

COUNCIL WORK SESSION MAY 26, 2015

The work session of the Council of the Town of Altavista was held in the Council Chambers of the J.R. Burgess Municipal Building, 510 Seventh Street, on May 26, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

Council members
present:

Mrs. Micki Brumfield
Mrs. Beverley Dalton
Mr. Charles Edwards
Mr. Tracy Emerson
Mr. Timothy George
Mr. Jay Higginbotham

Council members
absent:

Mayor Michael Mattox

Also present:

Mr. J. Waverly Coggsdale, III, Town Manager
Mr. Daniel Witt, Assistant Town Manager
Mrs. Tobie Shelton, Finance Director
Capt. Barry Stocks, Police Department
Mr. David Garrett, Public Works/Utilities Director
Mr. Steve Bond, Wastewater Treatment Plant
Mrs. Mary Hall, Administration

1. Vice Mayor Dalton called the meeting to order and presided.
2. A motion was made by Mr. Emerson, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mrs. Micki Brumfield	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Charles Edwards	Yes
	Mr. Tracy Emerson	Yes
	Mr. Timothy George	Yes
	Mr. Jay Higginbotham	Yes

3. Public Comments—Agenda Items Only

Vice Mayor Dalton asked if anyone would like to speak on anything listed on the agenda.

No one came forward.

4. Introductions and Special Presentations
5. Items Contingent for the Regular Meeting

- a. Nuisance Property—806 12th Street

- b. Mr. Coggsdale advised this Nuisance Property—806 12th Street issue dates back to the January 2015 work session and advised Mr. Witt has been working with Ms. Edna Davis, property owner, on this situation.

Mr. Witt advised Ms. Davis lost her home to a fire. The insurance money received was not adequate to repair the damages. He has been in contact with Ms. Davis and she has expressed her willingness to sign the deed over to the Town of Altavista. Mr. Witt stated he has received a bid to take the house down and removed which was for \$10,000 (noting this amount includes removal of asbestos). Mr. Witt advised the house is open and accessible to the public; because of safety concerns felt a decision needs to be made.

Vice Mayor Dalton asked if Council was ready for this item to be put on the June 9, 2015 Town Council agenda.

Mr. Higginbotham questioned if the Campbell County Landfill would take the asbestos.

Mr. Witt responded no but he would check again to confirm.

Mr. Higginbotham felt Council needed to move forward with this.

Mr. Edwards asked if any part of the demolition would be the responsibility of the landowner.

Mr. Witt responded no if the property is deeded to the Town of Altavista.

Vice Mayor asked Mr. Coggsdale to place this item on the June 9, 2015 Town Council agenda.

6. Items Scheduled for the Regular Meeting Agenda

a. Delinquent Water & Sewer Accounts Proposed Write-Offs

Mrs. Shelton provided Council with a listing of delinquent water and sewer accounts which are over five years old and noted all means of collection have been exhausted. She noted she compiles a listing of accounts over five years old and presents to Council annually. Mrs. Shelton advised there are 22 accounts over five years old totaling \$1,683.18 and asked for permission to write off and adjust the financial records.

Mr. Higginbotham questioned the Holiday Inn Express bill and asked if there was a way to collect from them.

Mr. Eller stated anyone could be sued. With the delinquent amounts being over three years old there is the statute of limitations in place noting usually a water bill is small and not worth going through court proceedings.

Mrs. Shelton mentioned Holiday Inn has been contacted and we were told because it is a franchise the bill goes back to the individual and staff does not have contact information on that person.

Mr. Eller mentioned a personal guaranty document is in place now in which a business owner has to sign to prevent this situation again.

This item was sent to the consent agenda for the June 9th, 2015 Town Council meeting.

b. Project 1A-Bedford Avenue Waterline Project-Bedford Avenue Tank

Mr. Garrett advised while working at the tank site, staff discovered some unexpected piping at that location in reference to McMinnis Springs and the booster pipelines. There will need to be some new connections and reconfigure some things to make it all work properly. He noted he is working the engineer and contractors to come up with a plan, some drawings, and related cost and will present this information to Council at a later date.

c. IALR's PCB Workshop June 17 and 18 Update

Mr. Coggsdale advised the Institute of Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) PCB Workshop has been scheduled for June 17th and 18th with 5 Council members and 3 staff members registered to attend.

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Mr. Garrett advised 7 additional mulberry trees have been purchased to replace the ones that died at the pond site. He advised 111 turtles have been trapped thus far. A chain link fence is being installed to secure the PCB pond area. Mr. Garrett noted there is a master map of the pond which indicates test result thus far.

Mr. Coggsdale advised Dr. Lowman would be planting his pots this week and the level in the pots is 150 parts per million.

Mr. George questioned the location of the 150 parts per million.

Mr. Coggsdale responded it was in the area of Dr. Sower's project.

7. Public Comments

Mrs. Carol Day, 1403 Bedford Avenue, addressed Council with several questions:

1. Questioned the policeman on leave with pay at the tax payers' expense and stated something is wrong and she would like to see something happen.
2. A lot of work going on in the park and nothing has been said about that.
3. What is the status of the boat ramp?
4. Referred to the beer garden at Uncle Billy's Day and how it looked like a cattle roundup the previous year and thought something should be done. Not a pleasant site.
5. PCBs, how much this venture has cost the town? She stated now the Town is in trouble for the PCBs at the taxpayer's expense. In 2002 would not have cost the Town nearly what it will cost now.
6. She asked about the town employees doing a lot of the work at the PCB pond; is that not an expense? How is that amount handled?
7. She questioned the Economic Development assistant position; what is going on with that and why the city should pick up the expense when it was always through Altavista on Track.

Mrs. Dalton thanked Mrs. Day for her comments and advised the Town Manager would be contacting her.

Mr. Mark Thomas, Editor of the Altavista Journal, addressed Council. Mr. Thomas advised he would be leaving his position with the Journal effective June 3, 2015 to take a position with Southside Electric Cooperative. He expressed how much he enjoyed working with Council and staff for the past 7 ½ years.

Mrs. Dalton thanked Mr. Thomas for the way he has approached Council business and each Council's quotations. She felt he was very fair minded and appreciated that.

8. Adjournment

Vice Mayor Dalton adjourned the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

Beverley Dalton, Vice Mayor

J. Waverly Coggsdale, Clerk

