

**Town of Felton
Town Council Meeting
November 13, 2017
6:30 pm**

Mayor Kelley called the Town Council Meeting of Felton to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, November 13, 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 and Chief Levi Brown.

Citizens Concerns:

Jim McKenna, a resident from Hidden Pond, wanted to discuss the way Public Works is clearing out the wooded area around the Pond near his home on Ludlow Lane. Below is the written statement he presented to Council.

- Not all branches need to be removed from the woods. Naturally, branches fall and leaves fall... The branches hold the leaves to recycle (decompose) in place which leaves enriched soil to feed the trees and plants. Without branches, the leaves blow away or into the pond.

- I suggest not bringing the weed wacker into the woods. It's shady enough under the trees that plants don't grow out of control there anyway. Plus there are some interesting plants there that have been damaged or killed by the weed wacker. A live pawpaw tree was cut down unnecessarily. It sprouted back the following year in bush form, then that was subsequently shredded by the weed wacker. It's grown back as a small bush again, but doesn't need further assaults. There is an area of lilies and elsewhere some hosta that gets shredded regularly and unnecessarily by the wacker.

-There was some bushy growth right next to the pond until about five years ago that the Mallard ducks used yearly for nesting. That was cut away unnecessarily. The following year the ducks tried nesting in a garden of a nearby home. It didn't work out and they haven't been back.

-Trumpet vines grow in those woods. There are plenty of them growing as small 12"-18" plants, but rarely they end up with enough sun and close enough to a tree to grow up into a vine. In the right conditions, they grow up 15'+ and produce flowers that are a favorite to hummingbirds (and people). One such small plant was growing up a tree next to 58 Mayor Lane, but was wacked at ground level a few weeks ago during a 3 day long weed wacking siege on the area. The whole place was wacked to a nub. Also, a small stand of "Jack in the Pulpit" were growing next to a tree well within the woods. These popped up faithfully year after year until this year when the wacker found them. I've seen no sign of them reappearing, so they've probably been killed. Some of this might sound overly detailed or nit picky, but; it's all easily remedied by simply keeping the weed wacker out of the woods. -And those that are doing this don't even live nearby. They shouldn't have free reign to cut whatever they please and thereby affect how the people that visit the woods regularly enjoy (or not enjoy) it. I think a few guidelines are called for. In addition to no weed wacking within the woods, I would add no more cutting/killing the wisteria vines and don't cut/kill the hollies just because of a personal dislike of them. There are two other interesting little plants that are vulnerable to the weed wacker 1) "Indian Pipe" - a completely white non-chlorophyll plant that grows under pines. 2) "Rattlesnake Fern" (a few of these are actually in the path of the lawn mower within the woods). A large bush was recently cut near 75 Mayor Lane. Half of it was over the 75 Mayor Lane property and

provided some screening. The base was/is just over the line on town property, so technically there was a right to cut, but why? It wasn't blocking anyone's view of the road while driving. It certainly seems to have been cut on a whim. I sent the owners of 75 Mayor Ln a picture and haven't heard back yet, but the occupants there are very surprised and disappointed by the amount of brush clearing and screening removal that's been done next to that house.

-In closing I would say it appears that the chain sawing weed wacking artists have been given too much leeway to wack at will. A few simple guidelines would be appropriate.

Councilman Carroll said that he thought the pond area looked very scenic just the way it was and he appreciates the work that the Public Works employees put into maintaining the pond. Vice Mayor Yapsuga said that it is kept so clear because parents can see their children while they are fishing around the pond. Rebecca advised that the Town began maintaining that area because in the past we had received so many complaints about people not being able to see the pond. After much discussion Mayor Kelley advised that in the spring the Council would go walk around the pond and decide how much landscaping would be done on the ponds in Hidden Pond.

Mr. McKenna also talked about planting trees on the open space and that Ralph removed the trees. Rebecca reminded him that he was advised years ago that nothing was to be planted on the Town's property. At one point the Town allowed people to plant on the open space and then trees and bushes were put in the swales and some citizens complained about the items being planted. At that time the citizens who were planting on the open space were advised the Town would remove any plants. People can plant on their own property but not on the Town's property.

Police Report:

Chief Brown presented the Police Report for October 2017 asking if there were any questions. Vice Mayor Yapsuga asked how Jared was doing in the Academy and Levi stated that he is doing well. Sgt. Thomas spoke to him last weekend and he is doing good. Mayor Kelley asked how Guild is doing and Levi stated that he was released to full duty on November 1st. So he is back and is doing well.

Motion: Councilmember Yapsuga made a motion to accept the October 2017 Police Report. Councilman Carroll seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously

Budget Report:

Rebecca presented the October 2017 Budget Report and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Motion: Councilmember Yapsuga made a motion to accept the October 2017 Budget Report. Councilman Carroll seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Minutes:

Town Council Meeting Minutes:

Mayor Kelley presented the October 16, 2017 Town Council Meeting Minutes asking if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Motion: Councilmember Dolan-Beulah made a motion to accept the October 16, 2017 Town Council Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Clendaniel seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Trick or Treat Wrap-Up:

Rebecca advised that the popcorn was a success. We ran out of popcorn because one of the fuses blew towards the end of the night. Councilmember Dolan-Beulah helped pass out candy at Town Hall. The Mayor, Vice Mayor and Rep. Outten judged the costume contest. Rep. Outten also stayed for over an hour helping pass out candy. This year we had over 300 kids but at least 50 of them were teenagers. We gave candy to anyone who was dressed up and asked for candy.

Mr. & Mrs. Claus at Town Hall Schedule:

Our dates this year are December 4, 5 and 6. The Mayor and Vice Mayor are going to be Santa. We will set up their exact schedule closer to the dates. We have our goodie bags ready. We will be setting up the area in the conference room for the kids to see Santa. Shorebank has agreed to pay for the bikes again this year.

Comprehensive Plan Up-Date:

Rebecca advised that she has a meeting set-up with Debbie from KCI to discuss the up-date to the Plan. The up-date has to be completed by November 2018. This is a re-certification. When Rebecca spoke to Debbie she was advised it would cost between \$25-65,000. Rebecca advised her that was a bit much since the Plan had been modified in 2014. Debbie said it should be lower than that fee. They will discuss cost in more detail at their meeting on November 17th.

At 7:20pm the regular meeting was suspended to go into an Executive Session.

The Council Meeting was resumed at 7:28pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Motion: Vice-Mayor Yapsuga made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Carroll seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

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

Rebecca L. Greene, Town Manager

Date