

**Minutes of the Town of Dubach Board of Alderman
Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, May 17, 2021**

Regular Monthly Meeting was called to order by Mayor Mona Wilson at 6:30 pm. Present were the following council members: Billberry, Dunn, Graham, Moerbe, and Roberts. A quorum was present.

Invocation was led by Graham.

Pledge of Allegiance was conducted in unison.

Part-Time Assistance Graham asked if part-time assistance could be added to the agenda. Motion was made by Graham and seconded by Roberts to add it to the agenda as 11a. Motion carried.

Adoption of Agenda Motion was made by Roberts and seconded by Graham to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

Adoption of the Previous Minutes Moerbe motioned to accept previous minutes from April 19, 2021. Roberts seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of the April 2021 Financials Discussion was made between the town clerk and council regarding the financials. Roberts asked for clarity on garnishment item in water/sewer. Moerbe asked about franchise taxes in the general fund and asked why a former employee is getting paid unemployment benefits. Motion was made by Graham and seconded by Roberts to adopt the April 2021 Financials. Motion carried.

Introduction of Ordinance 396-001 (Budget Amendment for FY ending 6/30/2021) Mayor Wilson asked if anyone had any questions regarding the garbage fund amendment. Graham asked for the cause of the amendment. The town clerk explained that anytime there is a variance over 5%, an amendment must be done. Mayor Wilson explained it was originally budgeted for \$56,000 on garbage fees but the actual amount collected is \$24,000. Payroll taxes had needed to be reduced as well. The town clerk informed the council that the garbage fund bring in about 24,000 annually and the public works department payroll is quickly depleting it. She explained that our town CPA recommended last year increasing our garbage rate to generate more income because there is more going out in payroll than what is being collected yearly. Moerbe asked if we can consider increasing our garbage fees and asked questions about royalties, ad valorem taxes, and fines. Council also asked questions about town hall expenses, telephone bills, utilities, etc. No motion was made.

Introduction of Ordinance 413 (2021-2022 Budget) Council asked for an explanation on miscellaneous for the budget, travel, depreciation, insurance policies, traffic fines, etc. Moerbe asked if we can look into increasing ticket fines since the rates are low. No motion was made.

Minutes of the Town of Dutch Board of Aldermen
Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, May 17, 2021

Regular Monthly Meeting was called to order by Mayor Mona Wilson at 8:30 pm.
Present were the following council members: Elizabeth Dunn, Graham Wheeler, and
Robert A. Gurnea, all present.

Invocation was led by Graham.

Pledge of Allegiance was conducted in unison.

Part-Term Assistant Graham called a part-term assistant could be added to the
agenda. Motion was made by Graham and seconded by Robert to add it to the agenda
as it is a public hearing.

Adoption of Agenda Motion was made by Robert and seconded by Graham to adopt
the agenda. Motion carried.

Adoption of the Previous Minutes Motion motioned to adopt the minutes from
April 19, 2021. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of the April 2021 Financials Discussion was made between the town clerk
and council regarding the financials. Robert asked for clarity on why there was a
waterfall. Robert asked about the amount in the general fund and asked why
there was a deficit. Motion was made by Graham to amend the agenda to add
the April 2021 Financials. Motion carried.

Introduction of Ordinance 388-001 (Budget Amendment for FY ending 6/30/2022)
Mayor Wilson asked if anyone had any questions regarding the garbage fund
amendment. Graham asked for the scope of the amendment. The town clerk explained
that anything there is a variance over \$50,000 an amendment must be done. Mayor Wilson
explained it was originally budgeted for \$85,000 on garbage fees but the actual amount
is \$34,000. Payroll taxes had needed to be reduced as well. This for in clerk
explained the council had the garbage fund at about \$4,000 a year and the public
works department payroll is quickly depleting it. She explained that out of the
recommended last year increasing the garbage rate to generate more revenue. She
explained that it is going out in payroll that what is being collected for the garbage
will not cover the rising out garbage fees and asked questions about the
various taxes and fees. Council also asked questions about the garbage
department. No motion was made.

Introduction of Ordinance 413 (2021-2022 Budget) Council member Robert Wilson
introduced the budget. He explained that the budget is a public hearing and
asked if we had any questions. Motion was made by Robert to add it to the
agenda. Motion carried.

Town Council Meeting Sign Discussion was made by council on how to get more constituent participation in town council meetings. Moerbe asked if we could put the exact date on the LED sign when it is nearing the council meeting. Mayor Wilson stated she provided the council with a quote from Rapid Signs for a permanent Town Council sign and asked what was their pleasure. Motion was made by Moerbe and seconded by Graham to obtain a permanent sign near the building to notify everyone about our monthly meetings. Motion passed. Mayor Wilson stated she will send emails so that council can see proofs of the sign.

Veteran's Lunch Mayor Wilson asked the council to get the word out that our first annual veteran's lunch will be May 28 at noon at the Scott Hamilton Warehouse. She asked Councilman Moerbe to speak at the lunch since he is a veteran and encouraged the council to come and assist if they are able.

Part-Time Assistance Councilwoman Graham stated she is interested in getting the town part-time assistance to assist the town clerk and water clerk. She informed the council she spoke with the mayor about someone with good credentials and would like for the town to consider the hire. Dunn asked if a motion to hire needed to be made. The town clerk informed the hiring process is up to the mayor but that the council can recommend. The town clerk also stated the monies are budgeted in Ordinance 413 for part time assistance. No motion was made.

Public Comments Maggie Brown stated she would like to see more people at the meeting and would like to see blight and abandoned cars addressed. Caleb from Ruston Leader asked if we could continue to have the town council meeting at the community center.

Mayor Comments No comment made.

Council Comments Graham asked if we could contact the town attorney regarding the ball park and if we can move forward without the agreement being signed. Attorney Breedlove was contacted and asked by Graham if it would be safe for the town to hold fundraisers and clean ups. Attorney Breedlove agreed that it is safe because the town has ownership.

Adjournment was made by Roberts and seconded by Billberry. Motioned carried at 8:15 pm.

Mona Wilson, Mayor

Charla Thompson, Town Clerk

Town Council Meeting Sign Decision was made by council to how to get more consistent participation in town council meetings. Minutes asked if we could put the exact date on the LED sign when it is being the council meeting. Mayor Wilson stated she provided the council with a quote from RFP sign for a permanent Town Council sign and asked what was their pleasure. Motion was made by Roberts and seconded by Graham to obtain a permanent sign near the building to notify everyone about our monthly meetings. Motion passed. Mayor Wilson stated she will send emails so that council can see photo of the sign.

Veteran's Lunch Mayor Wilson asked the council to get the word out that our first annual veteran's lunch will be May 28 at noon at the Scott Hamilton Veterans. She asked if council can Minnie to speak at the lunch since he is a veteran and encouraged the council to come and assist if they are able.

Part-Time Assistance Councilwoman Graham stated she is interested in getting the town part-time assistance to assist the town clerk and water clerk. She informed the council she spoke with the mayor about someone with good credentials and would like for the town to consider the hire. Dunn asked if a motion to hire needed to be made. The town clerk informed the hiring process is up to the mayor but that the council can recommend. The town clerk also stated the motion she budgeted in Ordinance 417 for part-time assistance. No motion was made.

Public Comments Magois Brown stated she would like to see more people at the meeting and would like to see light and abandoned cars addressed. Carol from Preston Leader asked if we could continue to have the town council meeting at the community center.

Mayor Comments No comment made.

Council Comments Graham asked if we could contact the town attorney regarding the ball park and if we can move forward without the agreement being signed. Attorney Bradlove was contacted and asked by Graham if it would be safe for the town to hold fundraisers and clean up. Attorney Bradlove agreed that it is safe because the town has ownership.

Adjustment was made by Roberts and seconded by Billyberry. Motion passed at 5:15 pm.

Christa Thompson, Town Clerk

Monica Wilson, Mayor