

**TYRONZA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 20TH, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Tyronza City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Jeff Woods. The roll was called, and the following council members were recorded as present: Willie Harris, Michael Hood, Daniel Brewington, Barbara Ross, Patty Barger and Kristina Woods. A quorum was declared. Recorder/Treasurer Donna Wood was also at the meeting. City Attorney Noyl Houston was not at the meeting.

The invocation was given by Barbara Ross.

Mayor Woods asked if there was a motion to suspend the reading of the February 27th, 2025, regular council meeting minutes. Willie Harris, seconded by Barbara Ross, moved to suspend the reading of the minutes. Upon a voice vote, the voting was as follows: Ayes: Unanimous.

Mayor Woods asked if there was a motion to approve the February 27th, 2025 regular council meeting minutes. Barbara Ross, seconded by Daniel Brewington, moved to approve the minutes. Upon a voice vote, the voting was as follows: Ayes: Unanimous

The expenditures were next on the agenda.

Mayor Woods asked for a motion to approve the expenditures for February 2025.

Barbara Ross, seconded by Willie Harris, moved to approve the expenditures.

Mayor Woods asked if there was any discussion on the expenditures.

Michael Hood questioned a check written to Paragould Communications in the amount of \$3,376.42 for a radio. He said he thought they would be using equipment from the other vehicle.

Mayor Woods said he believed that was approved when the council approved the purchase of the vehicle. He also said a tool box will need to be purchased for the truck also.

Michael questioned why the truck had to have a battery. He said he felt the dealership should have taken care of the battery.

Barbara said the council approve \$33,000.00 for the purchase of the truck and it was acquired for \$30,000.00. The \$3,000.00 difference went toward equipment for the truck.

Michael Hood questioned a check written to Candace Drace.

The R/T said the check was for her fire pay.

Daniel questioned the \$13,000.00 the city received for city sales tax. He said it was a significant increase from what was received in the past months.

The R/T said she called the Department of Finance and Authority and questioned the increase and was told that amount was correct. The sales tax report showed the increase in the sales tax was in the commercial and industrial machinery and equipment rental and leasing. She said the increase could have come from work that was being done at the grain bins or where the new apartments were being built or could be a combination of both. She also said a company also installed fiber optic lines to the cell tower and had to drill under I555.

The R/T said if the companies in which the sales tax came from find out they were exempt from the city sales tax, they could come back at a later date and file for a refund of the taxes.

With there being no further discussion on the expenditures. A voice vote was taken and the voting was unanimous to approve.

The meeting then moved to new business on the agenda.

Barbara questioned a date on the USDA CD. The report had the expiration date as January 20th, 2025. She asked if it was missed being renewed.

The R/T said it did not renew until March 20th, and it must be a typo error.

Barbara then suggested that \$30,000.00 be taken out of the General Fund and put into A CD for eight months and to set aside some money for grant assistance. She was looking at a couple of grants in which there had to be a city match.

She also questioned if the FEMA Disaster money could be rolled over into a CD for a couple of months.

The R/T said it had to be used before December 2025.

Barbara Ross seconded by Willie Harris moved to take \$30,000.00 from the General Fund and transfer it into a six month CD. The signers on the CD will be Mayor Jeff Woods, R/T Donna Wood and Council Member Barbara Ross. The CD will be named General Fund Reserve. Upon a voice vote, the voting was unanimous to approve.

The meeting then moved to new business on the agenda.

A park grant resolution was first on the agenda in new business.

R/T Wood read the resolution entitled "A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR FUN PARK GRANT" in full.

Barbara Ross seconded by Michael Hood, moved to adopt the resolution. Upon a voice vote, the voting was unanimous to approve.

R/T Wood said there would also need to be a public meeting included on the April Agenda.

Barbara Ross said the public meeting would be for the community to suggest how they would like to see the park developed. She also said another part of the grant application was to have an activity day at the park. It was decided to have the activity day on the first Saturday of May, May 3rd, with the time being 9:30 am to 12:00 pm.

Mayor Woods addressed code enforcement. He said he was looking into Officer James Manes to be the code enforcement officer. He said there were still issues with some houses with junked up yards. The City had been working on some houses with junked up yards but it wasn't going as smoothly as he had hoped it would. He said he talked with the mayor of Marked Tree and what really helped was having a code enforcement officer.

Daniel Brewington asked what the current fine was for violation of the ordinance.

The R/T said it was \$140.00 for fines and cost.

Daniel asked what the fines and cost would be for a second violation.

The R/T said she didn't think there was a fine for a second offense, but the ordinance did state that each day there was a violation, that day would be considered an additional violation of the ordinance.

Daniel said if the ordinance was enforced it would probably speed up the cleanup of the homes with a violation.

Officer Manes was currently working as a part-time police officer. The code enforcement position would not be part of his part-time police officer work.

The code enforcement officer would be responsible for doing research on abandoned houses to find out who the owner would be and how to correct the violation of the ordinances.

Barbara asked if the mayor had already talked to Officer Manes about the code enforcement position.

Mayor Woods said he had talked to him, but they had to get some more information about it. He said he met with the Marked Tree code enforcement officer and was given some pointers on things to do. He was also looking into getting a code enforcement manual for Officer Manes.

Barbara said she had property in Jonesboro and the code enforcement officer would go to the tenant first, they had a code enforcement book and would write notes to the tenants giving them one week to correct the violation. Then after a week and the violation is not corrected, the property owner would get a letter giving them a week to correct the violation and if it was not corrected within those two weeks, someone was getting fined.

Mayor Woods said the Marked Tree code enforcement officer suggested not to start off the enforcement with fines, he suggested talking to those who were in violation of the ordinance first. He also said there had been some who recently received citations, one paid the fine, one came to court pled not guilty and then did not show up for the trial.

Kristina asked would the code enforcement officer only enforce ordinances pertaining to homes or would it be other ordinances also.

Mayor Woods said it would be all ordinances. He said the main thing he was focusing on first was cleaning up the town and if Officer Manes took the position, there would be no additional cost to the city.

Daniel asked if Officer Manes would still be responsible for the dog catching also.

Mayor Woods said that he would. He also said Officer Manes would not be on duty as a police officer while doing work as the code enforcement office, but he would still be paid by the city to do it.

Patty Barger asked what Officer Manes was currently doing about the dogs.

Mayor Woods said that Officer Manes catches some of them and takes them to the kennels, feeds the dogs and takes care of the kennels.

Patty asked if the kennels were currently full or was there space for dogs.

Mayor Woods said there was currently no space for other dogs.

Patty asked if tickets were being issued for violation of dog ordinances.

Mayor Woods said that tickets were being issued.

Willie Harris said she thought the city was working with Marked Tree animal rescue with the dogs.

Mayor Woods said that did not work out.

Daniel said it would be nice if Marked Tree, Tyronza and Lepanto could work together to have one local dog pound and one dog catcher.

Barbara asked if the mayor needed the council to do anything about appointing Officer Manes as the code enforcement officer.

Mayor Woods said he just wanted to council and the citizens in town to know that he was working on a plan to help clean up some parts of town.

Barbara said she thought the council needed to look at getting some places in town condemned.

Mayor Woods then moved the discussion to carwash property. He said he had a group that was interested in buying the property and installing a car wash. He said he would like to know if the council wanted to sell the property and if so, how much would they sell the property for.

Barbara said she would hate to sell it because that was where she was looking at building a new city hall and police department. She said she had been looking at grants to build the new buildings and the land could be used for matching funds for the grants.

Michael asked if the group wanted to buy the property was serious about it.

Mayor Woods said yes, they were serious about it.

Willie asked what the group offered.

Mayor Woods said they had not offered anything yet, he wanted first to know if the council wanted to sell the property.

Barbara asked if the city would have to put the sale of the property out for bids.

Mayor Woods said that would be a question for the city attorney.

Barbara asked if the group that was wanting to purchase the property and install a car wash was planning on using the existing drains from the old car wash.

He said they were thinking about using the existing drains, but he told the group they might have to think past that because the drains might not be usable.

Barbara said the environmental agency would not let them use the existing drains. She had already checked into it. She said before the old car wash was torn down, someone was looking to restore it and none of it passed, all of the drains had to be redone. She then said it was something the city needed to think about, do they want to use it for their own buildings or sell the property.

Willie said the city had three other spots it could build its buildings.

Barbara said the city should check with the city attorney first on whether the city would have to take bids to sell the property and then whether stipulations could be put on the group purchasing the property to use the property for that purpose.

Mayor Woods asked if he needed to move forward on talking with the group.

Michael Hood said to move forward with it.

Willie Harris suggested finding out as much information about it first and was ok with the mayor going ahead and talking with the group.

Daniel was good with the mayor going ahead and talking to the group. He suggested the mayor talk to the city attorney on how it should be done.

Barbara said she would like to reserve her vote for now.

Kris said yes, she was ok for the mayor to go ahead and talk to the group.

Patty said yes, she was ok for the mayor to go ahead and talk to the group.

Barbara said the city would have to look at how the traffic would go into and out of the carwash also.

The council talked a little bit about plans for a new police department.

Barbara asked if an ad had been placed for a new police officer.

Mayor Woods said no and that right now they were going to go with the officers they currently had.

Barbara asked if the city was going to send Officer Manes to get full-time certified.

Mayor Woods said not at the current time.

Michael Hood asked if there was something the city could do to try to get some of the money back from sending the previous officer to get his full-time certification.

Mayor Woods said the way it went with the officer leaving, it was best not to do so.

Mayor Woods then spoke to the council on looking at an old ordinance #4. He said there were some things the council needed to look at updating. He said he would get a copy to the council members for them to review.

Mayor Woods asked the council members if they had anything else to discuss.

Michael Hood asked about buying some new swings for the park.

Mayor Woods said there were some new swings that were purchased and had already been put up.

Barbara said there were three swings, and a toddler swing purchased for around \$1,000.00. She said the new swings were put on one of the swing sets and some of the better older ones were going to be placed on the second swing set. The older swings just hadn't been put up yet.

Michael Hood asked about getting a port-a-pottie for the park again.

The council decided to wait until May to get a port-a-pottie.

Barbara Ross said she had questions about some drainage issues. She was concerned about the ditch going by the park and the ditch behind Michael Ferguson's on Walnut Street. She said the culvert by Michael Ferguson's had caved in on one end and was completely stopped up. She said water had to run uphill to drain. She said there was also a sewer main in the ditch. She suggested re-routing the ditch.

Mayor Woods said he would look at the ditch.

Daniel Brewington said there was an issue on Memphis Street. He said after the company did dirt work on Memphis water began backing up into Brandon Baine's shed.

Mayor Woods said he called David Smith after Daniel had sent him the pictures and talked to him. He said he would look at it and said he didn't think he did anything to make the water back up more into the shed, but he would look and see if there was something he could do to help.

Barbara asked if the city could get the railroad company to cut or give the city permission to cut some of the dead trees and limbs on Frisco Street and to clean out the ditch.

Mayor Woods said he would make contact with the railroad company to see what they could do.

With there being not further business, Willie Harris seconded by Micheal Hood moved to adjourn the meeting. Upon a voice vote, the voting was unanimous to approve.



Jeff Woods, Mayor



Donna D Wood, Recorder/Treasurer