

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
VALLEY GRANDE, ALABAMA**

---

***Regular Meeting***

***November 21, 2016***

Call to order by Matt Dobbs, Mayor at 6:00 PM

Meeting held at Valley Grande City Hall

Minutes submitted by: Janet Frasier, City Clerk

Presiding: Matt Dobbs

Invocation: Matt Dobbs

**In Attendance:**

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Matt Dobbs, Mayor | Present |
| Tim White         | Present |
| Ronald Sawyer     | Present |
| Lamar Morgan      | Present |
| Tammy Troha       | Present |
| Jimmy Johnson     | Present |

Quorum was made with all council members present.

The minutes from the November 7, 2016 regular meeting were presented by Janet Frasier. Motion was made by Jimmy Johnson to accept the minutes as read. Tammy Troha made the second. Motion carried by unanimous consent of the council by a show of hands vote.

| <u>SHOW OF HANDS VOTE</u> | <u>YEA</u> | <u>NAY</u> |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| Matt Dobbs                | X          |            |
| Tim White                 | X          |            |
| Ronald Sawyer             | X          |            |
| Lamar Morgan              | X          |            |
| Tammy Troha               | X          |            |
| Jimmy Johnson             | X          |            |

**Reports of Officers:**

Boyd Pugh /Public Safety Director: Boyd Pugh reported 6 fire calls so far during the month of November.

Sam Smitherman/Building Inspector: Sam Smitherman reported 9 houses currently permitted and in construction.

Tim White /Zoning, Annexation and Sewer System: Tim White reported that ADECA has approved to use the remaining money from the grant to move some lines in Overlook Hills that need to be moved from behind houses to the street side. The remaining grant money will cover the cost of the line relocation. The crew is scheduled to start lining the pipes tomorrow.

Ronald Sawyer / Beautification and Education: Ronnie Sawyer reported that Joseph Bearden is waiting until it rains before starting the beautification around the city limit signs.

Lamar Morgan / Public Safety: Lamar Morgan reported that he would like to get with Boyd, Kevin Box and Billy Barrett to get a public safety committee organized.

Tammy Troha / Parks and Recreation: Tammy Troha reported that she is in the process of forming a Parks & Recreation work committee. She would like to have Robert Massey, Hobson Curry, Ann Adams and Ronnie Sawyer as committee members. As soon as she confirms with all of the members she will report back to the council for approval of the committee.

Tammy further reported that she has confirmed several things for Christmas in the Park. The event will be December 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. She has confirmed the security with the Sheriff's Department, Santa and Mrs. Claus have committed and today she was able to confirm that she will be able to get a Christmas Tree from Stephen's Christmas Tree Farm. Tammy stated that she will need a lift for decorating the tree and there will be rental costs involved. She has also asked Billy Barrett to deliver Santa on the firetruck and handle the music. She is working with the elementary schools and local churches and will follow up with them. She plans to have the mayor tell the Christmas story during the event. She is working on a time line and will distribute flyers after the Thanksgiving holiday. She has also written a Public Service announcement for the radio station.

Tammy explained that she has stayed within the budget but there may be last minute details that would cause her to need approval for extra funds. She will report back at the next council meeting.

Jimmy Johnson / Business and Community Development: No report.

### **Old Business:**

Mayor Dobbs stated that the previous administration had posted a job opening for the Sports Director and we have received three applications. He suggested that the Parks and Recreation committee meet and develop a complete job description before making a decision. Mayor Dobbs stated that he would like to see that position filled around the first of the year.

Tammy Troha stated that she would try to get the committee together before the next council meeting. The council agreed that the position would possibly need to be reposted, and the committee could make recommendations to the council.

### **New Business:**

Mayor Dobbs recommended that the council implement step increases for the City employees and opened the floor for discussion. Tim White made a motion to give each employee a step increase according to the current Salary Schedule. Lamar Morgan made the second. Motion carried with unanimous consent of the council by a show of hands vote.

| <u>SHOW OF HANDS VOTE</u> | <u>YEA</u> | <u>NAY</u> |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| Matt Dobbs                | X          |            |
| Tim White                 | X          |            |
| Ronald Sawyer             | X          |            |
| Lamar Morgan              | X          |            |
| Tammy Troha               | X          |            |

Jimmy Johnson

X

Mayor Dobbs opened the floor for discussion regarding the Volunteer Firemen's pay. He explained that the City pays each fireman \$25 per call with a cap of \$200 per month. He suggested that the council increase the pay from \$25 to \$30 and remove the cap. He stated that he would like to research the issue of paying firemen with certifications an additional amount. Lamar Morgan stated that he would like to meet with Boyd Pugh, Kevin Box and Billy Barrett to discuss this issue with them before making decisions about different pay scales.

Jimmy Johnson made a motion to remove the cap and allow the firemen to be paid for all fire calls that they attend each month. He further motioned that the issue of increasing the pay be tabled until the Fire Chiefs are consulted. Lamar Morgan made the second. Motion carried with unanimous consent of the council by a show of hands vote.

| <u>SHOW OF HANDS VOTE</u> | <u>YEA</u> | <u>NAY</u> |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| Matt Dobbs                | X          |            |
| Tim White                 | X          |            |
| Ronald Sawyer             | X          |            |
| Lamar Morgan              | X          |            |
| Tammy Troha               | X          |            |
| Jimmy Johnson             | X          |            |

Mayor Dobbs reported that Verizon Wireless has inquired about a permit to install a telecommunications tower within the city limits. He stated that we do not have an Ordinance addressing this issue. He asked approval from the council to seek the appropriate legal counsel to ensure that our ordinances are in line and how to get an ordinance within the guidelines of the Code of Alabama regarding cell towers. He has contacted a local attorney and with council approval will meet with him Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

Mayor Dobbs further stated that he would like to have an agreement with an attorney to serve as the City Attorney and be willing to help with ordinances and policies as the arise.

Jimmy Johnson made a motion to authorize the mayor to meet with the attorneys and seek advice regarding the ordinances. Lamar Morgan made the second. Motion carried with unanimous consent of the council by a show of hands vote.

| <u>SHOW OF HANDS VOTE</u> | <u>YEA</u> | <u>NAY</u> |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| Matt Dobbs                | X          |            |
| Tim White                 | X          |            |
| Ronald Sawyer             | X          |            |
| Lamar Morgan              | X          |            |
| Tammy Troha               | X          |            |
| Jimmy Johnson             | X          |            |

Mayor Dobbs stated that he will reach out to several local attorneys and talk with them to see how they would be willing to work with the City before making a decision on the firm that will represent us. He will report back to the council.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Dobbs stated that he is excited to be a part of the City of Valley Grande and will do everything he can to make decisions based on what he and the council feels is best for the City.

There being no further business to come before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Ronnie Sawyer. Tammy Troha made the second. The motion was carried by unanimous consent of the council.

The meeting was adjourned at 6: 44 PM.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Dobbs, Mayor

Attested: \_\_\_\_\_  
Janet Frasier, City Clerk