

WORK SESSION—OCTOBER 27th, 2011

Minutes of the Huntsville Town Council Work Session held at the Huntsville Town Hall
at 8:00 p.m. October 27th, 2011.

Present: Mayor James Truett
Council Member Richard Sorensen
Council Member Alan Clapperton
Council Member Laurie Allen
Council Member Max Ferre'
Clerk/Recorder Gail Ahlstrom

Citizens: Tim Hansen Lewis Johnson Kathy Johansen
Ron Gault Ramona Clapperton

Mayor Truett called the meeting to order. Mayor Truett explained that this meeting was called to address issues relative to water billing, water meter locations, readings, and collection procedures. Mayor Truett asked Kathy to give the group an update on the water billing collection status. Kathy said bills are getting paid better than they used to. The group went through overdue water bills and discussed each one. The procedure for late water bills is: at 60 days overdue people receive a courtesy reminder, at 90 days people receive a final past due notice that they have 10 days to contact the town to make payment arrangement, at 100 days they get a two day notice that their water will be shut off. Their bill is almost at \$200 before they get the 90 day final past due notice. They town needs to run the water department as a business. Mayor Truett asked Ramona to find out how to put a lien on a property when past due water bills are owed.

CM Clapperton is the council member responsible for making all decisions relative to water issues. All water related problems and bill related issues should go through CM Clapperton not Ramona, Kathy or Tim. It would be nice if the secondary and culinary water bills could be separated out. Lewis stated that the secondary water board has never been informed that there were any delinquent secondary water bills. If there are unpaid secondary water bills the town should send the secondary water company a bill for them and they will take care of collecting the debts.

Mayor Truett asked Tim how often he is reading the water meters outside of town. Tim replied that he starts reading the meters as soon as the snow melts in the spring until the snow starts to fly in the fall. Mayor Truett stated that Lewis mentioned the other day that there might be some connections outside of town that aren't being read. Lewis named off the connections he had questions about: Tim Ford has two meters and is being charged for two meters, Beckstrom's have a two-inch connection right off the main line they are only being billed for 1-inch line and Tim has not been reading their meter because there isn't one. Mayor Truett asked Tim to install a meter at the Beckstrom's main line as soon as possible.

Lewis asked if Tim ever found Dale Maxwell's meter. Tim replied no, he thinks it's under their paved driveway. Tim was asked to provide Gail or Ramona with a list of all out of town meters that are being read, including the size of the connection.

There was a lengthy discussion on billing issues, water meters, back flow protection, and Hawkins Springs, etc. Back flow protection valves need to be tested yearly. All commercial buildings, churches, schools, restaurants, and homes over 5000 sq. ft. have back flow protection valves.

Mayor Truett said this meeting was all about working as a team.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Gail Ahlstrom, Clerk/Recorder

James A. Truett, Mayor