

Bell Buckle Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2022

Bell Buckle Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in regular session on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 6 PM. Members present were Mayor Ronnie Lokey, VM Wheeler, Alderman McRady & Alderman Akers. Alderman Vannatta was absent.

Mayor Lokey called the meeting to order. Alderman McRady, seconded by VM Wheeler, made a motion to suspend the reading of the minutes from the March 8 meeting. Motion carried. Alderman McRady, seconded by VM Wheeler, made a motion to approve the March 8 minutes. All aye. VM Wheeler, seconded by Alderman McRady, made a motion to accept the financial reports. All aye.

The Water Report was given by Mark McBryant. The water loss was down this month to 15%. They had worked on valving areas off to locate a leak. The training for the new auto read metering system is scheduled for June 1 & 2. We are also in the process of doing a water model now. Mayor Lokey stated they had met with TDEC Commissioner Salyers, Representative Pat Marsh and others to discuss funds for dealing with I & I problems, etc. He emphasized that each board member needs to write a letter to Representative Marsh & Senator Reeves asking them to help support Bell Buckle in getting funds from CDBG and SRF. They need to hear from each of the board members. A template letter with addresses will be sent out later in the week to help with that. The board members agreed to do this.

Town Recorder Robinson reported for the Police Department. There had been 19 citations written and 3 county assists. The board praised the work of the officers in helping to slow speeding traffic.

Firefighter Mark McBryant gave the Fire Department Report. There was a total of 14 calls in March. Nine of these were medical & five were fire calls including 2 grass/brush fires, 1 structure fire mutual aid, 1 standby for station 1 & 1 fire alarm false call. Two training sessions were held. The annual BBVFD Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 16th beginning at 2 PM and is for ages up to 10 years old. All are welcome.

The fire department had their annual chili cook-off with David Robinson being the overall winner. It was a huge success with over \$8,200 being raised for the department. Thanks to all those that made chili, desserts, helped decorate the firehall & attended the event. Both were well attended and a huge success. Mayor Lokey stressed to the board that this is your department. Please come by sometime & see what they are doing. Training is on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month & everyone is invited to those meetings as well. Thanks for your continued support.

The Planning Commission Report was given by Alderman McRady. Several things were discussed, and training was given by Planner Harrington on these subjects. She explained how State rules differentiate between modular homes and mobile home trailers and that the State rules preempt any local ordinance. Several drainage issues were noted and subsidiary structures are being discussed.

The Chamber of Commerce Report was written by Jenny Hunt & read by Mayor Lokey. RC Moon Pie is Saturday June 18. A reminder that all city streets are shut down from 7-9 or as soon as runners have cleared. This was voted on & approved last year. Main St is closed from 6:30 to noon or after parade, whichever comes first.

Park & Recreation Report was given by Alderman Akers. The summer concert series starts Friday, May 27th from 7-9pm. The Citizen of the Year was Billy Phillips. Thanks to all who participated. The Park Board wishes to recognize all the hard work & good will by the late Charles Cooke, and will be honoring his memory with a Memorial tree at the park.

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Historic Commission: no report.

The Beautification Committee Report was given by VM Wheeler. The caboose bids have been let out & will be opened on April 26th. Flower beds will be planted after Easter. Mayor Lokey stated the bench outside the town hall is in bad shape and becoming a safety issue. VM Wheeler said Beautification would be glad to purchase one when they got the funds & will check with Historical Commission about it.

There was no report from the Arts Council.

Mayoral Updates: Mayor Lokey reported that the Budget meeting has been set for Monday May 2nd at 6 PM. He also stated as per the email for an emergency purchase of a new work truck, that a 2022 Ford F150 was purchased for \$30,827. (It had been \$42,000) An additional amount of approximately \$5K for a toolbox, decal & lighting. This will be officially voted on in New Business.

Mayor Lokey stated Attorney Ted Goodman had reached an agreement with TDEC attorney regarding our Director's Order. They had worked to getting our fine to less than \$2K with the town spending \$11,800 on system upgrades. This was good news.

Old Business: Mayor Lokey presented Resolution#22-004 which was a revised resolution that was passed last month regarding applying for CDBG funds for I & I in the sewer system. Changes were made to the total cost of the project stating the over match of funds will be from pending TDEC approval: Bell Buckle NEU \$161,115; Bell Buckle ARP \$587,438, and Capital Funds \$221,535. He reported he had spoken with County Mayor Chad Graham, who will hopefully be able to contribute \$1K of the funds out of county grants. Alderman McRady, seconded by Alderman Akers, made a motion to approve the revised resolution. All aye.

New Business: Alderman McRady, seconded by Alderman Akers, made a motion to approve up to \$36K for the new truck and additional needed funds out of capital outlay. Motion carried.

There was no public input.

There being no further business, Alderman McRady, seconded by Alderman Akers, made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Ronnie Lokey, Mayor _____

Janet Robinson, Town Recorder _____