

MAGNOLIA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, Feb 10, 2025

Magnolia Fire Hall, 6:00 pm

Call to Order: 5:57 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Jim Frazier, Scott Fowler, Ryan Clarke, Buck Dougherty, Susanne Whitney and Donald Woikoski were present. Diane Cahall and Dustan Russum were absent. A moment of silence was held for Ralph Satterfield, our long-time Town Assistant, who passed away on January 25.

Minutes of Jan 13th Meeting

Reviewed, motion to approve by Buck, second by Ryan, approved.

Treasurer's Report

Council reviewed the financial report as prepared by Diane. Jim provided details about the MVFC boat expenditures and LSL expenses. He also noted that, while the primary account balance is currently down, we are expecting two large reimbursement payments from the State of DE – one for the MVFC boats and the second for further expenses related to the Water Tower Planning Project. Motion to pay the bills by Ryan, second by Susanne, motion carried.

Public Works/Infrastructure & Water Dept:

In Dustan's absence, Jim stated that he had discussions with Greg Friemuth at Verdantas and there is evidently forgiven funding available from the State that could be used for lead service replacements on North Main Street. Our paperwork from our failed grant request a few years ago just needs date changes and a few updates and it can be used again. Motion by Scott, second by Susanne to have Greg proceed on our behalf. Motion approved.

Cross-Connection Service - No update

Lead Service Line Inventory- No

Traffic Projects - No update

Transportation Improvement District - No update

New Business

10 West Walnut Street: The Wittichs did not attend, so the floor was opened for Scott Vautard, who presented on an idea at 21 Thorn Street. Currently owned by the Allaband family, Scott is buying the property for a continuing rental. He also owns the adjacent property that fronts onto South Main Street and simply wants to move the boundary line between the homes approx. 10 feet west to provide a slightly larger back yard for the South Main Street home. Jim motioned to accept the proposal, second by Buck, motion carried.

Annual Meeting: February meeting is the time to appoint or reappoint Mayor and Vice Mayor, as well as the relationships we have with Water Operator, Water Assistant, Town Secretary/Clerk and Legal Counsel. Hearing no further nominations, Ryan motioned to continue our current line-up of Town officials and staff for the upcoming year; second by Buck; motion carried.

Property Tax Rates: Jim explained that, with the Kent County reassessment now completed, applying our current Town tax rate of .004/thousand against the new assessments will drive Town taxes sky-high, so some adjustment will need to be made in our current rate to ease the pain on residents while still allowing for some small revenue growth by the Town. This will be an ongoing discussion and Jim will start crunching some numbers, as well as solicit advice from our attorney, Barrett Edwards, Esq.

Old Business

- a. Properties and Code Enforcement: keeping an eye on two properties – 35 South Main Street and 29 North Main Street – for excess debris and trash. (Note: Both of these situations have now been resolved.)
- b. ARPA - April; waiting to complete final report.
- c. Management Transition Plan - no update
- d. PFAS Class Action Litigation - PFAS 533 report forthcoming via Dustan that will be used in our class action suit.

No further business; motion to adjourn by Ryan, second by Buck, meeting adjourned at 6:22 pm.

Recorded and subsequently transcribed by Mayor Frazier, 2/28/2025.