

Burns Town Council Meeting
February 12, 2018

The Burns Town Council met in regular session on February 12, 2018. Members present were Mayor Ralph Bartels, Council Members Rocky Stoner, Dennis Bastian, Betty Nussbaum, and Judy Johnstone. Also present was Town Clerk Toni McNamar, Town Maintenance Darius Mandel, and county Commissioner Linda Heath.

At 7:00 pm Mayor Bartels called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was performed. Those present were informed the meeting was being recorded.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Council Member Johnstone moved to approve the consent agenda, consisting of the January 8, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes, Town Treasurer's Report, town vouchers, and utility board vouchers. Council Member Stoner seconded this motion. Motion carried.

Building Permit:

The Council was presented with a building permit for a garage addition at 210 S Wyoming Ave. Darius reported that he had went and looked at the plan and feels that everything is good. Council Member Bastian moved to approve the building permit at 210 S Wyoming Ave. Council Member Johnstone seconded this motion. Motion carried.

Ambulance Report

Mayor Bartels reported that there were a total of 16 calls last month. Burns EMS responded to 1call and transported 1.

The Council was presented with an application for a new EMT Ashley Ford. She is currently an EMT and is looking for a place to live in Burns. Jeff Bartels feels that she will fit in well. Council Member Bastian moved to accept Ashley Ford on to the Burns Ambulance Service. Council Member Johnstone seconded this motion. Motion carried.

The ambulance SOP's were discussed once again regarding allowing EMTs to run emergency lights n their personal vehicles. Council Member Bastian reported that he has read the opinion of our town attorney and feels that we should go with her recommendation and not allow them to run with emergency light on their personal vehicles. Council Member Bastian reported that he has run some numbers and the possible time savings is not worth the risk. Council Member Nussbaum agreed.

Mayor Bartels reported that the only advantage would be on a scene, it would provide more safety for them and possible allow other emergency vehicles to find the scene. Council Member Bastian suggested that we get a bubble light that they can put on their vehicles ONCE THEY ARE ON SCENE. Council Member Bastian moved to leave policy as is and not allow

emergency lights on personal vehicles, but allow them to carry a bubble light to put on their vehicles once they are on scene. Council Member Johnstone seconded this motion. Motion carried.

Maintenance Report

The maintenance report was reviewed. Darius reported that the work at the community center is complete. Darius reported the EMA has been out engineering the water tower to install then new repeater equipment for dispatch.

Utility Board Report

Council Member Johnstone reported that the utility board appointed Jeff Appleman to fill the vacant position.

There was discussion on taking credit cards for utility payments. It was voted to leave payment system as it currently is.

On the week of April 16th garbage pickup will be on that Monday instead of Tuesday.

Clerks Report:

Town Clerk Toni McNamar reported that the new exercise equipment is in, the exercise room is being painted, and the ceiling tiles have been replaced.

Toni reported that she will be on vacation February 26th – 28th.

Mayors Report

Mayor Bartels reported that he had received a letter from Susan Mills; she will be resigning from the Cemetery Board effective immediately.

Mayor Bartels reported that the Burns Café is not running as a café but Jodee reported that she plans to continue to pay rent and run a catering business from this location. However she has not paid rent for this month. She seems to call after hours and states that Toni is never there so she can pay her rent. The council feels that she could mail her rent or drop it in the drop box. Mayor Bartels reported that it is the councils responsibility to collect the late fees and she must pay the late fees.

Mayor Bartels reported that Harvey Humphrey had approached him with the idea of expanding Liberty Park to include the entire Burns-Plex block, we have extra funding and we could put in a badly needed pee wee soccer fields south of the building and upgrade the playground area and possible put bathrooms off of the ambulance building or purchase portable bathrooms which could be moved as needed. Council Member Stoner moved to include the entire Burns-Plex property as Liberty Park. Council Member Johnstone seconded

this motion. Motion carried. Mayor Bartels will be getting with Harvey and David Ohde to see how we need to bid this out.

Council Member Reports:

Council Member Johnstone reported that she has had concern about square foot rate of the town as we rent things. Feels there was a communication error when we decided on the \$0.30 a square foot. It was decided an increase was needed, increased by 3 percent every year. One view was that everyone starts at \$0.30 a square foot and increased as they are here longer. The other view was the first year was \$0.30 a square foot and it increased each year by the 3 percent and that was the rate everyone paid. Council Member Johnstone's opinion is if we only increase the rate for those that are here longer we are penalizing them for staying with us. Feels it should be the same rate for everyone each year. The Council should decide at the beginning of each year what that year's rate will be and it will apply to everyone. Council Member Johnstone feels we need to have one rate that applies to everybody.

Council Member Bastian reported that he had no idea we started anyone at the \$0.30 a square foot after that first year. Council Member Bastian thought we used the cola formula for our rate increases and that the increases applied to everyone... A few months later it was decided to increase it at a flat rate of 3% each year. Council Member Bastian was under the assumption that the council was going to visit this each year

Town Clerk Toni McNamar was under the understanding that each year they increased. But she thought that everyone started at \$0.30 a square foot. Toni reported that she has been doing it that way since 2014 and that the council approves all of the leases, so why wasn't it caught in the past 4 years.

Toni is concerned about how this change will affect those who have recently renewed their lease.

The council was in agreement to visit this matter in January of each year to determine the rate that everyone will pay when their lease comes due that year. Council Member Johnstone moved we start at \$0.32 a square foot (for 2018) right now and each year in January the Council will revisit rental rates and take any action required. Council Member Bastian was in agreement to have a council action each year.

Toni requested that Council Member Johnstone help create a letter to pass on to all the tenants.

Council Member Johnstone moved to make the rental fee \$0.32 a square foot in effect now and each year the council will revisit this matter in January. Council Member Bastian seconded this motion. Motion carried.

Council Member Nussbaum reported that she will take care of the Main Street Park and flower pots for one more year then she will be done with this. Betty reported that she has done this for 36 years.

Council Member Bastian had nothing to report.

Council Member Stoner had nothing to report.

New Business

The Council was presented with one cleaning bid for the cleaning of town buildings; the bid was from Jodie Saukerson who currently does the cleaning. The bid is for \$800 a month for the months of October – March, and \$950 a month for the months of April – September due to the fact the gym in the north building will need mopped more often. \$20 an hour will be charged for any additional cleaning requested in writing by the mayor. Council Member Bastian moved to accept the cleaning bid of Jodie Saukerson. Council Member Stoner seconded this motion. Motion carried.

At 7:54 pm Council Member Bastian moved to adjourn. The next meeting of the Burns Town Council will be on March 12, 2018 at 7 pm.

Announcements

Feb 19th	Town Offices will be closed
Feb 22 – 23	Town Hall closed WAM Conference
Feb 26 – 28	Town Hall closed Toni on vacation.
March 12	6 pm Burns Utility Board Meeting 7 pm Council Meeting

THE WEEK OF APRIL 16TH GARBAGE PICK UP WILL BE ON MONDAY THE 16TH AND NOT TUESDAY THE 17TH

Mayor Ralph Bartels

Attest:

Town Clerk Toni McNamar

Town Mayor and Council

Ralph Bartels	Mayor	307-631-5077 reigbartels@yahoo.com
Judy Johnstone	Mayor Pro tem, Utility Board Representative.	307-547-3637
Betty Nussbaum	Senior Liaison Town Horticulturist	307-547-2605
Dennis Bastian	Cemetery Board Ambulance Liaison	307-547-3848 dennis.bastian@draircraft.com
Rocky Stoner	Streets and Alleys Emergency Management Contact	307-421-9756
Harvey Humphrey	Fire Marshall	307-547-3545
Brenda Long	Youth League Coordinator	307-547-3865

Utility Board Members

Jim Clark	Board President	307-630-6305
Ralph Bartels	Board Member	307-631-5077
Judy Johnstone	Board Member	307-630-7305
Dennis Bastian	Board Member	307-547-3848
Jeff Appleman	Board Member	307-275-2772

Town Employees

Toni McNamar	Town Clerk/Treasurer	307-547-2206 307-630-5557 burnswy@hotmail.com
Darius Mandel	Maintenance	307-287-0537
Ted Kellner	Maintenance	307-286-2771

Office Hours	Mon – Thurs	7:30 am – 4pm
	Fridays	7:30am – 12:30 pm