

Hartsville/Trousdale County Buildings/Zoning and Code Committee

Minutes: Thursday, November 1, 2018, 6:00 pm, at the courthouse

Members present:

Dwight Jewell	John Oliver	Ken Buckmaster
Grace Thomas	Coy Dickey	Landon Gulley
Mayor Chambers		

Not present:

Amber Russell	Steve Whittaker
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Also in attendance:

Linda Pittman	Chris Gregory	Natalie Knutson
Mrs. Chambers		

The minutes of the last meeting were read and two minor changes made. Motion to accept the amended minutes by Ken Buckmaster, Second by Grace Thomas, passed.

Old Business:

Chairman Jewell led the group in a discussion of rules for use of the Community Center.

The main discussion concerned charges for more than one day's use of the building and if the deposit against damages should carry over or be charged again for every day's use.

Motion by Grace Thomas to continue to charge \$100 a day for use of the facility and to charge the \$100 deposit, per event. If during the multiple day rent, damages are found, we hold the right to cancel the use. Second by Ken Buckmaster, passed.

The next discussion concerned how much of a group's rent should be returned if we, the county, should have to either cancel their contract due to abuse of the contract, or in the event of an emergency...which has precedence over any rental.

Motion to change the wording of rule 10 of the contract to state, "...and to return prorated rental fees and deposit." Motion by Grace Thomas. Second by Ken Buckmaster. Passed.

Continuing with our discussion of the Community Center, the group approved the addition of baby changing tables to both restrooms. Motion by Ken Buckmaster. Second by Grace Thomas. Passed.

The next item of old business was a request by Judicial Commissioner Charlie Puckett to have office space in the Courthouse. Chairman Jewell is working on finding a more suitable location either in the jail, the new Justice Center, or the old city hall/police station.

The group then began a discussion on future uses of the Courthouse, now that several offices have been relocated to the new Justice Center. This is a continuing project, started by the last year's commissioners.

Chairman Jewell made the group aware that several groups want to move into the Courthouse: the Election office, the Chamber of Commerce, Charlie Puckett, the county museum, Court records used by Kim Taylor, and Veteran's affairs office used by Amber Russell. In addition, the mayor has expressed an interest in having an office open to the public as a possible small business "hub" that would allow them to use their digital devices, use a county owned computer, have office space, use of tables and chairs, etc. Mr. Jewell also expressed the need for a second meeting room for county commission meetings, as sometimes it is difficult to schedule two groups meeting the same evening.

To better understand the possible uses of the building, the committee members did a walk through the downstairs of the Courthouse. The group entered each of the old offices and looked at the conditions of the rooms, entrances and exits, storage, etc.

No decisions were made, but the group intends to continue looking at these needs and how best to address them.

New Business:

Chairman Jewell brought up the need for a county "maintenance man (or woman)". Right now, maintenance of county buildings falls on Cliff Sallee's office. He is overburdened with duties of his own job. A qualified maintenance person, with knowledge of electrical and plumbing repairs, could save the county money, as we presently often call professionals to come in and do minor repairs.

Mr. Buckmaster pointed out that a qualified maintenance person would need to be paid a decent salary.

Since, it is not this group's responsibility to find funding for such a position (it is the responsibility of the finance committee), we declined to make any decisions, but to continue to look at this and possibly recommend hiring one before next year's budget hearings.

Mr. Buckmaster also noted that the county owns a lot of property. It was also noted that we need to have a comprehensive list of properties owned by the county and look at divesting ourselves of some. Mr. Oliver noted that some of these properties are the result of the county taking property for back taxes and then just holding on to them. It was also noted that the county has not had a tax sale of such properties in three years.

It was agreed that we continue to look at this problem.

Meeting adjourned with the group meeting again the first Thursday in December if a need arises.

Secretary, John Oliver