

**February 19th, 2008  
Roanoke Town Council Minutes**

**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Roanoke Town Council convened on Tuesday, February 19th, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall in accordance with this Council's rules and applicable laws. Those present from the Council were President John Stoeckley, Councilman Brian Young, Councilman Troy Karshner and Councilman Nick Altman. Vice President Michelle Schwieterman was not present. Also present were Town Superintendent Paul Swain, Asst. Town Superintendent John Hitzemann, Fire Chief Chad Taylor, Marshal Kip Rupert and JoAnne Kirchner Clerk/Treasurer.**

**Councilman Young moved to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting of February 5, 2008 as written. Councilman Altman seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.**

**The Council approved by consensus a home improvement request for Ms. Vonnie Hoover of 331 N. Main Street for a new shed placement.**

**President Stoeckley next suspended the regular meeting and opened the advertised public hearing in the matter of proposed resolution 2008-3, to formally designate certain real property within the jurisdiction of the Town of Roanoke as an economic revitalization area, more commonly known as 300 South Main Street.**

**Residents were allowed to speak to the issue, after which President Stoeckley closed the public hearing. Upon the regular Council meeting being reconvened and after consideration, Councilman Karshner moved to approve Resolution 2008-3 upon deleting the following wording: "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Roanoke Town Council that taxpayers located within this Economic Revitalization Area (ERA) shall be eligible to apply for deduction from assessed valuation for structures on a schedule ranging from one (1) to ten (10) years." Councilman Young seconded and the resolution was approved unanimously, copy on file at the Clerk/Treasurer's office.**

**The Council next considered proposed Resolution 2008-4, a resolution approving the deduction of assessed valuation for certain real property**

improvements located within an economic revitalization area with the Town of Roanoke. After lengthy discussion, Councilman Young moved to approve Resolution 2008-4 allowing for a five (5) year deduction from assessed valuation.. Councilman Karshner seconded and the motion was approved unanimously, copy on file at the Clerk/Treasurer's office.

Mr. Greg Guerrettaz of Financial Solution Group, Inc. was present to speak to his recent wastewater rate review study per Council request. Greg guided the Council through each page, (copies available at the Clerk/Treasurer's office) explaining in detail the numbers which ultimately resulted in an overall estimated rate increase of 93.13%, assuming a 2.115 Million Dollar bond issue through SRF at a subsidized interest rate. Greg answered several questions and explained that most cities and towns in the State are being faced with sewer infrastructure separation and mandates. Greg also explained a "wrap-around debt service" which would put any new debt behind the current bond. It involves a bit higher interest rate, but provides a break for customers. The wrap-around would be at 3 1/2 % rate pending State approval. He stated the Town was in a position to be able to borrow the full amount of the project. The Council took the study under advisement and planned to meet with Town Engineer, Andy Dodzik, to see if the project could be pared down and still be in compliance with IDEM.

Council also asked Greg his opinion of Council waiving sewer tap/connection fees for the proposed senior housing project in exchange for land deeded over to the Town by the developer. Greg stated in his 30 years of experience, seldom were connection fees waived and suggested that Town CREDIT funds could pay for the fees. The Council discussed at length the ramifications and precedents set by waiving and or capping out connection fees and tabled the issue until the March 4 regular Council meeting. The developer's deadline for submitting a grant application was March 7th.

The Council next waived first reading of proposed Ordinance 2008-2, a fair housing ordinance, and would consider adoption at the March 4, 2008 regular Council meeting.

Mr. Larry Davis of The Source benefit risk managers was present to answer any further questions regarding the renewal of the Town employee health plan as presented at the February 5th meeting, copies

**on file at the Clerk/Treasurer's office. After consideration, Councilman Karshner moved to approve plan option QH50 as detailed in the option comparisons draft. Councilman Young seconded and the motion was approved unanimously to take effect March 1, 2008.**

**The Council next reviewed two quotes to address the excessive heating bills in the fire garage as discussed at two previous Council meetings. The quotes are as follows: 1) Mann's Inc., \$4,870.00 and Aboite Heating & Cooling \$3,259.00 President Stoeckley moved to approve the quote from Aboite to install two (2) 125,000 btu power vented unit heaters in the fire garage as detailed, to be paid for out of the Cumulative Capital Improvement Fund. Councilman Karshner seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.**

**Fire Chief Taylor also requested permission to spend \$1,500 from the department's maintenance fund for ice rescue equipment. Councilman Young moved to approve the request. Councilman Altman seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.**

**John S. requested that the Jackson Township Trustee needed the 2007 fire expenses detailed and forwarded to her for her files. The Township Board also requested that they be allowed to consider the annual fire contract between the Town and Jackson Township several weeks before signing going forward.**

**John next complimented the fire department on their ice/water save the previous week of an elderly gentleman in a flooded truck.**

**Marshal Rupert next complimented the department on sand-bagging and flood control the previous week. He stated Deputy Marshal Sands last day will be February 21st and he would like Council approval to start Mr. Jim Wood on Sunday, February 24th. The Council agreed by consensus. Mr. Wood would be taking health insurance for himself only beginning April 1, 2008 and not his two dependents, who are covered elsewhere.**

**The Council tabled agenda item #16, consideration of employee handbook requests, until the next regular Council meeting.**

**Superintendent Swain gave the utility report stating the department had been cold-patching, the chlorine detector had been installed and they were still needing to get their hepatitis shots as required for the insurance company. JoAnne was asked to check around to see if Redi-Med might give a discount for the series of three shots per utility worker.**

**The Council again tabled a request from Huntington County Tourism for funds from Roanoke as their share to refurbish the downtown Huntington building. The 2008 Budget had not yet been approved by the State, therefore an informed decision was not possible at this time.**

**JoAnne briefly reviewed the various parts of the 2007 Annual Report with the Council to be published one time in the Herald Press, as required, copies on file in the Clerk/Treasurer's office.**

**President Stoeckley requested the Council meet in Special Session on a Saturday with Town Engineer Andy Dodzik to review the \$2+ million sewer separation project. JoAnne was to check with Andy for Saturday, March 8th at 8:30 A.M. and advertise as appropriate.**

**John stated there will need to be rate increases and JoAnne also informed the newer Council members that there had not been a water rate increase in over 14 years.**

**Resident DeLoss Hartley spoke briefly to the floodwaters entering Roanoke from the North.**

**Last on the agenda was the presentation of bills for payment. After review and questions, Councilman Young moved to pay the bills as listed on the allowance of claims payable vouchers for \$72,340.12. Councilman Altman seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.**

**Councilman Young then moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Altman seconded and the motion was duly adopted.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**JoAnne Kirchner, Clerk/Treasurer**