

**Regular Meeting
Town of Preston
January 4, 2010**

The regular meeting was called to order by Commissioner Gary Waltemeyer at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Commissioner Shane Dickinson, Commissioner Bill Willis, and Mimi Willis.

Attendance: Michelle Barry, Kathleen Barry, Attorney Walter Palmer, and Abby Andrews from the Times-Record.

- The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by a motion made, seconded and unanimously carried.
- The minutes of the Public Hearing of December 28, 2009 were approved by a motion made, seconded and unanimously carried.

Police Dept. Report: Chief Trise was not present so Commissioner Waltemeyer gave his report for December, 2009 including:

31 Traffic stops

- 22 calls for service
- 2 criminal investigations
- 20 hrs. administration and 12 hrs. K-9
- The Preston Police Dept. will have a student from Colonel Richardson High School who is working towards college credits assist with answering phones and doing light clerical work a few hours a day.

Public Works Report: Bill Willis gave the Public Works report submitted by Dale Whitley, who said he:

- borrowed a bucket truck from the Town of Hurlock and put up the Christmas decorations.
- repaired a chlorine leak at the sewer plant.
- repaired a sign that had blown down at the corner of Maple and Main
- patched potholes on Main St. and one on Railroad Ave.
- helped a homeowner on Maple Ave. locate his sewer line.
- replaced the on/off automatic switch and cleaned the magnetic coil on one of the aerators at the lagoon
- trimmed the trees in Tidewater at the request of the Post Office.
- read all the meters in town
- MDE took samples from our water tower
- plowed the snow from the storm before Christmas
- there was an overflow at the sewer plant on December 28th, because of infiltration of ground water to our sanitary sewer pipes. We called MDE and told them we would have to increase our discharge amount to help alleviate the level in our lagoons. They told me to write a letter to explain the problem and sent a representative out. The ground water has overwhelmed the contact chamber until it overflowed on the ground and was running into a drainage ditch. The overflow water was treated and posed no threat to anything. However, he had it tested to make sure and found there was no E Coli present in the runoff. It has since recovered and he will monitor it closely and keep MDE informed.

Administrative Report: Mimi gave her report as follows:

- processed bills for payment
- calculated and mailed corporate tax bills
- working on Management Letter for audit
- have an appointment with a new green energy source on Atech Energy in second week of January, 2010
- work on grant for HVAC on new building and new desk for offices. Need one more letter from bank saying they won't lend us money.
- processed accounts receivable
- put ad in paper for Charter change.
- prepared quarterly news letter
- sent out 310 water bills for 2nd quarter
- prepared electrical report for Christmas light cost
- working on State Retirement annual report
- prepared report on cost of new Town building to date and monies left in building account for Building Committee
- gathered information for LGIT attorney regarding pending law suit. To meet with her 12/21 for Answers to Interrogatories.
- worked with Mr. Palmer on updating ordinances.
- faxed address of Main St. property owners to Nolan and Assoc. for work on SHA

- worked with Public Works and MDE regarding spillage caused by excessive rain and snow.

Ordinances: Commissioner Waltemeyer asked Commissioner Dickinson to read the Charter change proposal for 5 commissioners for the Second Reading. Mimi said she will run an ad in the paper 4 weeks. Commissioner Waltemeyer said if anyone wants to file a referendum against the proposal, they have 20 days to do so. He also said it takes a total of 50 days to take effect.

Unfinished Business: Commissioner Waltemeyer said:

- since Bob Lorenz is not here, he asked Kathleen if anything has happened since the initial meeting of the building committee. She said no and she submitted her resignation due to the inaction. Commissioner Waltemeyer thanked her for her time and tried to get her to reconsider.
- what is happening with the attorney's letter to the Board of Education for information on the school crossing. Mr. Palmer said he had forgotten about it and is still working on it.
- Planning and Zoning still needs 2 members and maybe an alternative. The Commissioners asked Mimi to call a few people to see if she can find anyone interested.
- the bids on the water and sewer element for the comp. plan was in the paper and we received three bids. Mimi said they were sealed bids which were opened on December 28th as follows: Davis, Bowen & Friedel - \$4,783.; A. D. Redman Assoc. - \$7,758.; and URS Engineering - \$5,000. Bill Willis made a motion to accept the bid from Davis, Bowen & Friedel for \$4,783., seconded by Shane Dickinson and unanimously carried.
- there is a joint meeting with C.O.G. (Council of Government and Municipalities) on January 13th at the Denton Library Conference Room. Shane said he would attend.
- there is an Eastern Shore Assoc. of Municipalities winter legislative dinner on January 19th at the Fisherman's Inn in Grasonville at \$40.00 per person.
- Mr. Palmer made a proposed change in wording for the Commissioners Salary ordinance. Mimi said she would like to discuss Section 6.1.2 regarding reimbursement of expenses incurred in their duties, which states the Commissioners may be entitled to \$41.00 per half month, in lieu of submitting receipts. The President of the Commission will receive \$1,200. and the other four Commissioners will each receive \$1,000. Mimi asked Mr. Palmer if he would mind if she ran it by the auditor and he said that was a good idea.
- at the work session, there was a discussion regarding changing the Charter to read: "all town employees, including department heads, shall serve at the pleasure of the Commissioners." To be addressed at the next meeting.
- M.S.R.C. needs an elected official as a member. Does anyone care to volunteer? Ellery used to attend on behalf of the Town and Mimi said it does not have to be a resident of the Town, but someone designated to report back to the Town. Commissioner Waltemeyer said he would need more information.

New Business: Bill Willis made a motion to pay the December, 2009 bills as submitted, seconded by Shane, unanimously approved.

- Commissioner Waltemeyer advised that a brief summary of the Charter change will be in the Star Democrat on January 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2010.
- After the closed session ended, Commissioner Waltemeyer advised no decision was made.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Johnson

On January 4, 2010, at 7:40 p.m., Commissioners Gary Waltemeyer, Shane Dickinson and Bill Willis voted to hold a Special Meeting to consider a motion to go into an executive or closed meeting, under OMA Article 10-508(a)(1)(i) and (ii), to discuss hiring a police officer. All three Commissioners voted for closure.

A closed meeting was held Jan. 4, 2010 at the Preston Town Hall, from 7:41 p.m. to 7:58 p.m. Commissioners Gary Waltemeyer, Shane Dickinson, Bill Willis, Mimi Willis and Town attorney Walter Palmer were present, . The meeting was closed under OMA Article 10.508(a)(1) (i) and (ii) to discuss hiring a police officer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

On January 4, 2010, at 7:59 p.m., the Special meeting was reopened by Commissioners Gary Waltemeyer, Shane Dickinson and Bill Willis. Commissioner Waltemeyer advised that no decision was made and the Special Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.