

Grayson County Board of Supervisors
And Independence Town Council
Joint Informational Meeting at IVFD
March 23, 2017

Board of Supervisors attending were: Brenda R. Sutherland, Kenneth R. Belton, and John S. Fant. Glen E. Rosenbaum and Michael S. Hash were unable to attend.

Mitchell L. Smith, Leesa A. Gayheart and Linda C. Osborne were in attendance as well.

Independence Town Council members in attendance: Jerry Hughes, EF “Butch” Reeves IV, Pete Hall, Ronald Sexton, William F. “Buddy” Halsey, Jeff Miller, Tom Maxwell and Kim Farmer. Jason Cassell was unable to attend.

Michelle Pridgen, Independence Farmers Market Manager, was also in attendance.

Supervisor Sutherland called the Board of Supervisors to order.
Mayor Reeves called the Town Council to order.

Jerry Hughes, Town Manager, stated this is an informal, informational meeting only - share what’s going on, what’s planned, what’s coming up, etc. and no action would be taken at tonight’s meeting.

Mayor Reeves reviewed past successes of the Town and praised Council in the forethought to save money as best as possible and would like to pool resources for further projects. Supervisor Sutherland echoed the same sentiment and stated the Board looks forward to future partnerships with the Town.

Mr. Hughes reviewed the history of the McKnight Park along with the concepts and street-scapes for the future phases. The thoughts are that this improvement to the Town will inspire the adjacent property owners to make their own improvements to their building(s). The Town is currently preparing to request bids for design and engineering to include the updated concept(s). Mr. Hughes also noted that the idea of turning the alley behind the GATE Center and Courthouse Avenue businesses into a “pocket park” with green space and a congregating area has been mentioned. Also mentioned was the abandoned well on Davis Street – the well house needs to be torn down and work is ongoing to get that completed.

Supervisor Fant inquired if the Wired Road could partner to provide free wireless for the town to service the McKnight Park and possibly the entire town. Mr. Hughes stated that the Town would be very interested in doing that if that could be worked out. Mr. Hughes mentioned another “idea” of relocating the business mailboxes to “clusters” located near the actual businesses to help with the confusion of street address vs. post office box.

Mr. Smith reviewed the future of the GATE Center. Mr. Smith also attend the Workforce Investment meeting today at Crossroads and shared that Van Guard is working with the Carroll County Schools in apprenticeships.

Supervisor Fant explained the Grow Grayson Initiative and goal of meetings between the school – CATE Center – and local businesses – the next meeting will be held April 5, 2017 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Skyline National Bank Conference Center.

Mr. Smith noted that a Fire/EMS study has begun for the County – an agency will come to the County for three (3) days in April to spend time with every fire/EMS agency in Grayson County. This is a free study and will take place April 11 – 13, 2017. The kickoff meeting will be April 11 at 8:30 a.m. with administration, then they will start their scheduled route. A public meeting will be held April 13 around 4:00 or 4:30 p.m. (definite time to be determined).

Mr. Hughes reviewed the leadership program held at Crossroads to catch youth to educate the next generation on government and community leadership.

Mr. Miller mentioned the library and all the “upgrades” making it look brand new on the inside. The carpet and the paint really done wonders. Mr. Smith noted that the carpet is installed in squares to allow for repairs to problem areas instead of replacing a huge area.

Mr. Smith reviewed the Comp Plan and noted that a wellness center is the top desire named by citizens and the opportunity is before the county and town to work as partners to make this happen. Discussion of popularity of neighboring wellness centers and the number of Grayson citizens who travel out of our county to take advantage of other wellness centers.

Supervisor Fant mentioned the option of the County and Town forming a committee to kick around ideas on how to achieve the goal of establishing a wellness center. Supervisor Fant and William F. “Buddy” Halsey volunteered to serve on this committee. It was also noted that the Health Department may be a source of funding.

Mr. Hughes pointed out that Primland might be interested in attending the Grow Grayson Meetings with Steve Helms being a good contact.

All attendees expressed how wonderful the joint meeting has been and it was suggested meetings continue, at least quarterly, with discussion of another meeting in early June.

Supervisor Fant made the motion to adjourn; duly seconded by Supervisor Belton.