

Minutes of the special-called meeting of the Saltville Town Council held on February 22, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall

**Council:**       **Jeff Comer, Eugene Call, Bryan Morris, and Gary Call  
Monica Johnson and Steve Surber were absent**

**Mayor:**       **C. Todd Young**

**Staff:**       **Brian Martin, Town Manager  
Erik Puckett, Police Chief  
Steve Johnson, Clerk/Treasurer**

The Mayor asked that the agenda be amended by having the Closed Session item (the acquisition of a piece of property) be discussed in Open Session. Councilman Morris made the motion to do so, and Councilman Gary Call seconded. All were in favor.

### **New Business**

#### **1.     ARPA funding**

Town Manager Brian Martin presented the Council with a draft budget of how the town could possibly spend its first allotment of ARPA funding. Councilman Morris commented that the town had until 2024 to decide how to spend this money and had until 2025 to actually spend it. Regarding the funds earmarked for the grant match reserve, Town Manager Brian Martin said it was for the town's portion of the Salt Trail funding application, and the Mayor replied that the Lane Group is in the process of drawing up the plans for one of the campground sites already.

Robbie Millhorn of the Junior Panthers football program was at the meeting and told the Council that Team Sports had given him a quote of \$6000 for new helmets and a total of \$9100 for the helmets plus uniforms including those for cheerleaders. Councilman Morris recommended giving the allotment of youth recreation funds to the Junior Panthers and when the town receives its next allocation, then use a portion of those funds to make any changes to the softball field that are needed or other recreation activities.

In response to a question from Councilman Comer, Mr. Martin said that APRA committee put in recommendations for this first round of funding, and the department heads were also consulted.

Councilman Eugene Call asked about the demo item, and Mr. Martin replied that it pertained to the second item on tonight's agenda, the town purchasing a piece of property and any cost it would take to either take down that structure where it's an eyesore or have it abated for

asbestos or lead paint. The Mayor said it may not need to be taken down or abated, so that money could go elsewhere. Councilman Eugene Call then asked if the building has to be taken down, will that property still be worth what it is currently. Mr. Martin said the last reassessment done was based on the current condition, so hopefully, the value would improve with that structure gone. He continued and said that, in his opinion, the property is not currently worth what it's assessed at, but he thinks it's in the best interest for the longevity of the trail to maybe demo the building and clean up the property in general.

Councilman Morris made a motion to approve the ARPA funding as presented, and Councilman Gary Call seconded. All were in favor.

## **2. Property purchase**

Councilman Morris made a motion to go ahead with the purchase of the property beside the Salt Trail at the discussed price, and Councilman Comer seconded. The motion carried 3-1 with Councilman Eugene Call voting no.

Lastly, Councilman Morris made the motion to adjourn, and Councilman Eugene Call seconded. All were in favor.