

**Town of Felton
Town Council Meeting
September 10, 2018
6:30 pm**

Mayor Kelley called the Town Council Meeting of Felton to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, September 10, 2018. Present at the meeting were:

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

Staff: Town Manager Rebecca Greene, Sergeant Thomas and Town Clerk Amy Thomas.

Public: Anita Hart (Lake Forest Community Education Foundation) , Anita Yapsuga and Mark Turluski.

Citizens Concerns:

Mr. Turluski requested that the Town Manger review tickets that Officer Thomas has written because he believes he is not ticketing as he should which makes me believe he is racist. Mayor Kelley asked Mr. Turluski what his basis for saying this was and he replied that he was pulled over by Officer Thomas and he believes there is some racial profiling going on because he was not very nice to me. Mr. Turluski felt like Officer Thomas had an attitude towards him when he pulled him over. Mayor Kelley stated that he doesn't think that Officer Thomas has a racial bone in his body nor does he believe that any of the officers are like that. Rebecca stated that she is the Town Manager and she has worked with Officer Thomas for a long time and this is the first time that someone has ever complained about him racially profiling the public. If you are breaking the law in Felton you will be pulled over by one of our Officers. Mayor Kelley asked if he was familiar with how they run radar because there is absolutely no way that they can tell your age, gender, color or size until they approach the vehicle. Mr. Turluski stated that the point of the matter is if you compare Officer Thomas's tickets to the National Statistics (75% for blacks and 25% for Caucasians, Hispanics and other races) you will see he is racially profiling the public. Vice-Mayor Yapsuga stated that he finds this statement very upsetting and requested that Mr. Tuluski bring his facts showing that Officer Thomas is racially profiling. Mr. Tuluski stated that he has heard from other people that Officer Thomas was rude and he ignored them until he was pulled over and was disrespected.

Mayor Kelley asked Officer Thomas what the stop was and he replied it was a cell phone violation and the other two charges are dismissible in court. Rebecca stated that we don't allow any bantering on the side of the road, if you want to argue a ticket, fill out the second sheet and take it to court. Councilmember Clendaniel wanted to know why he waited 17 days to contact someone from the Town, Mr. Tuluski replied that he is from the military and he has always liked to do things in

house first. He stated that he is a Veteran and he would have thought Officer Thomas would have used better discretion and noticed the tag on his car and given him a warning instead of violations.

Mayor Kelley stated that he will talk to the Chief and watch the video and the Chief will contact Mr. Turluski.

Request for Gobble Wobble 5K Donation:

Anita Hart who is a board member for the Lake Forest Community Education Foundation thanked the Town for being a sponsor in last year's Gobble Wobble. She explained that the funds raised at the run will be given out in the form of grants to teachers in the district. Mrs. Hart asked if the Town was willing to be a sponsor for this year's race and gave the Council documents to see the levels of sponsorship (see attached).

Motion: Councilmember Clendaniel made a motion to give a \$500 donation to the Gobble Wobble 5k. Vice-Mayor Yapsuga seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Police Report:

Sergeant Thomas presented the Police Report for August 2018 and stated the numbers from last year have almost doubled. Rebecca stated that she put \$20,000 in the budget for Special Duty and so far they have used half of it. Each year we tell them if they use it and fine numbers increase then we can consider increasing that amount. So this year if they continue we will be looking to put additional money in the SEU budget line.

Budget Report:

Rebecca presented the August 2018 Budget Report stating that so far it is looking pretty good. The only department that is off is the water department because I just paid the final \$20,000 water tower check.

Vice-Mayor Yapsuga asked Rebecca if she thinks there will be any issues with the budget in January or February and Rebecca replied the police are ahead on their fine number by 3% so if they continue this we will be fine. Rebecca asked Officer Thomas what he thought and he stated if nobody goes out and everyone keeps working like this we should be fine.

Vice-Mayor Yapsuga asked how much the Town receives from a ticket; Officer Thomas replied that we receive the base fine amount.

Motion: Councilmember Clendaniel made a motion to accept the August 2018 Budget Report. Councilmember Carroll seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Minutes:

Town Council Meeting Minutes:

Mayor Kelley presented the August 13, 2018 Town Council Meeting Minutes and there were no questions.

Planning & Zoning Meeting Minutes:

There was no meeting due to the Contractor not showing.

Motion: Councilmember Clendaniel made a motion to accept the August 13, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Dolan-Beulah seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

End of Summer Bash Review:

Mayor Kelley stated that everything turned out really nice and we had lots of positive feedback. Rebecca stated that she attached the budget for the event (see attached). She recommends that next year we can only do one bounce house due to the electrical issues.

High Street Water Lines:

Rebecca stated typically when we repave a street we replace the water lines also. When Railroad Avenue was repaved they replaced all the lines except the ones going into High Street. If we wanted to replace those water lines we would have to rip up the new road and Josh recommends that we don't do that. Josh and the Engineer also recommend that we don't replace the water lines on High Street when we replace the road. Josh saw the lines and he doesn't think they need to be replaced. Mayor Kelley asked how much it would cost to replace the lines and Rebecca stated \$50,000 and we do have the money. Mayor Kelley stated that he would like to talk to Josh about the water lines before making a decision not to replace them.

Rosewood Farms Open Space:

Rebecca stated that Mr. Voshell passed away years ago and there are four open space properties that need to be turned over to the Town. I spoke to the son years ago and told him they needed to be turned over to the Town but he hasn't done anything. I contacted the Attorney and he said that we could put them up for sheriff sale and buy them or just have them sign them over to the Town. They have not paid the taxes and the Town is cutting the grass. If we put them up for sheriff sale then we have the chance of someone trying to overbid us and if we have to take them to court then we would pay about \$5000 for the lots. Rebecca said that she would like to give the Attorney the go ahead to send a letter to the Son about the properties.

Motion: Councilmember Clendaniel made a motion for the Attorney to send a letter to Mr. Voshell's son regarding the Rosewood Farms Open Space. Councilmember Carroll seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46.

Motion: Councilmember Yapsuga made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Clendaniel seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

These minutes were prepared by Amy Thomas, Town Clerk.

Amy Thomas, Town Clerk

Date