

Bell Buckle Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2021

Bell Buckle Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in regular session on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6 PM. Members present were Mayor Ronnie Lokey, VM Wheeler, & Alderman Vannatta. Alderman McRady was present by conference call. Alderman Akers was absent.

Mayor Lokey called the meeting to order. VM Wheeler, seconded by Alderman Vannatta, made a motion to approve the minutes from March 16. Motion carried. VM Wheeler, seconded by Alderman Vannatta, made a motion to accept the financial reports. All aye.

Supervisor Eddy Lamb gave the Water & Sewer Report. A total of three substantial leaks have been repaired. Water loss was approximately 35%. This loss was possibly off some due to estimating last month. Three leaks were repaired. Mr. Lamb reported that the Kathleen Camp issue from last month has been resolved pending their payment of the repair. The spigot has been connected to the existing meter and work complete. Their part of the fix was \$683.92 with the Town paying the agreed amount of \$600.

Mayor Lokey reported they needed approval to spend up to \$20,000 to replace the engine on the backhoe. This would be for supplies & labor. VM Wheeler, seconded by Alderman Vannatta, made a motion to approve this expense. Motion carried.

Firefighter Mark McBryant gave the Fire Department Report. There was a total of 19 calls for March. Twelve of these were medical & seven were fire calls including 1 car fire, 2 structure/mutual aid, 1 mutual aid to Rutherford County, 1 MVA and 1 severe weather standby. Mayor Lokey thanked the Park Board for allowing the Fire Department to hold their Easter egg hunt at the Park. The Mayor also mentioned the Community Club Building demolition was complete and the millings were spread for parking.

Chief Tommy Wiley gave the Police Department Report. They had 14 citations, 3 warnings, and 5 county assists.

There was no Planning Commission Report.

Jenny Hunt reported for the Chamber of Commerce. The C of C has moved ahead with an HVAC unit being approved for the old fire hall. The plan is to have that installed & the museum ready for a ribbon cutting on August 29th which is Mrs. Elkins' birthday. The Car Cache and Pig Bash will be held Saturday, May 29th and is the next event. Details are on FB. Plans are going full speed ahead on RCMP. Bell Buckle has received quite a few accolades recently with a super one coming from Southern Living magazine naming Bell Buckle as the best small town in the south to visit.

The Park & Recreation Report was given by Jenny Hunt. Ms. Hunt has been working with Griggs & Maloney engineers on the hazardous materials removal of the old school building. The schedule is to bid out late summer for a January project date. The length of project should only be approximately 30 days. She asked if the Town wanted to board up the openings in the building or if the Park Board needed to do it & bill the Town. Mayor Lokey stated the Town would do the work.

The Tree Board, which is under the umbrella of the Park Board, chose the Norway Spruce in VM Wheeler's yard as the 2021 Notable Tree of Bell Buckle.

There is a yoga class Saturday, April 17 at the Park. There is no cost for this and there is more info on the Park FB page.

Bell Buckle Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2021

Plans for the 4th of July are well under way, as well as plans for the new event-a Scarecrow Festival on Saturday October 30th.

Jenny Hunt gave the Historical Commission Report. They have made contacts with both Caffey & Northcutt Surveyors but have not been able to schedule them to come out to give a cost estimate on the alley survey. South Central representatives will be in town on Tuesday, May 11 to begin work on updating the Historic Survey that was done in 1975. The Town Hall will email out a notice so people will have a heads up about the survey. This update is being done at no cost.

VM Wheeler reported for the Beautification Committee. The committee has reworked the flower beds with pansies and will be adding annuals soon. The sandblasting company has sent off samples of the paint to check lead levels. If it comes back under 900, that company can do the work. If it's over 900, then an abatement company would need to do it. The doors of the caboose will be fixed so they won't open which will hopefully deter vandalism.

Gary Coonan reported for the Arts Council. Four artists are working on submitting a draft of sculpture proposals for the Gateway Sign Project. Members are also working on renovations for the merry-go-round at the park.

Mayoral Updates: none

There was no Old or New Business.

Public input: Gary Coonan had been asked by Alderman Akers to report on the flashing radar sign. He presented a graph which showed which days and the times the speeding spiked. When the sign was in "stealth" mode, it showed that 88% of the vehicles drive over the speed limit. When the sign is turned on, the speeds are reduced to 28%. There are approximately 500 cars that come through Bell Buckle in a day. The fastest speeds recorded going out of town was 102 mph down to 93 mph. Most speeders are between 9PM to 6AM. The board discussed different aspects of using this information to help control speeding. More will be discussed at a later date.

There being no further business, Alderman Vannatta, seconded by VM Wheeler, made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Ronnie Lokey, Mayor



Janet Robinson, Town Recorder

