

Town of Pink Hill
Special Budget Approval Meeting
July 11, 2023

Minutes

The Town of Pink Hill Special Budget Approval meeting was held July 11, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Police Bay. Present at the meeting were: Mayor Yvonne Deatherage, Commissioner Penny Murphy, Commissioner James Quinn, Commissioner Pete Fantini, Town Attorney Will Gray, Jr, Town Clerk Lisa McGee, Daniel White Planning Chair, and Police Chief Michael Hoffman.

Visitors present were: Kevin McGee, Carolyn Whitfield, Kristin Fantini, Brett Smith, Joshua Eing, Doug Stroud, Jolene Hoffman, Mona Jones, Richard Goldsby, Robin King, Barbara Newberne, Herman Newberne, Ariyanna Herring, Teresa Horne, Mike Horne, Josh Dunham, Rodney Scott, Suzie Baker, Lori Bradford, Michael Whitfield and Jayne Zesiger

Mayor Yvonne Deatherage called the meeting to order. Mayor Deatherage asked everyone to join in the pledge of allegiance. Everyone stood and said the pledge of allegiance. Lisa McGee, Town Clerk, gave roll call: Mayor Deatherage, Commissioner Murphy, Commissioner Quinn, Commissioner Fantini, Attorney Will Gray, Jr, Town Clerk Lisa McGee, Chief Hoffman and Officer Weaver were present at the meeting.

Michael Hoffman, Chief of Police, made a statement addressing everyone:

“Cut off all mobile devices as the meeting is being recorded. Please refrain from speaking unless you have the floor. Any outburst could be the cause for you being asked to leave the meeting. Be it noted that our meetings are being recorded. Let’s conduct ourselves in a professional manner. Thank you!

Public Comments:

Richard Goldsby,

said good evening, and asked is everyone doing alright today? He said God is good and all the time God is good. I thank God for being here. I thank God for you and you and you and you. I just stood up today and we just had a pledge of allegiance. We pledged to something right? That means my point of view is we got to get things together as units. That’s what we just did. We pledged together, unity, and for the last couple of months that I’ve been coming to the meetings, always, I saw a whole lot of division going on, I’m in an organization called Community Connection of Pink Hill and we’re a diverse group that’s trying to bring people together, as one, as a small town of Pink Hill, I think we can do this thing, but we got to get ourself out of the way. Amen. Our spirit, we are so much in a way, we are breaking Pink Hill up. I’ve been

here over 20 years now; I didn't grow up here. My military brought me here. I'm a retired marine and we come together and unify and I'm thinking that Pink Hill needs to do that. I sat on the sideline too long, and I truly believe that we need to come together, because all the children in Pink Hill, I officiated the ball games for the last 20 years up until this point. And I grew up around your children and they know how I am. I show myself friendly wherever I go, and I love them all. That's what the key thing is, we have to love one another and move that heaviness out of your heart and let Christ dwell in it and then we can come together. That's what we're trying to do within this new organization, we are trying to bring to Pink Hill, Community Connection. We are now official now. We are official state non-profit organization of Pink Hill. We just got things together, we're going to be thoroughly doing our Power 13 C now. We're about a couple steps away from it being approved. So, we're asking you all, let's come together, things that are coming up in September. We're doing another event coming up and we just need all of your support. Come and see, listen to us, I mean, we listen to each other I'll put it that way. Commissioner Pete has been there, Commissioner Penny has been there to the meetings, just come and enjoy one another. I mean, that's how families do, right? I'm getting ready to go ahead to my family reunion this week and I love every bit of it. I've been doing for over 20 years now. When I come into Pink Hill they said a village, so where's the village at now? Ok, so I see that my thing from last month is on the agenda so I'm going to wait on that. Thank you.

Conflict-Of-Interest Statement is on agenda - no commissioner has any conflict of interest.

Approval of the agenda:

- Commissioner Fantini made a motion to approve the agenda
- Seconded by Commissioner Murphy
- No discussion
- Vote 3-0
- Motion carries.

Approval of Minutes:

- Commissioner Fantini made a motion to approve the Minutes
- Seconded by Commissioner Quinn
- No discussion
- Vote 3-0
- Motion carries.

Approval of the Financial Reports:

- Commissioner Fantini made a motion to approve the Financial Reports
- Seconded by Commissioner Murphy
- No discussion

- Vote 3-0
- Motion carries.

Department Reports:

- Reports are in the binders.
- Mayor Deatherage gave a statement on the Water Department letting the residents of Pink Hill know that the water is safe to use.

Unfinished Business:

- There was not any unfinished business

New Business:

Mayor Deatherage:

3-Way Stop:

discussed the 3 stop signs at Old Craft Rd and Eva Mae Jones Rd. but to move forward we have to have a public hearing. I am asking the board if we can have a Public Hearing at our next board meeting? Commissioner Fantini made a motion to have a public hearing on August 8, 2023 to move the one stop sign and add another stop for a 3-way stop. Seconded by Commissioner Murphy no discussion vote was 3-0. Motion carries.

Commissioner Fantini:

Debris:

gave an update for the through way that Mr. Goldsby spoke about at the last meeting. Commissioner Fantini said that in one of our meetings it was said that the landowner was blocking with piles of trash, the landowner is Susan Myers, and she's not saying it's land locked. To be honest and in her words, she wants to do it. Ok, well she just isn't willing to work with the current administration because she doesn't know what's coming around the corner, so, she's hoping things will change in November. If they don't, then, we will revisit with her.

Lori Bradford:

Back to School Bash:

As you guys know we are having our Back to School Bash on August 15, 2023 for 11am to 2pm. This is the 8th year that the Library has offered this event to the community. You can follow us on Facebook as we post out events up there. we also need supply donations you can reach out to the library or the list is on Facebook. I am asking for S Pine street from our parking lot to Howard's Insurance to be closed from 9:30am to 3:00pm on August 15, 2023. Mayor Deatherage asked for a motion to close S Pine St. Commissioner Murphy made a motion to close S Pine St on August 15, 2023 from 9:30am to 3:00pm. Seconded by Commissioner Fantini. No discussion. Vote was 3-0. Motion carries.

Barbara Newberne:

Payment arrangements:

Asked for payment arrangements for her daughter Beverly Newberne (who had to work), Ms. Beverly had a major water leak on her side of the water meter box, although the Public Works department fixed it; her water bill was \$1043.59. so, we are asking if we can get a payment arrangement to pay the bill? Mayor Deatherage asked for a motion for payment arrangement. Commissioner Quinn made a motion for Beverly Newberne to make payment arrangements. Commissioner Murphy asked the mayor does she need to do anything specific or just general. Mayor Deatherage said well, right now, it's just general to make payments. Seconded by Commissioner Murphy. Discussion by Commissioner Fantini, so my question is can we do the same as we did for the last young lady? Commissioner Quinn asked did we take care of the sewage and Town Clerk, Lisa McGee stated there was no sewage it was only out of town water. Commissioner Fantini said I read our policy and I have checked with several towns and what they do is in a catastrophic event like this is take a 12-month average and use that to go by. It's a onetime deal. You can't be a repeat offender. We set the presidents last time by cutting the bill in half and I feel we should do the same for this young lady. Attorney Will told Commissioner Quinn he could withdrawal his motion and go with Commissioner Fantini's motion. Commissioner Quinn withdrew his motion and Commissioner Fantini made a motion to split the bill in half and the rest will be under a payment arrangement. Seconded by Commissioner Quinn. Ms. Newberne said that they could pay \$100.00 a week. Mayor Deatherage said a week or a month and Ms. Newberne said a week because we didn't know that you would cut the bill in half. Ms. Newberne agreed to pay \$100.00 every other week. The vote was 3-0. Motion carries.

Fire Chief Brett Smith:

Fireman's Relief Fund:

Good evening, every year OSFN donates well, they give ach fire department money it's for kind of a hardship money for firemen. Departments have got to have a board of trustees in order to get this money. The way it is set I up is the fire department is asking the town board to nominate 2 people and the county commissioner have to nominate 2 people and OSFN will put a person in place it will be a five-person board. We the PHVFD are requesting that y'all nominate 2 people to put on the board. One of which has to act a treasurer and the way the board has done it in the past it has been the town clerk and that cuts out the middle man if you have to get a check cut. The Fire Commissioner has served on it in the past we are pretty much to the point that everybody that is on it, is either in the nursing home or dead. Commissioner Fantini asked Fire Chief Smith who are you recommending? Fire Chief Smith said I request that Lisa be it as far as the treasurer and Commissioner Murphy she is already familiar with the Fire Department, she knows everybody and how we operate, and that is completely on y'all. Commissioner Fantini said those are the 2 people you are asking? Chief Smith yes if y'all will allow that. Commissioner Fantini asked Town Clerk, Lisa McGee, are you ok with that? Town Clerk, Lisa McGee said I cut checks for all the

department now so yes, I am. Commissioner Fantini made a motion to appoint Commissioner Murphy and Town Clerk Lisa McGee as the Board of Trustees for the Fireman's Relief Fund. Seconded by Commissioner Quinn no discussion vote was 3-0. Motion carries. Commissioner Murphy said Brett can you tell them what that does. Fire Chief Smith said yes, it is not something that happens very often. I been there 20 years and we have used it one time. So, if something happens to a member say like a wreck or something they can come into a financial hardship. We (PHVFD) will go to the board of trustees and request money to be drawn out for that person to try and help them get back on their feet. Like I said we have used it one time in 20 years. If you do not have the people (the board of trustees) on the OSFN website they won't cut the money.

Mayor Deatherage:

Golf Cart Ordinance:

The reason we are bringing this back up is because the copy on the website and the clerk's computer was not signed and we are unable to find a signed copy of the Golf Cart Ordinance. We need to update the date so the mayor and the clerk can sign it, we cannot sign something from 2014. Attorney Gray said the mayor asked me about this and I told her as long as it was certifying what was current there, I thought what the best practice would be for y'all to vote on it just certifying it so the town would have a current one. Commissioner Murphy made a motion to accept the exiting Golf Cart Ordinance. Seconded by Commissioner Quinn. Discussion by Commissioner Fantini he asked this is just to update the date and get it signed. Mayor Deatherage said yes. Vote was 3-0. Motion carries.

Gregory Redman, CPA

2021-2022 Audit:

Greg Redman went over the audit with the Commissioners and the Mayor. The audit in discussion is the audit for the Town of Pink Hill ending in June 30, 2022. Mr. Redman said that Local Government Commission put out statistics and they say the minimum threshold for a town of this size should be 71%. Town of Pink Hill's has 71% total Fund Balance for this year's audit ending June 30, 2023. Even with a loss of \$204,709.00 the Town of Pink Hill still came in good for the year ending June 30, 2023. The Local Government Commission looks to see if the town's water department is supporting their selves. And there is a lot of towns where they are not supporting their selves. However, the Town of Pink Hill's water department is supporting their self. So, the Local Government Commission is not going to have a problem with the Water/Sewer Fund as of June 30, 2022. The Twon of Pink Hill's overall Property Tax Collection rate is 97.84% ending June 30, 2023, Mr. Redman said that was good. Mr. Redman noted on page 72 of the Audit that there were 3 deficiencies.

- Segregation of Duties – LGC usually looks over this because this is a small town with just one Town Clerk.

- Late Submission of Audit – Mr. Redman said the town had turnovers before he could complete the audit. You hired a new Town Clerk and I let her get settled in and then she provided everything I needed to complete the audit.
- Expenditures Exceeded Authorized Budget - You know dragging out of the audit and overall, I think things financially is in good shape. Yes, there were some issues. I provided a separate letter to the internal control suggestions about cash receipts for the town whether it be through the town or any outside business – cash collection should be supported by a cash receipt and that cash receipt should match the cash collections. Another thing is credit cards and there were 2 or 3 small family dollar receipts for \$120.00 and \$90.00 which the receipts were not able to be provided to us, however, they seemed to be ongoing/recurring expenses so that was something we were not concerned about.

Mayor Deatherage asked for a motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Quinn made a motion to go into closed session, seconded by Commissioner Murphy, no discussion vote 3-0. Motion carries.

Mayor Yvonne Deatherage, Commissioner Penny Murphy, Commissioner James Quinn, Commissioner Pete Fantini, Town Attorney Will Gray, Jr, and Town Clerk Lisa McGee go into closed session.

Commissioner Quinn made a motion to come out of closed session, seconded by Commissioner Murphy, no discussion, vote 3-0, motion carries.

Mayor Deatherage said with regards with what was discussed in closed session do I have a motion Commissioner Fantini said I make a motion to keep Cody on board and raise his pay to \$17.50 per hour. Seconded by Commissioner Quinn. No discussion. vote 3-0. Motion carries. Mayor Deatherage said it needs to active this week.

Comments by Attorney:

Let's go turn some air conditioning on.

Comments by the BOC:

Commissioner Fantini said I do want to address something. You, yourself and members of the board, you told me I was the command denominator and that if resigned then some would stay I their positions. I want you know how that sounds and that sounds like blackmail. I'm just telling you and I don't care who said it. I'm not

responsible for grown adults decisions on their financial statuses, and if that is the picture you want to paint, continue to paint around the town. Continue to do it because I'm to keep my mouth shut, and I'm going to let it go. But the truth will come out. but I'm just letting you know that I'm exhausted. Anybody wants to see what I wrote; I'd be happy to give it to you. But I know we need to get out of here. Mayor Deatherage said anyone else have anything to say? No other commissioner had anything to say.

Meeting is adjourned.