

**Regular Meeting of the
Cornersville Board of Mayor
and Aldermen
September 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**



Those Participating: Mayor John Luna, Alderman Mary Johnson, Alderman Doris Arthur, Alderman Sheryl McClintock, Alderman Janice Kerber, Town Attorney Billy Ostermann, Town Administrator Taylor Brandon, and Chief Mark Chandler

- 1. Luna called the meeting to order.**
- 2. Luna led the Pledge of Allegiance.**
- 3. Arthur said the Invocation**
- 4. Approval of the Financials:** Johnson made a motion to accept the Financials as presented. Kerber seconded the motion. Luna asked if there was any discussion. Arthur stated the interest has increased from Brandon investing funds with the Local Government Investment Pool and asked him to explain. Brandon stated CB&S Bank was paying 0.05%, and LGIP is paying 5.15% compounded monthly. The invested funds accrued approximately \$2,000.00 in interest last month. The rate could go up or down depending on market conditions. Luna called for a vote and all voted in favor of the motion.
- 5. Approval of the Minutes:** Kerber made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Arthur seconded the motion. Luna asked if there was any discussion and there was none. Luna called for a vote, and all voted in favor of the motion.
- 6. Citizens Comments:** Mayor Luna moved Citizens Comments from number 15 to number 6 on the agenda. Taylor Pickett, 203 Terry Lane, stated he has walking horses and does not want to be required to have a permit to own them inside the town limits. Stephen Prosser, 103 Bicentennial Street, does not want all citizens to be punished for the actions of one person. Prosser stated he does not believe all other citizens should have to buy a permit. Karen Moore, 210 Coleman Road, does not want to be told what kind of animals she can or cannot have if she chooses to put animals on her farm. Chris Smith, 104 Terry Lane, stated the pot belly pig in question belongs to him. Smith does not have a problem with paying for a permit, but he does not want anyone entering the 38 acres he owns on Ostella Road. Jeremy Baus, 3025 Pulaski Hwy, stated he wants clarification on what happens if a permit is approved. Ostermann stated the permit fee is for processing the permit itself, not per animal. The new ordinance is an ordinance regarding nuisance within the proximity of 1,000 feet of another residence, and there is no ban on any kind of animal for most cases. If the animal is over 1,000 feet from another residence no permit would be required. The premises and animals are to be kept clean, fed, watered, and there is no bad smell from the animal within 1,000 feet of another residence within the town limits. The original ordinance is from 1937 and needs to be updated.

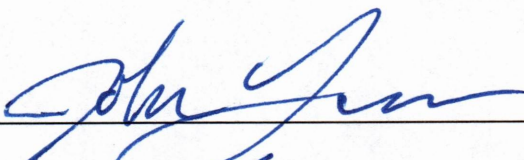
Christopher Kiser, 210 Terry Lane, stated he has horses and does not agree with a permit as a corrective action. Joel Allen, 2923 Pulaski Hwy, stated he owns property, some of which is inside the town limits and some is outside. Allen stated he has several sheep and questions the future of his animals if a subdivision occurs in the county behind his property. In the event a subdivision occurred, Allen wanted to know about the applicability of the proposed ordinance to his animals. Ostermann stated the ordinance only applies to property inside the town limits. Majessa Clark, 106 Polk Street, discussed the lack of ambulance service from the Cornersville Station. Ostermann stated it is controlled by Marshall County Commission not Cornersville Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Brandon stated he had talked to a county commissioner, and the Marshall County Ambulance Service has lost 6 employees recently. Marshall County is only able to staff the Lewisburg Station fulltime and the Chapel Hill Station 1 or 2 days a week. The county is having a problem with staffing the entire county due to non-competitive salaries. Ostermann stated he would like for everyone to call the county mayor and/or county commissioners. Johnson and Arthur stated they had both talked to the county mayor and/or a county commissioner.

- 7. Ordinance 23-295 Personnel Policy- Second Reading:** Brandon stated the policy removes distinctions between vacation, sick, and personal time. Paid time off is combined into a block of hours that can be taken off for any reason with a maximum of 376 hours. Other than the change for paid time off, the ordinance was changed for formatting. Kerber stated she is concerned about the number of hours that can be carried-over. Brandon stated the maximum is 376 hours, and not 376 hours per year building year after year. Ostermann stated if the hours go over 376 the employee has to either take some time off or lose the hours. McClintock asked if the board could require that hours not be taken all at once. Brandon stated if an employee is terminated or resigns without notice, they will not be able to use the hours earned. If an employee retires with notice and still has earned hours, they will qualify. Should an employee wish to retire on June 1st and has 1 month of earned time off, he or she can actually leave on May 1st and be paid the entire month of May. Johnson made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-295 as presented on second reading. Kerber seconded the motion. Luna asked if there was any other discussion and there was none. Luna called for a vote, and all voted in favor.
- 8. Ordinance 23-296 Livestock in Town Limits/Nuisance - First Reading:** Brandon stated he is concerned about having a permit because it is not practical in its execution. Permits would be difficult to enforce and would need to be consistent with the distance and permit requirements. He stated he would rather have some type of formal complaint instead of a permit. Arthur wanted the town to regulate the number of animals coming into the town limits. Brandon stated the ordinance does not regulate the number, but the ordinance does ensure animals are fed, watered, and the premises are kept clean without a smell. Ostermann stated the purpose of the ordinance is a nuisance policy; not what kind of animal is on the premises. If the permit requirement is removed, Ostermann stated the ordinance will be complaint-driven. The ordinance gives the Town Administrator the authority to investigate if a signed complaint form is completed. Johnson made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-296 on first reading by deleting Section 3 of the draft ordinance eliminating the distance, permit, and fee requirements. Further, Johnson moved to require a written complaint for an alleged ordinance violation must be provided to the Town Administrator, Kerber seconded the motion. Luna asked if there was any other discussion, and there was none. Luna called for a vote, and all voted in favor of the motion.

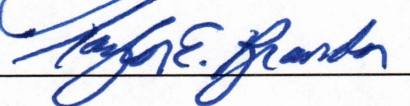
- 9. Ordinance 23-298 Enforcement Rules of the Road – Second Reading:** Brandon stated there are no changes in the ordinance from the first reading. The ordinance codifies state traffic statutes as municipal ordinance violations, which are enforceable by town police officers. Johnson made a motion to approve as presented second reading of Ordinance 23-298. McClintock seconded the motion. Luna asked if there was any discussion, and there was none. Luna called for a vote and all voted in favor of the motion.
- 10. Ordinance 23-299 Approving Court Policies – Second Reading:** Brandon stated there are no changes from first reading other than the increase in court cost. Kerber made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-299 as presented with an increase in court cost. Johnson seconded the motion. Luna asked if there was any other discussion, and there was none. Luna called for a vote and all voted in favor of the motion.
- 11. Ordinance 23-300 Removal of Trash Cans – Second Reading:** Brandon stated there was no changes from the first reading. Arthur made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-300 as presented. Kerber seconded the motion. Luna asked if there was any discussion, and there was none. Luna called for a vote and all voted in favor.
- 12. Resolution 23-301 Public Hearing for Annexation of CJ Coble property at 2282 Simmons Ridge Road:** Brandon explained this is five acres on the corner of Simmons Ridge Road and Collier Road at the Hawkins property. He has set a Public Hearing before the Planning Commission for September 27, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting for the Plan of Services and Annexation Study to follow the public hearing. Brandon also set a Public Hearing before the Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting on October 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. A meeting relating to the annexation, Plan of Services, and Annexation Study will follow the public hearing. Kerber made a motion to accept the Resolution setting public hearings as presented. Arthur seconded the motion. Luna asked if there was any discussion, and there was none. Luna called for a vote and all voted in favor of the motion.
- 13. Resolution 23-302 Sell the water treatment plant property on South Main Street:** Brandon stated the survey has been completed on this property. Brandon wants approval at the September 27th Planning Commission meeting to zone the property either R-3 or C-2. After the Planning Commission approves it will go before the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Kerber made a motion to table Resolution 23-302 until the October 5th Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting. Johnson seconded the motion. Luna asked if there was any discussion, and there was none. Luna called for a vote and all voted in favor of the motion.
- 14. Resolution 23-304 Approve \$300, 000.00 Loan:** Brandon stated that he did not want to deplete reserve funds. Brandon asked for approval for a loan for the street building/paving projects in progress through CB&S Bank. The loan will have to approved by the State of Tennessee Comptroller’s office. Kerber made a motion to approve the loan and allow Town Administrator, Taylor Brandon, to sign documentation for the loan as well as service the loan with CB&S Bank. Johnson seconded the motion. Luna asked if there was any discussion, and there was none. Luna called for a vote and all voted in favor of the motion.

15. Other Business: Brandon asked to have the old Mayor and Aldermen office chairs declared surplus property. Kerber made a motion declaring the chairs surplus property and permitting their sale or disposal. Arthur seconded the motion. Trina Rios, the Chairperson of the Cornersville Events Committee, stated Halloween in the Park will be October 28 from 5pm to 9pm and Main Street Christmas will be December 2nd from 11am to 6pm. Mayor Luna requests nominations for Citizen of the Year and to be advertised in the Marshall County Post, Facebook, etc. before the November 2, 2023 board meeting. Brandon stated the town employees are currently conducting a Special Census. Luna explained a census helps the town receive more funds and pay for things the town needs. He stated the Town of Cornersville has the lowest tax rate in Marshall County and money has to come from somewhere. Trina Rios stated the Events Committee is looking for trucks and trailers to pull the hayrides and haunted hayrides at Halloween in the Park. She stated they are always looking for volunteers, even children, and they get community service hours.

Johnson made a motion to adjourn and McClintock seconded the motion.

Mayor or Vice Mayor 

Date Sept 7 2023

Town Administrator/ Recorder 

Date 9/7/23