

**Minutes of the Amalga Town Council Meeting  
Amalga Town Hall  
January 12, 2011**

Attending:

Mayor: David Wood

Council Members: John Clark, Paul Hansen, David Williams, Rick Fonesbeck

Others Attending: Morris Hansen, Judge Dennis Barker,

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Paul Hansen made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2010 council meeting. The motion was seconded by John Clark and all voted in favor.

**Justice Court**

Judge Dennis Barker was retained as the justice court judge for the Amalga and Newton justice court in the November election. The oath of office was administered to Judge Barker. Amalga has been working with Newton for several years to have a justice court. Funds collected by the court for Amalga are split 50/50 with Newton to cover the court costs. Funds from citations have been decreasing in the past few months. This has decreased Amalga's contribution to Newton to pay costs of the court. Newton has considered disbanding their justice court because of the cost to the town. Judge Barker has been trying to make sure that the court is run efficiently and tries to minimize attorney fees for the town.

The State Legislature mandated a minimum wage for justice court judges. This will increase the costs to operate Amalga's court. Justice court judges can only work until age 75. Judge Barker will be 75 at the end of his 4 year term. The county has been working to create a countywide justice court for communities without their own court. Mayor Wood thought that having a local court has been valuable for Amalga. Mayor Christiansen and Mayor Wood will meet January 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss how the two towns should proceed and how the court will be operated.

**Annual Financial Report**

Dina Cannel from Allred Jackson met with the council to discuss the town's annual financial report. The town is in good financial condition and has met its requirement to report to the state auditor.

**Chair for July 24<sup>th</sup> Celebration**

Rick and Vicky Fonesbeck were to be in charge of organizing the July 24<sup>th</sup> celebration in 2011. Now that Rick is on the town council, a new chair needs to be selected. Howard and Trisha Kunz were the organizing co-chairs. The council discussed selecting and approving the individuals to plan the celebration each year. There was some discussion of having the council approve the co-chair each year. Paul thought it was helpful for the co-chair to become the next year's chair. This allows them to be involved in organizing the celebration and plan ahead for the next year. The council discussed asking Howard and Trisha Kunz to be in charge of organizing the celebration in July 2011. John Clark made a motion to appoint Howard Kunz as chair of the July 24<sup>th</sup> celebration. The motion was seconded by Paul Hansen. All voted in favor. David will talk with Howard and ask him to suggest a co-chair for the council to consider and approve.

**Council Member Reports**

John Clark discussed sending a notice to businesses in town asking that they renew or obtain a business license. He has prepared a list of current business in the town. The council discussed the purpose of licensing business. Home occupations are granted a permit to operate a business in residential areas. This is done to protect other residents from having a business that disrupts the

residential neighborhood. John thought that licensing provides some control over businesses operating in the town. The council discussed licensing Olague's animal rendering business. Olagues obtained a conditional use permit to operate their business. They have met with the planning and zoning committee when changes have been made to their business. The council also discussed needing to have Ray Atkinson meet with the planning and zoning committee about his business.

The council discussed charging different fees for businesses rather than a home occupation. John suggested that the town send notices to home occupations now and do some additional research on how to bill larger businesses. John will get this business license letter mail out to home businesses.

John discussed needing to remind residents that building projects need zoning permits. Getting the proper permits before work begins will help eliminate conflicts after projects are started. John will work with Alan Noble to get this information out to residents again. David Williams noted that there were some complaints after similar information was distributed to residents. John felt that the council has an obligation to inform residents that there are ordinances that must be followed when construction work is done in the town.

John suggested having the town prepare a welcome packet with information about town ordinances for new residents. This could include the town website and the utility fee schedule. John will work on preparing a welcome packet.

John noted that there are several town ordinances that need to be updated. These will be discussed in a future council meeting.

Paul Hansen asked council members to consider possible projects for this year's RAPZ tax application.

Paul has contacted someone about the large trees at the town park. Two of these large trees may need to be removed. They are rotting inside and could fall over in a storm. Paul was concerned about the road chip and seal work done by Parsons last fall. The gravel chips are coming off the road. David Wood will contact Parsons about this problem.

David Williams reported that he has been working to correct the utility billing to Schreiber Foods. Rick Fannesbeck has been reading Munks meter regularly to get accurate readings of their water use. The council discussed getting monthly readings for other large water users. David discussed needing to label the meters where users have multiple meters. This will eliminate some confusion about how water use is computed.

Lee Ann Barton has been sending out past due notices to overdue accounts. David will review the last billing from Lee Ann and see where additional notices need to be sent. David is working on the annual water use report to the state. David will update the town website for revised zoning ordinances.

Rick Fannesbeck reported that he has reviewed work on the town's 8 inch well with Craig Rasmussen. Computers for the water system telemetry will be installed on Friday. There will be two new computers to run the system. The electrical hook ups have been installed at the new pumps. The county building inspector needs to approve this work. Rick reported that there have been some changes to the Blue Stakes utility location system.

Rick discussed work on the town water system with Shane Perkins. Rick is trying to reduce some of the costs for Shane's work on the system. He would like Shane to do the repair work and Rick will check on the water level and mark the lines for Blue Stakes.

There is a major water leak at the substation. Rick discussed waiting until next spring to repair this leak. He met with Craig at the well site and Shane's work on the improvements is now complete. The fire hydrants need to be opened and flushed again. Rick asked Shane to give him a quote to do this work. Rick will review and approve the cost before the work is done.

David Wood suggested that the town consider increasing water rates. David also suggested that the town consider changing the animal control ordinances at the next meeting

The council reviewed town disbursements for December and January. Rick Fønnesbeck made a motion to approve the disbursements. John seconded the motion and all voted in favor of approving the disbursements.

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Hansen and seconded by David Williams. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm.