD BUSINESS

None

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS – Grundy County Clerk Jimmy Rogers swore in all the officials elected on April 8th. Marilyn Nixon was the only new member of the council and she took her seat at this time. The mayor thanked all of the citizens who attended this meeting and asked each of the aldermen to participate in the city government by being a go-between with the various activities, as follows: Marilyn Nixon – grant seeking, Bud Knott – police department, Lex Orr – budget & finance, Dean Lay – utilities. All of the aldermen agreed to serve as requested.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **BUSINESS LICENSE APPLICATION – There was one request for a business license from Jerry Gonzales for a restaurant with live entertainment in Lynn Stubblefield's building where Moonshine Maggie's was. After a discussion on parking, Ald. Orr made a motion to approve the license. The motion was seconded by Ald. Knott and passed 5/0. Ald. Lay noted that the parking requirements the city has refer to the site plans submitted to the Planning Commission and really don't affect existing businesses. Ald. Lay asked for a list of all businesses in town.**

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- 2. INTERSTATE RAMP LIGHTING – Jim Boynton reported that a letter has been sent to Commissioner Nicely, but no reply has been received yet.**
- 3. OCCUPANCY TAX – A letter will be sent out next week to the places that rent out rooms notifying them that the Town will no longer waive the tax for organizations that are tax exempt. Ald. Lay said he feels we should audit the businesses that collect occupancy tax. It was noted that the Monteagle Assembly is in the process of hiring someone to handle rentals on the grounds. This should make it easier to collect the occupancy tax from the Assembly rentals. Ald. Lay made a motion to enforce the hotel/motel tax ordinance and as part of that enforcement that we audit these facilities, and that the council have a workshop before the audit is done and a list of those paying the tax be provided for this workshop. Ald. Orr seconded the motion which passed 5/0.**
- 4. BEAUTIFICATION – SPRING PLANTING – A & B Nursery has done the flowers in Town for the past several years. They noted that they would be willing to plant the flowers this year, but could not handle the watering. Therefore, city employees will have to do the watering if the flowers are planted. Ald. Orr made a motion to have A & B Nursery plant the spring flowers and have city employees keep them watered. Ald. Lay seconded the motion which passed 5/0.**
- 5. SPARKLE WEEK – This year sparkle week will be May 12th through May 16th.**
- 6. AUDIT CONTRACT – Hiring of the auditors was tabled in order to ask Johnson, Murphey, and Wright if they will do the audit for the occupancy tax.**
- 7. PAVING STREETS – Jim Boynton reported that he has asked the state to pave some of the streets that they used to own as they have done this in the past if we pay for the material. There was a discussion on streets that are in bad shape and which ones to pave first. Mayor Rollins suggested that we should do some ditching before any streets are paved. He said working on the streets won't do any good until they are ditched. There was a discussion on the condition of Mabee Street which is in very bad shape. Ald. Lay said this may be a conflict of interest for him since his new funeral home is being built on Mabee Street. Dean Lay agreed to move his green area out as far as the paving, if the city works on this street. Ald. Nixon said she feels if business owners are going to invest money in new businesses the city should provide them with a good street. Ald. Orr made a motion to pave the area discussed not to exceed \$2500.00. Mayor Rollins said he felt we should look at doing the**

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rest of the area if we are going to do a portion of it. Ald. Orr withdrew his motion and made a motion to talk to a contractor and do the whole area if the cost does not exceed \$6000.00. Ald. Knott seconded the motion. It passed 4/0 on roll call vote with Ald. Lay abstaining.

PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD MEETING

- 1. REMOTE READERS – There was a discussion on doing this project and Jim Boynton reported that he had only found one company that does this in our area and they seem to have a monopoly on it. Ald. Lay suggested that we put this out for bids and set a bid opening of about 45 days in order to give Jim Boynton time to find other companies who can do this.**

The next meeting will be Monday, May 5th at 5:00 PM. Ald. Lay asked that the council discuss the position of city judge at that meeting. He also asked that this new term of office start off with cleaning up the town and enforcing codes.

CITIZENS HEARING

Paul Tittle said the area where he lives needs to be dredged. The mayor said he would look at doing a ditch line. This should take care of his problem. He also asked if there were plans to finish the sidewalk in town and the mayor said there were.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Joy Sturtevant, City Recorder