

COUNCIL MEETING
Council Chambers – Harpersville Town Hall
December 16, 2019 – 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Proper notice of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Harpersville Town Council was given in advance of such public meeting and the notice remained posted throughout the scheduled meeting.

Date: December 16, 2019
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: Harpersville Town Hall
Present: Mayor Don Greene
Councilmember Beverly O. Johnson
Councilmember Martin Dates
Councilmember Sheila K. Rich
Councilmember Janet Gill

Not Present: Councilmember William Rayfield

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Greene called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Councilmember Gill led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chase Rohler representing Boy Scout Troop 588.

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

The following elected officials were present:

Mayor Don Greene
Councilmember Beverly O. Johnson
Councilmember Martin Dates
Councilmember Sheila K. Rich
Councilmember Janet Gill

It was noted for the record a quorum of the town council was present.

Mayor Greene brought the attention of an open position on the dais and the absence of Councilmember William Rayfield. Mayor Greene called on Councilmember Rich to give an update. Councilmember Rich stated Mr. Rayfield was hospitalized during the first week of December with a lower leg infection. As doctors began running tests and examining the extent of the infection, they realized the infection had spread higher in the leg and they recommended amputation. Councilmember Rich said they amputated Councilmember Rayfield's right leg just below the hip. Since then, he has continued to improve and was sent to a step-down room and is getting fitted for a prosthesis. At 89 years old, the doctors have said he is a miracle. Councilmember Rich encouraged everyone to continue to pray and lift up he and his family.

APPROVAL OF TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA

Councilmember Gill made a motion to approve the town council agenda for December 16, 2019. Councilmember Rich seconded the motion. Mayor Greene called for a roll call vote:

Don Greene, Mayor	<u>Yes</u>
Beverly O. Johnson, Councilmember	<u>Yes</u>
Martin Dates, Councilmember	<u>Yes</u>
Sheila K. Rich, Councilmember	<u>Yes</u>
Janet Gill, Councilmember	<u>Yes</u>

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Rich made a motion to approve and dispense of the reading of the regular council meeting minutes from December 2, 2019. Councilmember Gill seconded the motion. Mayor Greene called for a roll call vote:

Don Greene, Mayor	<u>Yes</u>
Beverly O. Johnson, Councilmember	<u>Yes</u>
Martin Dates, Councilmember	<u>Yes</u>
Sheila K. Rich, Councilmember	<u>Yes</u>
Janet Gill, Councilmember	<u>Yes</u>

APPROVAL OF INVOICE REPORT

The Town Clerk/Treasurer presented the invoice report. Councilmember Gill made a motion to approve the report as submitted. Councilmember Rich seconded the motion. Mayor Greene called for a roll call vote:

Don Greene, Mayor	<u>Yes</u>
Beverly O. Johnson, Councilmember	<u>Yes</u>
Martin Dates, Councilmember	<u>Yes</u>
Sheila K. Rich, Councilmember	<u>Yes</u>
Janet Gill, Councilmember	<u>Yes</u>

DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Library:

The Harpersville Library will host a Frozen Tea Party on January 18, 2020, tickets are \$10.00.

Police Department:

Police Chief Jimmy Macon stated concealed carry citations are up from the previous two years. He added speeds on U.S. Highway 280 through town are still high and dangerous. The first accident at the entrance for Burger King and Popeyes occurred on December 15, 2019. He said a driver pulled out in front of oncoming traffic. Minor injuries were reported.

Fire Department:

Fire Chief Heath Confer reported on the following items:

- Informed the town council a full-time paramedic position was still open.
- A few renovations and improvements would take place over the coming weeks at the fire station. All work would be performed in house.
- Reported major issues with the fire apparatus citing overheating problems and the need for new front tires.
- Utility pickup truck is also still in need of extensive repairs.
- Thanked the town's mutual aid partners for their assistance throughout the repair process.
- Still waiting for results of a Firehouse Subs grant for a new cardiac monitor.
- Reminded everyone the storm shelter located in the community center is always open during inclement weather. Weather radios are still available.
- Encouraged citizens to be mindful of space heaters and ensure smoke detectors have fresh batteries. Never plug a space heater in a power strip.

PROCLAMATIONS BY THE MAYOR – None

PUBLIC HEARING – None

REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

1. Harpersville Fire Chief Heath Confer

Chief Confer made the following remarks:

The contents of this letter and a Certificate of Recognition were presented at the December 16, 2019 Town of Harpersville Council Meeting by Heath Confer. Town officials present were Mayor Don Greene, Council Members: Janet Gill, Sheila Rich, Beverly Johnson and Martin Dates and Town Clerk/Treasurer Jonathan Seale. Members of the Fire Department, present were Lt. Mark Lewis, Firefighter Robert Greene, Firefighter William Poe and Firefighter Michael Foshee. Members of the Harpersville Police Department, the municipal judge and several members of the public were also present. The purpose of this presentation was to honor and recognize the accomplishments of John W. Hall with the following brief description. Following the presentation, Firefighter Hall was pinned by his wife, Ms. Jenny Hall.

“I’ll keep this short and sweet because one of the many good character traits the person being recognized tonight possesses, is that he does his job, and does it well, and he does it without wanting any recognition. And believe me, he deserves it!

There are not too many people that can say that they have or will excel in two professions as intense as Firefighting and Law Enforcement, but this individual can!

It is a great honor to have this opportunity to recognize John Hall to have completed his training and re-certification as a Firefighter.

John began his career as a firefighter with the City of Huntsville before redirecting his career path and dedicating his life to Law Enforcement over the last 20 years or so.

As you may know, this past summer John transferred to the Harpersville Fire Department, not only from the Police Department, but a career and a life as a Law Enforcement Officer. That’s a big step to take on!

John has spent the last 5 months in a book, on the drill field and in a big red truck, once again redirecting his career path and changing his outlook on life.

When you take on careers like these, at first it might just be a job, but when you do it for any amount of time, it grabs a hold of you, it becomes you, you become it. It gives you a sense of pride that defines who you are, the way you present yourself to others, how you process information for decision making.

You become a professional in your job AND in your life. You’re not just somebody that wakes up in the morning to go to your job and then come home to be someone else. Everything you do is based around whichever one, ‘or two’ of these jobs that chooses you.

In closing, John will probably always be a Law Enforcement Officer and rightfully so, but I’m proud to also welcome him back to the fire service.

Mr. Mayor, members of the Council, I present to you Firefighter John Hall.”

OLD BUSINESS / RESOLUTIONS / ORDINANCES / ORDERS and OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Ordinance 2019-12-02** for consideration to establish the compensation of the Mayor and Town Councilmembers. First Reading was on December 2, 2019.

Councilmember Gill moved and Councilmember Dates seconded the motion that Ordinance 2019-12-02 be given vote. There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-12-02 was given vote, and the roll call vote was recorded by the Town Clerk/Treasurer as follows:

Don Greene, Mayor	<u>Yes</u>
Beverly O. Johnson, Councilmember	<u>Yes</u>
Martin Dates, Councilmember	<u>Yes</u>
Sheila K. Rich, Councilmember	<u>Yes</u>
Janet Gill, Councilmember	<u>Yes</u>

Ordinance 2019-12-02 passed by unanimous roll call vote of those members of the council present and the mayor declared the same passed.

NEW BUSINESS / RESOLUTIONS / ORDINANCES / ORDERS and OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Resolution 2019-12-16-01** for consideration to approve a new hire for the Harpersville Police Department

Councilmember Gill moved to adopt Resolution 2019-12-16-01 and Councilmember Dates seconded the motion.

Mayor Greene stated the reasoning behind his vote tonight had nothing to do with the candidate, but rather the candidate's qualifications. He mentioned the candidate did well in the interview. He said over the past year over \$60,000 had been spent on police officers who are no longer with the department. He said it is time to hire qualified individuals who have a background in law enforcement or other similar qualifications. Councilmember Rich concurred with Mayor Greene's comments.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Greene called for a roll call vote:

Don Greene, Mayor	<u>No</u>
Beverly O. Johnson, Councilmember	<u>Yes</u>
Martin Dates, Councilmember	<u>Yes</u>
Sheila K. Rich, Councilmember	<u>No</u>
Janet Gill, Councilmember	<u>Yes</u>

The motion to adopt Resolution 2019-12-16-01 passed by a majority roll call vote of those members present and the Mayor declared the same passed.

COUNCIL AND PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Burger King and Popeyes Restaurants will be held Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.
2. The Town of Harpersville will host a Safety Meeting Luncheon on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. in the Community Center.
3. Harpersville Town Offices will be closed on Tuesday, December 24th and Wednesday, December 25th in observance of the Christmas holidays.
4. Harpersville Town Offices will be closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2020 for the New Year's Day Holiday.
5. Harpersville Town Offices will be closed on Monday, January 20, 2020 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

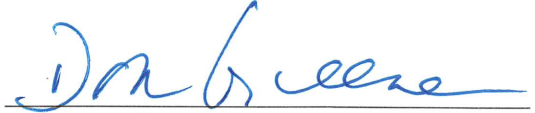
ADJOURNMENT

With no other business before the council, Councilmember Gill moved to adjourn the council meeting and Councilmember Rich seconded the motion. By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously by those members present and the meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 16th day of December 2019,



Jonathan Seale, Town Clerk/Treasurer



Don Greene, Mayor

