

TOWN OF COUNTY LINE

P. O. Box 130 Trafford, Alabama 35172

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Mayor Sue Blackmon
Councilman Larry Calvert
Councilman Pam Sitton
Councilman Mellany Piper
Councilman James Calvert
Councilman Bill Ivey

Monthly Meeting: July 11, 2005

1. A call to order.

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Sue Blackmon.

2. Roll call.

Roll was called by Town Clerk Jennifer Grooms.

Present – Mayor Sue Blackmon, Councilmen, Larry Calvert, Pam Sitton, and Mellany Piper.

Absent – Councilmen James Calvert & Bill Ivey.

Seven people were present in the audience.

3.a) Reading and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting.

Minutes of June 13th, 2005 meeting were read by councilperson Pam Sitton. Mayor Blackmon asked that two changes be made to the minutes. First that interjections be changed to corrections. Second that Mr. Eric Reaves comment about Mr. Charles Quarter be added. Councilman Larry Calvert made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Mayor Blackmon said that Councilman Larry Calvert was out of order. A discussion ensued about the corrections. Councilperson Sitton stated that she would review the Mayor's tape to clarify the changes she requested. Mayor Blackmon stated, "I want in the minutes saying that these minutes are not what went on at our meeting and that there were other things mentioned...I want in the minutes that I said these are not complete minutes." Councilperson Sitton seconded the motion and agreed to go back and review the tape and make an addendum at the next meeting. Mayor Blackmon called for a vote. Councilperson Piper, L. Calvert, and Sitton voted to approve the minutes as read. Mayor Blackmon abstained from voting.

b) Reading and approval of the financial report. No Financial report was read.

4. Reports of committees.

None read.

5. Reports of officers.

Mayor Blackmon stated that she talked to the water board about the water concerns to Ms. Glovers property. She stated that the funds needed would be less than \$5,000 that

could be repaid over a 5-year period. Councilman L. Calvert read from pg. 19 of the League of Municipalities handbook which read:

Appropriations

A common area of contention between municipal officials and their constituents concerns appropriations. Many taxpayers, understandably, want to have a direct say in how their tax money spent. However, citizens must understand that the authority to expend municipal funds is restricted by state law.

Perhaps the most common barrier to municipal spending is Section 94 of the Alabama Constitution of 1901. This section is commonly referred to simply as "Section 94." It prohibits municipalities from giving anything of value to any private individual or group of individuals. The prohibition also bars donations to private, nonprofit corporations, even if these organizations benefit the public. Section 94 is the reason municipalities cannot pave driveways or parking lots on private property. The rule is also why government property cannot be given away.

Mayor Blackmon stated that that is a law and everybody has interpretations. She said that it was just doing something that was going to benefit our town and not just benefit elite groups. She also stated that it should have been done when the water was put in to start.

Mayor Blackmon asked for status on the paving of the town streets.

Mayor Blackmon asked the council to make a proclamation against deadbeat dads.

Mayor Blackmon introduced the status of the audit.

Mayor Blackmon introduced the topic of installing an Early Warning System from the EMA. Mayor Blackmon agreed to research the cost, if any, the liability, and which events would cause the alarm to sound.

6. Reading of petitions, applications, complaints, appeals, communications, etc.

None read.

7. Resolutions, ordinances, orders, and other business.

Councilperson L. Calvert motioned for the council to approve the payment of all reoccurring monthly bills. Councilperson Piper seconded. Councilperson Piper, Sitton, and L. Calvert voted to accept. Mayor Blackmon abstained.

Councilperson Sitton introduced the subject of the purchase of a better recorder. A discussion ensued. Councilperson L. Calvert made a motion for Councilperson Sitton to purchase a recorder with a limit of \$250. Councilperson Piper seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Sitton requested that the auditor be sent a letter, which states that Jennifer is the new clerk, so the auditor could contact her if she had any questions. Mayor Blackmon said that the auditor is suppose to contact her and that she would then contact Jennifer.

Councilperson Sitton introduced the subject of the need to repair the computer. Councilmen L. Calvert made a motion that a professional be hired to fix the computer. A discussion ensued. Councilmen L. Calvert retracted his motion. Councilperson Piper made a motion to get a certified technician to retrieve the information on the hard drive with a limit of \$1000. Councilperson Sitton seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Councilperson Sitton made a motion to send Blount County a letter requesting an estimate to pave Cobb Brazeal Road and Smith Mill Road. A discussion ensued. Councilperson Piper seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Sitton introduced the topic of the progression of the walking track and the reimbursement of the initial cost through the 666 Amendment. A discussion ensued. Mayor Blackmon remarked that there were more important needs in the community. Councilperson Sitton made a motion to spend \$1500 on the walking track. Councilperson L. Calvert seconded. Councilperson Piper, Sitton, and L. Calvert voted to accept. Mayor Blackmon voted against.

Councilperson Sitton introduced the topic of changing the bank accounts to another bank. A discussion on the inconvenience of using The Bank. Councilperson Sitton made a motion to change banks. Councilperson Piper seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Councilperson Sitton introduced the topic of installing a fence behind the town hall for storage. A discussion lead to a discussion of getting a survey of the town's property. A citizen stated that the original survey was done by Raymond Shackelford. Mayor Blackmon stated that she wanted to be present when the stakes are placed. Councilperson Sitton made a motion to get an estimate on a survey with stake placement from Raymond Shackelford and an estimate on a fence. Councilperson Piper seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson L. Calvert introduced the topic of the issuance of business licenses. Councilperson L. Calvert read from the 2000-1A Ordinance that stated that contractors pay a fee of \$50 or 2% of Jobs over \$2500. A discussion started about the issuance of previous business licenses that were issued by the Mayor. Councilperson L. Calvert read from the ordinance that the application is required to be secured through the clerk. Councilperson L. Calvert requested, "that it be put in the minutes that according to ordinance 2001A adopted January of 2001, signed by Mayor Blackmon states that each trade person or business in the town of Countyline shall apply to the clerk, nobody else, for yearly business lincense and shall pay the amount shown." A discussion about the interpretation and issuance of business licenses ensued.

8. Public comments.

Mr. Mahaffey stated that he was disturbed by the council's procedures. He also stated

that they should require a resume and background check on new personnel and that bids should be taken on work done for Countyline. He agreed with the purchase of a recorder and stated that a computer assessment should not take more than 30 minutes.

Ms. Glover suggested an amplification system.

Councilperson L. Calvert read section 26 of ordinance 004 from 2005 that stated that: All public comments shall be introduced to council in written form not less than 30 days of upcoming meeting. Council shall review contents of all request and if deemed appropriate, request will be discussed at monthly meeting. If submitted by group only one appointed spokesperson for the group shall be allowed to address council on said issue. A discussion between the council and citizens ensued.

Councilperson L. Calvert motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Sitton seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Minutes written by Jennifer Grooms Town Clerk.