TOWN OF FOUNTAIN LAKE, 7059 PARK AVENUE, FOUNTAIN LAKE, AR 71901

MINUTES FROM THE 228th TOWN COUNCIL MEETING. THIS WAS HELD ON JUNE 10, 2024.

MEMBERS PRESENT WERE MAYOR JACK FIELDS, KARL LOWRY, HAROLD JAMES, JOSEPH REPICI AND NICK LOWRY. JIMMY ATTEBURY WAS ABSENT. MEMBERS FROM THE COMMUNITY WERE ALSO PRESENT.

THE MINUTES WERE HANDED OUT. A MOTION WAS MADE BY NICK LOWRY TO ACCEPT THEM AS WRITTEN AND IT WAS $2^{\rm ND}$ BY HAROLD JAMES. ALL WERE IN FAVOR NONE OPPOSED.

THE FINANCIAL TOTALS WERE GIVEN OUT. A MOTION WAS MADE BY HAROLD JAMES AND $2^{\rm ND}$ BY NICK LOWRY TO ACCEPT THEM AS WRITTEN. ALL WERE IN FAVOR NONE OPPOSED.

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE: NONE.

ROAD COMMITTEE: THE PAVING THAT WAS APPROVED IN OTAZA LAKE ESTATES HAS BEEN COMPLETED. MR. HAROLD JAMES INFORMED THE BOARD WITH EXCEPTION OF THE GRAVEL BEING KNOCKED DOWN ON THE SIDES OF THE ROADS AND THAT THE CONTRACTOR WOULD BE BACK NEXT WEEK TO COMPLETE THAT. THE MAYOR HAS ASKED TIM JACKSON TO START MOWING.

PUBLIC COMMENT: CITIZENS FROM OTAZA LAKE ESTATES WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING WITH CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ROADS THAT WERE PAVED. MR. JORDAN AT 148 GROUNDHOG LANE IN OTAZA LAKE ESTATES STATED THAT THE ROAD WAS PAVED WRONG THAT BARKING SQUIRREL IS PAVED OVER 1600 FEET AT 12 FOOT WIDE THAT IS A MAIN ROAD THAT SHOULD OF BEEN PAVE 20 FOOT WIDE TO ADDRESS TWO CARS MEETING. THERE WAS MORE DISCUSSION FROM THE CITIZENS OF OTAZA LAKE ESTATE WITH CONCERNS THAT THEY DID NOT KNOW WHEN THE TOWN HAD ITS MONTHLY MEETINGS SO THEY COULD ATTEND, WHO DECIDED WHAT ROAD GOT PAVED, WHY WAS THE MAIN ROAD ELK MEADOW BLVD NOT PAVED WHERE THE MAJORITY OF THE CITIZENS LIVE AS FAR AS IT COULD GO WITH THE FUNDS THAT WERE AVAILABLE INSTEAD OF A SINGLE LANE SIDE ROAD OR WAS IT THE GOOD OLE BOY SYSTEM DUE TO A BOARD MEMBER LIVING ON THE ROAD? THAT THERE IS A HOUSE WITH SMALL CHILDREN THAT GETS DUSTED OUT FROM TRAFFIC DRIVING BY AND IT SHOULD OF BEEN PAVED BEFORE A SIDE ROAD GOT PAVED, WHY DID PAVING JUST STOP AND THEN START UP AGAIN LEAVING THE PAVEMENT NOT CONNECTED. THAT PAT JORDAN TRIED TO REACH THE MAYOR AND COULD NOT GET AHOLD OF HIM WITH THESE CONCERNS.

IN RESPONSE CONCIL MEMBER KARL LOWRY INFORMED THE CITIZENSTHAT HE APPRECIATED EVERYONE SHOWING UP AND WITH WHAT BUDGET THE TOWN HAD

THE CONTRACTOR LAYED OUT WHAT THEY COULD PAVE AND THAT IS WHAT WAS APPROVED. MORE CITIZEN DISCUSSION WITH MULTIPLE PEOPLE TALKING OVER EACH OTHER ABOUT WHAT WAS PAVED AND WHO HAD TO DRIVE ON THE MUD, THAT A BOARD MEMBERS ROAD GOT PAVED AND WHAT THE MAYOR PROMISED THEM IF THEY SIGNED THE PETITON.

MR LOWRY CONTINUED DISCUSSION STATING IF ANYONE HERE WOULD OF ATTENDED THE MEETINGS WHEN WE TOOK IN THIS DIVISION THAT THE TOWN HAD THREE YEARS TO PAVE AND YOU HAVN'T BEEN PART OF THE TOWN FOR 3 YEARS AND WE ARE HAVING TO DO IT IN STEPS AND WE HAVE TO HAVE THE MONEY TO DO THAT. NOW WHAT I WOULD SUGGEST YOU COULD PETITION THE TOWN TO HAVE A MILLTAX IN THE TOWNSHIP AND BRING THAT BEFORE THE BOARD FOR DISCUSSION.

MR. LOWRY INFORMED THE CITIZENS WHEN AND WHAT TIME THE MEETINGS ARE AND THAT IT IS POSTED ON THE TOWN HALL SIGN, POSTED ON FACEBOOK IN 8 DIFFERENT GROUPS INCLUDING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT PAGE. KARL LOWRY ALSO SUGGESTED THAT OTAZA COMMUNITY SHOULD SEND SOMEONE TO THE MEETING EVERY MONTH TO BE MADE AWARE OF WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE TOWN AND THAT THE BOARD HAD DISCUSSIONS ON WHAT ROADS GOT PAVED. MAYOR JACK FIELD ASKED THE CITIZENS IF THEY HAD A POA AND THEY INFORMED HIM THAT THEY DID. MAYOR ALSO BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD ABOUT A MEMBER OF OTAZA LAKE CALLING HIM A LIAR ABOUT THE ROADS IN OTAZA LAKE ESTATES.

AFTER MORE DISCUSSION WHERE THE CITIZENS OF OTAZA LAKE WERE NOT HAPPY THE MAYOR ASKED THE CITIZENS IF THEY WOULD LIKE TO GO BACK TO THE COUNTY AND THAT HE WOULD HELP GET THE PAPER WORK TOGETHER FOR THEM TO START THE PROCESS. MORE DISCUSSION ABOUT PAVING AND THE MAYOR SAID THAT IT WOULD COST \$21,000 DOLLARS TO PAVE AND THAT THE STREET FUND HAD \$48,000 IN IT. THE MAYOR ASKED FOR A MOTION TO PAVE PASS BARKING SQUIRREL AND THAT HE WOULD SEE ABOUT PUTTING SOME GRINDING DOWN TO HELP KEEP THE DUST DOWN ON THE DIRT PART OF THE ROADS. ALL WERE IN FAVOR NONE OPPOSED. THE MAYOR INFORMED THE CITIZENS THAT THE STREET FRUND WILL NEED TO BUILD BACK UP AND IN THE FALL HE WOULD SEE ABOUT SPENDING \$50,000 TO CONTINUE PAVING THE MAIN ROAD ELK MEADOWS BLVD.

THE CITIZENS ALSO ASKED IF THE PARK WAS OPEN AND THE BOARD STATED THE HOURS THAT IT WAS OPEN. SUMMER HOURS 8:30 TO 8:00 PM AND WINTER HOURS 8:30 TO 5:00 PM.

A COUNCILMEMBER STOOD UP AND SAID I GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, JUST SO YOU KNOW WHO I AM MY NAME IS JOSEPH REPICI AND I WAS AGAINST ANY GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND I HATE THE GOVERNMENT. I HAVE BEEN HERE AND I HAVE BEEN THE OPPOSITION OF THIS CONVERSATION AND I PROMISE YOU IT DIDN'T GO HOW YOU LIKE MIGHT THINK WITH THE GOOD OLE BOY DEAL OR SOMETHING IT WAS VERY (NICK LOWRY STATED WE WERE HERE ALMOST TWO HOURS THAT NIGHT) YEAH IT DIDN'T GO LIKE THAT THEY WANT TO PAVE, I DONT

WANT TO SPEND ANY MONEY BUT THEY WANT TO GET IT DONE FOR YA'LL BUT THEY ARE RIGHT NOBODY HAS SHOWED UP AND SAID THIS ROAD OR THAT ROAD (CITIZENS TALKING ALL AT ONCE) SO I JUST WANT TO LET YOU KNOW THE PERSPECTIVE FROM SOMEONE LIKE AGAINST....... (CITIZENS AND BOARD MEMBERS TALKING ALL AT ONCE) NICK LOWRY SAYING WHAT WAS PAVED WAS BEST FOR THE MONEY THAT WE HAD..... JOSEPH REPICI STATES THAT MY ISSUE WITH SPENDING THAT MONEY ANOTHER \$20 GRAND WILL LIKE BANKRUPT US BUT THATS MY ISSUE WITH SPENDING MONEY ON A SMALL TOWN AND I JUST SAID I WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE IT IF THE PUBLIC WAS HERE TO MAKE THESE DECISIONS. THESE FOLKS WERE LIKE WELL YOU KNOW WAITING ON A ROAD LETS GET STARTED AND THEY GOT STARTED WITH WHAT THEY HAD.

(CLERK STATED 3 YEAR TIMELINE WAS DISCUSSED AND WE HAD TO GET STARTED) A CITIZEN STATED THAT WE WERE AT THE COURTHOUSE WHEN ALL THIS WAS LAYED OUT WHEN THE JUDGE SAID OK YOU HAVE 3 YEARS IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THIS AND I KNEW THAT WAS GOING TO BE AGGRESSIVE AND THAT WAS TOUGH ON ANYBODY. MORE DISCUSSION ABOUT WIDTH OF ROADS. THE CITIZENS THAT CAME TO THE MEETING FELT THEY NEEDED A LITTTLE VENTING AND THAT IS WHY THEY WERE ADDRESSING THE BOARD AND WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE GOING FORWARD. MORE DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER POSITIONS AND HOW LONG MEETINGS USUALLY LAST.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

A MOTION WAS MADE BY NICK LOWRY TO ADJOURN AND IT WAS 2ND BY HARLOD JAMES. ALL WERE IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED.

MAYOR JACK FIELDS

CLERK/TREASURER TRACIE TAYLOR

