

TOWN OF STEELE
COUNCIL MINUTES

JULY 17, 2023

The Town Council of the Town of Steele, Alabama met in Regular Session at 6:30 PM on Monday, July 17, 2023 at the Steele Community Center, following publication and posting pursuant to Alabama Law. The following members were present:

Present: Mayor Roger Adams
Councilmember Nancy Miller-Borg
Councilmember Michael Stevens
Councilmember Rick Barnes
Councilmember Philip Gleason Jr.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Adams, who then led everyone in a word of prayer.

A motion to accept the minutes from the June 19, 2023, Council Meeting was made by Councilmember Barnes, seconded by Councilmember Gleason Jr., and approved by the Town Council as follows:

Ayes: Miller-Borg, Barnes, Gleason Jr., and Stevens
Nays: none

A motion to approve June 2023 financials was made by Councilmember Barnes, seconded by Councilmember Gleason Jr., and approved by the Town Council as follows:

Ayes: Miller-Borg, Barnes, Gleason Jr., and Stevens
Nays: none

Resolution 2023-008 - Opposition to the Alabama Power Proposed Chandler Mt. Pumped Storage Project. A motion was made by Councilmember Miller-Borg to approve this Resolution, seconded by Councilmember Barnes, and approved by the Town Council as follows:

Ayes: Miller-Borg, Barnes, Gleason Jr., and Stevens
Nays: none

Councilmember Banks entered the meeting at 6:37 PM

Resolution 2023-009 - Fair Housing Resolution. Councilmember Miller-Borg made a motion to approve this Resolution, seconded by Councilmember Barnes and approved by the Town Council as follows:

Ayes: Miller-Borg, Banks, Barnes, Gleason Jr., and Stevens
Nays: none

Lagoon - a panel for Lift Station #2 needed to be replaced. Mayor Adams is asking for approval for the cost of this panel. Councilmember Barnes made a motion to approve this purchase, seconded by Councilmember Miller-Borg and approved by the Town Council as follows:

Town Council Meeting

July 17, 2023

Page 2

HVAC work on Town Hall and the Nutrition Center was performed by St. Clair HVAC Systems. The total cost for both repairs was \$3,300. A motion to approve this expense was made by Councilmember Barnes, seconded by Councilmember Gleason Jr., and approved by the Town Council as follows:

Ayes: Miller-Borg, Banks, Barnes, Gleason Jr., and Stevens

Nays: none

El Patron Restaurant is requesting approval for a liquor license. A motion to approve this application was made by Councilmember Miller-Borg, seconded by Councilmember Stevens, and approved by the Town Council as follows:

Ayes: Miller-Borg, Banks, Barnes, Gleason Jr., and Stevens

Nays: none

M4A Agreement for Fiscal Year 2024 - A motion was made by Councilmember Barnes to approve signing the agreement, seconded by Councilmember Banks, and approved by the Town Council as follows:

Ayes: Miller-Borg, Banks, Barnes, Gleason Jr., and Stevens

Nays: none

Van Donation to Senior Center – Councilmember Barnes explained that there was a citizen in town who offered to donate a 2011 Honda Odyssey van. Mayor Adams stated that he spoke with some seniors who stated that they preferred to drive themselves, he also asked if the van was handicapped accessible, and asked how many passengers the van could hold. Councilmember Miller-Borg made a motion that we accept the donation based on insurance approval and the desirability of the Seniors to use it. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Stevens and approved by the Town Council as follows:

Ayes: Miller-Borg, Banks, Barnes, Gleason Jr., and Stevens

Nays: none

Town Council Meeting

July 17, 2023

Page 3

Social Media – Councilmember Barnes stated that it was felt that the Town didn't do a great job of getting the word out on social media about events, etc. He stated that he had approached a resident who is a regular contributor to Discover St. Clair Magazine and she was willing to engage the town in more social media interaction. Mayor Adams stated he spoke with Town Attorney, Richard Rhea regarding having a citizen post on behalf of the Town on social media. He stated that he has reservations about opening the Town social media up to someone who isn't an employee of the Town. He advised that he recommend the Council be careful in acting on it. Councilmember Banks stated that since the citizen is doing it on the Town's behalf, she didn't see a problem with it. Mayor Adams mentioned that he has checked into a company called Call-Em-All, which is a company that can notify citizens of any important messages or notifications. There was Discussion regarding whether a notification system would be different than social media accounts. Councilmember Barnes suggested sending out an interest form to test responses to see if it would be worth using Call-Em-All for dispersing information. He suggested covering all means of information, i.e., social media, text messages, phone calls, etc. Councilmember Barnes also suggested sending out a letter gauging interest and stated that he felt that if 100 people showed interest it would be worth it. Councilmember Barnes made a motion to go forward with having McKenzie Free have the authority to post for the Town Social Media accounts, seconded by Councilmember Miller-Borg, and approved by the Town Council. Mayor Adams stated he wanted to be on record as opposing the motion.

Ayes: Miller-Borg, Banks, Barnes, Gleason Jr., and Stevens

Nays: Mayor Adams

National Night Out – Councilmember Miller- Borg stated that in the past National Night Out has been a successful event. Council member Banks stated that she thinks that it would be a good opportunity for community involvement. After discussion it was decided that the Town would hold a National Night Out, and the date will be announced in the future.

Fire Department – Rescue Truck at Sunbelt Fire, Inc. in Fairhope, AL is repaired. Chief Martin is working on getting someone to drive it back to Steele.

Police Department - 2017 Tahoe needs a new transmission. We received a quote from Jasper Transmission for the amount of \$5,434.83 which includes a premium warranty. Motion to approve this quote was made by Councilmember Barnes, seconded by Councilmember Miller-Borg, and approved by the Town Council as follows:

Ayes: Miller-Borg, Banks, Barnes, Gleason Jr., and Stevens

Nays: none

Playground mulch has been ordered, and Struthers Recreation has been told that it is needed as soon as possible.

Sewer Lagoon aerators are now in operation and were started on July 10, 2023. They run from

Town Council Meeting

July 17, 2023

Page 4

Councilmember Barnes stated that at the last Council Meeting sewer impact fees were discussed. He stated that for our purposes he feels we should raise Sewer impact fees to \$400. Councilmember Barnes made a motion to raise the sewer impact fee to \$400, seconded by Councilmember Miller-Borg and approved by the Town Council as follows:

Ayes: Miller-Borg, Banks, Barnes, Gleason Jr., and Stevens


Nays: none

Library Board member Karen Bowen gave an update on the library. She stated that they have been working on getting a separate bank account for state aid funds up and running. She stated that they do need \$100 from state aid money to open the account. Mayor Adams stated that he has discussed this with Mike Sewell of McClure Sewell & Associates, and with Charlene Hubbard at People's Independent Bank. He stated that if the library opens a separate account, with a separate tax identification number, he doesn't feel that the town should bear the added expense of the yearly audit for that account. Mayor Adams stated that he is against separating the account. Councilmember Barnes mentioned that state aid money can't be used for repairs to the building, Mayor Adams asked for a motion on the issue. Councilmember Barnes made a motion to approve the library setting up a separate account for state aid money, with their own tax identification number, complete control of it, which includes reconciling every month and auditing as required by the State. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Miller-Borg and approved by the Town Council as follows:

Ayes: Miller-Borg, Banks, Barnes, Gleason Jr., and Stevens

Nays: none

With there being no further business to come before this regular Council Meeting of July 17, 2023, Councilmember Barnes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Adjourned at 7:45 PM.


Mayor Roger Adams



Donna Ambrosius, Town Clerk