

**TOWN OF GOOD HOPE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 08, 2010**

OPEN: The council meeting was called to order by Mayor Corey Harbison at 6:00 p.m. at the Good Hope Town Hall. Invocation was given by Maxie Jones.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Harbison, Council members: Maxie Jones, Susan Eller, Jerry Bartlett, and Danny Buchanan were present. Council member, John Harris was absent.

VISITORS: Good Hope resident Alan Hauck submitted a petition with signatures for the Town of Good Hope to hold a wet/dry election. The petition will need signatures of 30% of the residents of Good Hope who were qualified to vote in the last election. The petitions of signatures were given to Town Attorney Rita Nicholas who will carry the signatures to the Cullman County Registrar office to have the signatures certified.

Wayne Willingham, who serves as second vice chairman of North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG), explained to the Council the benefits of becoming a member. The membership dues are \$.35 per resident to be prorated beginning from the first day of the Town's membership. There will be an annual membership fee. Wayne stated NARCOG is a funding mechanism that helps you access grants for the Town. If Good Hope joins, the mayor will have a seat at the table and have a say in some decision making and determining where some grant money goes. These grants are federal government money. NARCOG meets once a month. After discussion by the council, Susan made the motion for the Town of Good Hope to become a member of NARCOG. Jerry seconded the motion. Roll call vote: unanimous yea votes by the mayor and council.

MINUTES: Susan made the motion to approve and adopt the January 11, 2010 council minutes. Danny seconded the motion. Roll call vote: unanimous yea votes by the mayor and council.

REPORT OF COUNCIL

PLACE ONE-JOHN HARRIS: Mayor Harbison asked the council to review the bank balances of each account and the financial report for January, 2010. Susan made the motion to approve the financial report. Maxie seconded the motion. Roll call vote: unanimous yea votes by the mayor and council.

PLACE TWO- MAXIE JONES: Maxie discussed complaints we have received on Mize Road North. The culvert has fallen into a state of disrepair due to heavy trucks traveling across the bridge on Mize Road North during the construction of a sewer line pump station for the City of Cullman. We need a clear understanding of what the City of Cullman intends to do regarding repairs to the culvert on Mize Road North. The mayor and council stated a resolution was needed to authorize the Town Attorney Rita Nicholas to prepare a written request for the City of

Cullman to repair the culvert on Mize Road North. Jerry made the motion to authorize our Town attorney to write a letter to the City of Cullman to request they fix this culvert after their project has been completed. Danny seconded the motion. Roll call vote: unanimous yea votes by the mayor and council.

Maxie stated the Town needs to do something about the ditch that runs in front of the Dollar General Store and Fulton Heatherly's property. I have checked some prices and it would cost a little over \$40,000.00.

Maxie stated I got bids on purchasing a new tractor for the Town. The best bid was from Tri-Green Equipment, a John Deere 5045D Tract for \$12,010.00.

PLACE THREE-SUSAN ELLER: Susan asked Grady Parsons of Southwest Water to give an update on the Good Hope Waste Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Parsons stated Corey had taken care of the grant requesting monies to replace the existing equipment used for disinfection of the plant's treated effluent discharge.

PLACE FOUR-JERRY BARTLETT: Jerry asked Deputy Brian Smith from the Cullman County Sheriff's Department to give a report for Good Hope. Deputy Smith stated there were one criminal mischief and one thief of property.

Jerry stated at the last zoning board meeting a public hearing to rezone Don James on Super Saver Road to rezone his property from R-2 to Agr-1. The Planning Commission had no objections to rezone this property and no one has made any objections on this. Jerry made the motion for Don James's property on Super Saver Road to be rezoned from R-2 to Agr-1. Danny seconded the motion. Roll call vote: unanimous yea votes by the mayor and council.

PLACE FIVE-DANNY BUCHANAN: Danny stated the last day for ball sign-ups was Saturday, February 6th. We had 228 last year to sign-up, this year 250. The park board will be selling space on the park fence for advertisement. Also this year the opening ceremony will be Saturday, April 10, 2010 at 12:00 noon.

RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS AND OTHER BUSINESS

DEER RUN SUB-DIVISION

Corey stated it will cost approximately \$85,000 to \$90,000 to fix the roads in Deer Run Sub-Division. The contractor who owns Deer Run has agreed to put \$50,000 up front with the donation of the roads to the Town of Good Hope. Corey stated the Town is going to have to do something because what it could come to is the Town condemning the roads, and having to pay the total price for these roads to be repaired. Corey stated there will be no more building permits until these roads are fixed. Grady Parsons suggested getting the drawings on the sewer lines in Deer Run Sub-Division. Corey suggested allowing our attorney to draw up a contract with the owners of Deer Run. Susan made the motion to table this until further inquiry into the extent of the Town's responsibilities in maintaining these now private owned roads. Jerry seconded the motion. Roll call vote: unanimous yea votes by the mayor and council.

SEWER RATES

Corey stated we have discussed the necessity of raising the Town's sewer fees. The Town still owes approximately \$1,900,000.00 on the sewer warrant bond and there are sewer lines that are in need of repair, plus the regular maintenance of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Corey asked Grady Parsons of Southwest Water Company, who operates out WWTP, to discuss the results of his research on sewer increase rates. Grady suggested a sewer rate increase for each Good Hope residence an increase from a minimum charge of \$8.75 to \$12.75, and for each business an increase from a minimum of \$30.00 to \$32.50. The sewer impact fee for a residential connection to the sewer system could be changed from \$1000.00 to a one-time fee of \$1500.00 per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU), a usage volume of gallons of water per day. The Good Hope sewer impact fee for a business should be based upon water usage requirements specific to the respective user. The one time impact fee will be calculated utilizing the designated amount per EDU. Also I would suggest establishing a one time set fee of \$50.00 for transfer of an existing sewer account. This fee is applicable for transfer of an account from one property owner to another or from one resident to another. Susan made the motion for Grady Parsons of Southwest Water Company to draft a sewer rate ordinance using the suggested amount of increase. Jerry seconded the motion. The council gave their consent for Grady to draft an ordinance.

CLOSE: The meeting was closed with the consent of the mayor and council at 7:15 p.m.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS DAY OF _____, 2010

Corey Harbison, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joanner Jones, Town Clerk