

**Town of Felton
Town Council Meeting
January 9, 2017
6:30 pm**

Mayor Kelley called the Town Council Meeting of Felton to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, January 9, 2017.
Present at the meeting were:

Council Members: Mayor Dave Kelley, Vice Mayor Joe Yapsuga, Joanne Clendaniel, Anthony Carroll & Diana Dolan-Beulah.

Staff: Town Manager Rebecca Greene, Town Clerk Amy Thomas and Chief Levi Brown.

Public: Dakota Vawter, Autumn Byington & Ronald Garcia.

Citizens Concerns:

Vice-Mayor Yapsuga stated that he was a little concerned about the ice patches on Mayor Lane after it snowed. He thought that Ralph and Josh did a great job plowing but he thinks that they should have laid salt down on the intersections throughout Hidden Pond. Rebecca replied they typically do put salt out after it snows but I will talk to them. Mayor Kelley stated that he thought they did a great job plowing the streets.

Police Report:

Chief Brown presented the December 2016 Police Report asking if there were any questions. Vice-Mayor Yapsuga noticed there have been changes in responsibilities of the Officers and asked the Chief how that was going and Chief Brown replied good and there will be some more changes to follow.

Mayor Kelley asked why the warnings increased this year from last and Chief Brown replied there is an automated system for warnings now so that may be why there is an increase.

Motion: Vice-Mayor Yapsuga made a motion to accept the December 2016 Police Report. Councilmember Clendaniel seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Budget Report:

Rebecca stated that she put the carryover number in the budget and she also submitted the grant application for the renovations in Town Hall. She explained if we don't receive the grant money we will just take the money from the budget. We will pay \$15,000 before the end of this fiscal year and pay \$15,000 after next fiscal year. Councilmember Beulah asked what the turnaround time typically is after submitting the application and Rebecca replied her contact person told her that we should hear something in 90 days.

Motion: Vice-Mayor Yapsuga made a motion to accept the December 2016 Budget Report. Councilman Carroll seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Minutes:

Town Council Meeting Minutes:

Mayor Kelley presented the December 12, 2016 Town Council Meeting Minutes asking if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Motion: Councilmember Clendaniel made a motion to accept the December 12, 2016 Town Council Meeting Minutes. Vice-Mayor Yapsuga seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Planning & Zoning Meeting Minutes:

Rebecca explained a Contractor came in representing the homeowner of 156 Honeybrook Lane. They want to convert a single car garage into livable space and everything was within the guidelines so it was approved.

Motion: Councilmember Carroll made a motion to accept the January 3, 2017 Planning and Zoning Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Clendaniel seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Third Reading and Acceptance of Article 1 Title 2 Abandoned Vehicles in the Town of Felton:

Motion: Councilmember Carroll made a motion to accept the amended Abandoned Vehicle Ordinance. Councilmember Clendaniel seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. Roll call was taken: Mayor Kelley-yes; Vice-Mayor Yapsuga – yes; Councilmember Carroll – yes; Councilmember Clendaniel –yes and Councilman Dolan-Beulah-yes.

Abatement Request – 114 Courtney Lane \$190.40:

Rebecca stated the residents at 114 Courtney Lane just purchased the home and in July they had a new water filtration system installed. Last month when we read the meters we noticed that they had a very high usage so Josh went to the residence to check the meter and discovered there was a leak. The residents said that one of their tanks to the filtration system was defective and they had the issue fixed the next day. Mayor Kelley stated that he does not have a problem abating \$190.40.

Motion: Vice-Mayor Yapsuga made a motion to accept the Abatement of \$190.40 for 114 Courtney Lane. Councilmember Clendaniel seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. Roll call was taken: Mayor Kelley-yes; Vice-Mayor Yapsuga – yes; Councilmember Clendaniel –yes; Councilmember Carroll - yes and Councilman Dolan-Beulah-yes.

Abatement – 86 Ludlow Lane \$322.49:

Mr. Garcia introduced himself and stated that this is his second request for an abatement. He explained that his toilet was leaking last quarter and Ralph came inside of his house, looked at his toilet, made an adjustment and told him what he did and that he needed to keep an eye on the toilet. Mr. Garcia stated that since that day it seemed fine and when he received his bill he noticed that his water usage was high again. Mr. Garcia explained to Council that he understands that he should have kept a better eye on the toilet but he did recently just replace the part and it is now fixed. He is also not asking for the whole amount to be abated but wants to know if he could get some help with his bill. Vice-Mayor Yapsuga asked why a professional was not called and our Public Works guy went to the house. Rebecca explained when we see high usage Ralph goes to the home to reread the meter and Ralph is very helpful when it comes to these issues but I told him he is not allowed to go into residents homes anymore. Mr. Garcia stated that he wanted to make it clear to Council that he was not

trying to place any blame on Ralph. He explained that Ralph helped him a lot with the toilet and he should have paid more attention to the leak instead of just assuming it was fixed. Mayor Kelley asked Council what they thought about the abatement. Councilman Carroll stated that he feels that Mr. Garcia should take some responsibility and pay some of the water charges. Councilmember Dolan-Beulah stated that she agrees with Anthony and Mr. Garcia did agree to pay for some of the charges so I think that he should be responsible for a portion also. Councilmember Dolan-Beulah stated that she is concerned that if we abate the whole amount and that was not the problem and next quarter he has a high bill the Town cannot abate another bill. Councilmember Clendaniel stated that she agrees and thinks that he should be responsible for paying some of the charges. She also explained that if we abate the whole amount after abating an amount last quarter we will have residents in here all the time trying to get Council to abate their water fees.

Motion: Vice-Mayor Yapsuga made a motion to accept the Abatement of \$161.25 for 86 Ludlow Lane. Councilmember Clendaniel seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. Roll call was taken: Mayor Kelley-yes; Vice-Mayor Yapsuga – yes; Councilmember Clendaniel –yes; Councilmember Carroll - yes and Councilman Dolan-Beulah-yes.

Delinquent Tax Update:

Rebecca stated the delinquent debt for taxes is \$13,700, which includes \$12,000 of taxes that we have not collected for the year and the remaining amount is from prior years. Rebecca explained some of the uncollected amount is from residents making payments and we may not have received payments from all the mortgage companies. The delinquent debt for utilities is \$6,763 and \$3,400 of that is from prior years. Rebecca stated that she contacted the Attorney regarding the Town acquiring the two properties on Railroad Avenue and he said that municipalities are no longer acquiring properties that owe municipalities money.

The Council Meeting recessed at 7pm for an Executive Session.

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:50pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.

Motion: Councilmember Dolan-Beulah made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Carroll seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

These minutes were prepared by Amy Thomas, Town Clerk.

Amy Thomas, Town Clerk

Date