

February 5, 2018

The regular meeting of the New Castle City Commission was held on Monday, February 5, 2018 at 7:00pm at New Castle City Hall. Present were Mayor Dennis Benham and Commissioners Mitchell, Gatewood, Thompson and Kurtz. Also present was City Clerk Lynn Adams, Public Works Director Scot Treece, CEO Jeff Durbin, City Attorney Josh Clubb, Assistant Fire Chief Lorry Hansen, Tammy Shaw of Landmark Newspapers, Magistrate Terri Cummings, Deputy Josh Jamiel and citizens Chessi Woods, Dale Mahoney, Danny Holcomb and Bobby King.

Mayor Benham called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Gatewood made the motion to accept all the minutes from the month of January and also approve all the disbursements. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

Chessi told the Commission that she is the one spearheading Relay for Life this year. She is also a cancer survivor. It is her desire (and the rest of the committee) to “spark” new interest in Relay and revive the county-wide participation that they once had years ago. She is looking for approval from the City to hold the event (June 23rd from 3pm to 10pm) around the courthouse square, including the city streets. They are having a car show again this year and would like everything to be in the same location. She has spoken with John Logan about this (courthouse renovation to start this summer). He gave his approval and told her construction would not begin until after Relay. There was brief discussion.

The Commission gave their full approval for Relay to be held around the courthouse square. Lynn and Scot will work with Chessi to get everything taken care of.

Deputy Jamiel stated that there has been some small illegal activity, mostly generated by traffic stops and a few late night domestics, but nothing very serious.

The Mayor and Lynn meet with Mr. Ben U’Sellis of Spectrum (Charter) regarding a franchise agreement. There are no options for “free” broadband any longer, but they will assist the City with a community project or program by providing a \$1,000 donation. Mr. U’Sellis also advised that they now have a program called Internet Assist that provides for 30/4 Mbps for only \$14.99 to those families who have school age children on the National School Lunch Program and seniors (65 and older) receiving Supplemental Security Income. They also offer a 30 minute public service announcement at no cost. Mr. U’Sellis was to email the agreement to the Clerk; however, he has not done so yet. The agreement will be secured so that it can be reviewed by the City Attorney before the March meeting.

Scot gave a report on the rehab project. He stated that as a whole it is 30% complete. Since the bid came in lower than expected we were able to add some additional water line rehab. The sewer portion of the project is approximately 65% complete. The project does include the additional of two new hydrants.

Lorry presented the monthly financial report for the Fire Department.

Joe Durbin advised that he had 21 hours for January, excluding the 4 hours of training he and the Mayor attended. Most individuals have been very cooperative; however, they are 6 who refuse to comply.

These have been turned over to the County Attorney. 5 were regarding trash/debris issues the one has to do with animal waste.

He is working some parking issues consisting of complaints received and cars parking on sidewalks. It was briefly discussed as to how to make parking regulations more unified. This will be a topic to be addressed at the March meeting.

Dale Mahoney thanked the Deputies for their efforts in the City.

As there was no further business to be addressed, Commissioner Kurtz made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Thompson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

We adjourned at 7:31pm.