

WORK SESSION—MAY 6th, 2010

Minutes of the Huntsville Town Council Work Session, at the Huntsville Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. May 6th, 2010.

Present: Mayor James A. Truett
Council Member Max Ferre’
Council Member Steve Johnson
Council Member Alan Clapperton
Clerk/Recorder Gail Ahlstrom
Legal Council Jerald Engstrom

Commissioners: Ron Gault Sandy Hunter Doug Allen
Suzanne Ferre’ Rex Harris

Excused: Council Member Richard Sorensen
Commissioner Jeff Holt

Citizens: John Posnien

Mayor Truett called the meeting to order. This meeting is being held to discuss possible annexation questions for the upcoming meeting on May 15th. Mayor Truett reported that he was asked to attend another American Legion meeting on short notice, which ended up being confrontational. They were asking what is in it for them if they were to annex into Huntsville Town. Doug mentioned that the town’s culinary water is the most valuable resource the town has to offer. Doug thought it was a mistake years ago for the town to give culinary water to the Forest Service, the Monastery Cove subdivision, and to the LDS property by Trapper’s Loop. Doug understands that the more people hooked onto a system helps pay down the debt, but to let people hookup to the town’s water without being annexed into town is a mistake. Ron asked about the secondary water. Doug replied that it is only available to town residents. CM Clapperton stated that the secondary water company is separate from the town and they make their own decisions as to whether to allow hookups or not. Doug said the elevation, pipe sizes, pressure problems, and resources will not allow for expansion of the system.

When Doug worked at the Fire Station he was asked what the required water flow for a hydrant by a church would be, it is an 8 inch pipe. Rex Harris addressed this. The town ran a water line over to the proposed LDS church site, which is a 10 acre parcel. Rex stated that the largest majority of people who are connected outside of town have been allowed to do so for easements and access to the town water lines, to negotiate for the town to go across private property. They were allowed to connect to town water if they wanted to. In regards to Monastery Cove, about ten years ago, there were a few more connections made. At that time the council realized that the town held almost no water rights. There was a fear that the town could potentially loose the water plant. The reason for the Monetary Cove connections was for the transfer of water rights to the town. The town required each connection to transfer their water rights to the town.

Rex recalled that the town gained about 30 acre feet in terms of water rights. There was one water right by Burns Wangsgards, this water rights was transferred to the water plant, where a well was drilled. The idea was if you are going to connect to the town system you had to have water rights to transfer over to the town. Later the council passed a moratorium that no out of town connections can take place. The line going to the LDS church was done at the same time the town upgraded the Forest Service line. The Forest Service transferred their water rights to the town as well as paid all the infrastructure fees. The town still controls the line and could deny hookups. Rex thought that the fire hydrant at the church location hasn't been charged. Rex mentioned that to be able to hook up to town culinary water they have to prove that they have access to secondary water; people shouldn't be using culinary water to water their lawns.

The discussion turned back to annexation pros and cons. Ron stated that the town's garbage collection rates are cheaper than outside of town. There should be no answers given about secondary water. People would have more of a say as to what happens on their land, being in the county they have no control on what happens on land immediately by them. If we band together as a group we gain more control over what happens on their property and surrounding areas. Another pro is with the sheriff, if the town has a problem in town, the sheriff is sitting in the town council meeting. Discussion from a group of people is more effective than a complaint made by one individual. Doug stated that in terms of the American Legion annexing, they would have limited benefits. However, other property could be zoned, planned, and controlled by the town instead of W.C. It's a lot easier to deal with smaller government.

Mayor Truett commented that the American Legion is not happy with their dealings with the county. They would like to create a small RV camp site with hookups etc. the county told them no. They asked if the town would allow this. There has been a bad relationship between the town and the legion for many years that needs to be healed. The town does have a Recreational Zone already and the PC would be willing to look at this. The Legion does have a well; they are more concerned with secondary water than culinary water. A campground would require more culinary water than a well could provide, they would need to hook up to town culinary water and then use their well to water their lawn and trees with. The town could force an annexation if enough surrounding property owners were interested and one property owner wasn't. The Legion is a private club. CM Johnson asked about the annexation petition fees, can the fee be split by a group or does it have to be paid individually. The fees are based on a petition, which could be a group of people; therefore the fee could be split among all the petitioners. CM Ferre' asked if the town would be responsible to maintain the roads by property that is annexed. The answer was yes.

CM Ferr' made a motion to adjourn. CM Sandy seconded. All votes aye.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Gail Ahlstrom, Clerk/Recorder

James A. Truett, Mayor