

**Town of Felton
Town Council Meeting
September 14, 2015
7:00 pm**

Mayor Kelley called the Town Council Meeting of Felton to order at 7:00 pm on Monday, September 14, 2015. Present at the meeting were:

Council Members: Mayor Dave Kelley, Vice-Mayor Joe Yapsuga, Joanne Clendaniel, Anthony Carroll and Michael Routh.

Staff: Town Manager, Rebecca Greene; Chief, Levi Brown and Sgt. Chris Swan .

Public: Aaron Gordy, Mildred Gordy, Kristin King, Zane Slady, Laurel Sweet, Ashley Taylor, Keegan Thomas and Kerry Thomas.

Citizens Concerns:

Aaron Gordy who lives at 186 Mayor Lane presented the Council with a petition that had been signed by 68 residents requesting that skateboarding be allowed in the Town of Felton. Mr. Gordy said that skateboarding was a form of creativity, a good form of exercise and a mode of transportation. He wanted to know if the Council would add this item to the next Council meeting agenda to review the current Ordinance. Laurel Sweet said that the children are riding them to the bus stops so the parents don't have to drive their older children to the bus stop. This allows parents more time to focus on getting the smaller children ready for school.

The Mayor gave the group a little of the history of skateboarding in Town. Several years ago the Town opened up a skate park for our citizens. The park had to be shut down because of the way the children were skating at the park and the fact that they were leaving it in disrepair. They were also using the post office parking lot and waxing the curbs. A citizen fell and this became a liability issue for the Post Office. After receiving numerous complaints the Town had no choice but to not allow skateboarding in Town. The skateboarders were causing damage to private sidewalks and people were falling. Councilwoman Clendaniel also reminded everyone that they were also skating inside the post office at night.

Chief Brown mentioned that kids were skateboarding in the parking lot at North Elementary but it became a liability for the School District and that is why they are not allowed to skate there. Vice-Mayor Yapsuga is concerned about the small children who are skateboarding on the road and do not get out of the way of traffic, not to mention there seems to be no parental guidance while the children are out skateboarding. He is referring to children between the ages of five and 8 years old. Councilwoman Clendaniel has also had children skateboarding on the street who did not get out of the way while she was driving up the street.

Aaron Gordy said that unfortunately there would be problems with some of the skateboarders but he doesn't want to see all people punished for the acts of a few. He also reminded Council that a skateboard is a form of transportation to a lot of kids, especially those without a car. Councilwoman Clendaniel asked for the definition of "mode of transportation". Mr. Gordy said it is going from point A to point B with no stops along the way.

Councilman Routh said he had no problem allowing the kids to use skateboards as a mode of transportation on a temporary basis. The Chief would keep stats on how many times the police had to get involved with skateboard issues. The Council is looking at allowing this for about six months. Councilman Carroll advised Mr. Gordy that the skateboarders needed to police each other. If they want the right to skateboard in Town than they need to talk to the kids who are doing things with the skateboard that they should not be doing. Aaron said he would definitely keep his eye on anyone he sees skateboarding.

After much more discussion it was decided that the Skateboarding Ordinance would be added to the October agenda. Effective immediately we would begin the trial period for allowing skateboarding in Town as a mode of transportation. A skateboard will be treated the same as a bicycle in the Town of Felton. The Skateboard Ordinance will be added to the October agenda. Rebecca advised Aaron Gordy to come to that meeting in order to have an input in the drafting of the new Ordinance. He advised that he would be at the meeting.

Kelly Thomas and Mildred Gordy thanked the Council for being so receptive to the young adults that came to the Council meeting. The Mayor advised that he was very impressed with the way that they came to Council with their concerns and hopes that this issue will be resolved by the new Ordinance.

Police Report:

Officer	Reg	SEU	Total
9451	125	138	263
9452	104	190	294
9453	74	12	86
9454	87	39	126
9455	0	0	0

Levi presented the August Police Report asking if there were any questions. Councilman Carroll said that there was a large jump in tickets. Chief said that the guys have been working really hard and the traffic has been flowing. Vice Mayor Yapsuga asked if we were able to find out where the fee for accident reports should be \$35 and not \$25. Rebecca advised that they went through all the paperwork and could not find anything. This would be addressed at the next budget review.

Motion: Vice Mayor Yapsuga made a motion to approve the August 2015 Police Report. Councilman Routh seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Budget Report:

Rebecca stated that so far we have collected about \$270,000 in taxes. Our delinquent tax balance is around \$28,000 and over \$8,000 of that is for Peachtree Apartments. Delinquent tax statements were mailed out last week.

Motion: Vice-Mayor Yapsuga made a motion to accept the August 2015 budget report. Councilwoman Clendaniel seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Minutes:

Town Council Meeting Minutes:

Mayor Kelley presented the August 10, 2015 Town Council Meeting Minutes asking if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Motion: Councilman Routh made a motion to accept the August 10, 2015 Town Council Meeting Minutes. Councilman Carroll seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Update Railroad Avenue Paving Project:

Rebecca advised that the bid was awarded to George & Lynch. Right now the engineers are negotiating an agreement with the Railroad Company because part of the work is on their right-of-way. They have reviewed the plans and have no problems now we are waiting on the written agreement. The Town has also been contacted by the Fire Company advising that they want a construction maintenance agreement in place with the Town. Adam Jarrell from the Fire Company will be submitting that agreement to Rebecca.

Update on Water Tower Project:

The outside of the Tower was cleaned last week. The plan is to empty out the tower first thing on Wednesday morning. The Town's water will then be bypassing the Tower. Well three is going to be the main well and the water will be controlled by pressure valves and a bladder tank. The expectation is the Tower will be down for about five weeks. Citizens can expect to see a slight decrease in water pressure.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm to go into Executive Session. Town Council Meeting was reconvened at 8:32pm.

Police Personnel – Officer Guild

Officer Aviles resigned effective August 31, 2015. Officer Guild is retiring from the military and has been approached about working full-time for the Town of Felton. This was discussed in Executive Session and he will be presented with the package that was agreed to during that meeting. Officer Guild is currently on medical leave due to surgery on his shoulder. His hire date will not be effective until he has been cleared by his surgeon.

Motion: Vice-Mayor Joe Yapsuga made a motion to hire Chris Guild as a full-time officer once he is medically released from his doctor to do police work and under all the conditions that were discussed in the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Carroll. A roll call was taken: Mayor Kelley-yes; Vice-Mayor Yapsuga-yes; Councilman Carroll-yes; Councilwoman Clendaniel-yes and Councilman Routh-yes.

It was also discussed about hiring a part-time officer. There was discussion of putting an ad in the paper. The Chief has a couple of people in mind. Councilman Routh asked if the Town Manager and Chief would be charge of this from this point on or would Council have an input on who was selected. The Mayor said he would definitely like to know who was going to be offered the job. Rebecca said she would contact all Councilmembers with a name before the position was offered to anyone.

Motion: Vice-Mayor Yapsuga made a motion to allow the Chief and Town Manager to begin the process of hiring a new part-time officer. The Council members will be notified of a name before the person is offered the position. Councilman Carroll seconded this motion. . A roll call was taken: Mayor Kelley-yes; Vice-Mayor Yapsuga-yes; Councilman Carroll-yes; Councilwoman Clendaniel-yes and Councilman Routh-yes.

Motion: Councilman Carroll made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Clendaniel seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

These minutes were prepared by Rebecca L. Greene, Town Manager.

Rebecca L. Greene

Date