

TOWN OF IRON GATE  
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The regular monthly Work Session of the Iron Gate Town Council was held on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 7pm.

Present for the meeting and were Mayor Unroe, Councilpersons Kawahna Persinger and Debbie Harris, Vice Mayor Councilperson Richard Erskine and Town Clerk/Treasurer Wendy Biggs. Also present was W.L. Armstrong, David Hanks, Gary Craig, Roberta Paradise and Jennifer Tyree.

The following items were discussed:

Mayor Unroe explained that before regular business is discussed, he would like to take a moment and reflect on the very difficult week that everyone in the Highlands had last week. The events of last Monday and then again on Friday and through the weekend have been difficult, heartbreaking and left a lot of people in shock and speechless. He wanted to take a moment and thank all the police agencies, EMS, fire and first responders who gave and who continue to give of their time and effort to keep us all safe. We owe a deep gratitude to all these agencies, both those who are paid and those who are volunteer. If anyone sees anyone who works or volunteers in these agencies, please take a moment and thank them and tell them we appreciate them. These are not easy positions to be in and we owe them at least that much.

The meeting then continued with Mayor Unroe explaining that we have received the yearly grant funds for the Iron Gate Volunteer Fire Department. The grant funds this year are \$15,000.00 and we hold those funds for 30 days and then we disburse them by check to the Fire Department. On Thursday Council will need to vote on disbursing those funds to the fire department once the 30 days are up. They were deposited on March 18<sup>th</sup> and the 30 days will be up on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

A gentleman who has been assisting Mayor Unroe with the clean-up at the former Hall residence is interested in the Town dump truck. The dump truck has really not been used or moved for several months until Mayor Unroe requested it for use in the clean-up at the aforementioned property. Several months ago Town Council had voted and declared the dump truck as surplus equipment and previously several advertisements have been ran for the sale of the dump truck. The highest bid that was received was

\$2501.00 and it was declined by Town Council. That now brings us back to the reason for this conversation. The gentleman would like to know what Town Council would be willing to sell the dump truck for and Mayor Unroe will go back to him and give that price. Town Council will need to think about and discuss amongst themselves what they feel a fair price is and it will be discussed further on Thursday. Just for a reference point, it previously had a reserve on it for \$6500.00 and the closest that we got to that was \$2501.00.

Earlier today we had an employee who was bit by a dog. The employee is okay and has gone to the doctor and received a tetanus shot and some antibiotics. We have reported it as well as the doctor reporting it and the dog is now under a 10 day quarantine. The dog is not up to date on its shots and the owner will have 14 days to get the dog vaccinated. There were no signs up when the incident happened, but now there are several "beware of dog" signs. The property has no fence but the dog was tethered when the employee was bit. It is a State law that dogs have to be leashed and vaccinated. A question was asked about what else can be done if it seems like Animal Control isn't responding to multiple calls. It was suggested that they ask for the officer over the Animal Control or talk to someone in Administration at the Sherriff's Department.

In January we had a resident who had a water leak on their side of the meter. We know it was on their side of the meter, because the meter was turning and it only turns when water goes through the meter. When they received their bill in February for January, they refused to pay the overage and only paid the regular bill amount of \$105.75. It was suggested that Council consider giving an extension or adjustment to the resident, but we cannot do that until the paperwork is filled out for the water leak and it is the responsibility of the resident to request that paperwork. Currently they owe the remaining charges from January and the late charges that were assessed for non-payment of the remaining charges from the January bill. They also currently owe for any overages that went into the February bill, but they have only once again paid the regular bill amount of \$105.75. They owe between \$200.00 and \$300.00 in late charges and overages for the January and February bills. Town Council will need to decide if they want to give an extension or adjustment on Thursday, but once again, there is no paperwork requesting either one of those. How do you give an extension or adjustment if one is not requested or if you do not have the paperwork? Our Ordinance is clear about this type of request. Mrs. Biggs will be sending out the late notices tomorrow and he will receive one by mail.

Mayor Unroe noted that there were several letters that needed to read this evening. The first two (2) letters are from the BZA. There was a property owner who had filled out a Zoning request to build a tiny house on the two (2) lots next to Jennifer Simpson's house. Unfortunately, the Zoning Administrator had to deny the request because the setbacks were not within the property lines. Therefore, the request went before the BZA, who met with the property owner at the property and by all accounts the meeting

did not go well for either side. In an attempt to try to smooth things out, Mayor Unroe met with the property owner later that same day and it did seem like things were straightened out until the next day. The next day the property owner was still upset and decided that it would be best to sell the property. The property owner offered the property to the Town of Iron Gate for half of the appraisal price of the two lots and they were purchased. The Town feels that this was a wise purchase so that a storm drain line can now be fixed and there hopefully will be no other issues. Unfortunately that meeting has also spurred two (2) resignations. Mayor Unroe then read the letter from Rebecca Vess and then the letter from Patricia "Ann" Erskine, both resigning from their positions in the BZA. An ad will be placed looking for two (2) people to fill those seats.

The last item for business tonight will be reading the letters of those interested in filling the three (3) Council seats that we have open currently. We are very fortunate to have originally five (5) people interested, but one person had to withdraw due to a scheduling conflict with their job. Mayor Unroe then read the letters from the interested persons for the seats on Council. The letters were from David Hanks, Gary Craig, Roberta Paradise and Jennifer Tyree. Once the letters were read, Mayor Unroe asked Town Council if they had any questions and/ or remarks for the potential candidates. After a period of questions and answers and some advice from the current Councilmembers and responses from the potential candidates, Mayor Unroe asked if there was any other business to be discussed.

With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm.



Charles Unroe, Mayor



Wendy S. Biggs, Clerk