

# TOWN OF OHATCHEE

P.O. Box 645

Ohatchee, Alabama 36271

256-892-3233

*"Biggest Little Town in the U.S.A."*

Steven E. Baswell  
Mayor

Celesia S. Jennings  
Council Member Place No. 1

J.M. "Butch" Mitchell  
Council Member Place No. 2

Anthony Crosson  
Council Member Place No. 3

Teresa G. Lott  
Council Member Place No. 4

Perry R. Howard  
Council Member Place No. 5

**Ohatchee Town Council  
Pre-Council Work Session  
January 15, 2019  
5:30 pm**

Ohatchee Town Council met on Tuesday, January 19, 2019 at 5:30 pm at the Municipal Complex for a pre-council work session. Members present were Mayor Steven Baswell, Councilmembers Anthony Crosson, Perry Howard, and Celesia Jennings. Councilmembers Butch Mitchell and Teresa Lott were absent. Mayor Baswell declared a quorum present and the work session was called to order. There were no questions on the minutes from the work session or meeting held December 18, 2018 and there were no questions on the invoices presented for payment.

Residents from the City of Southside, including Southside councilmember Dana Snyder addressed the council concerning a Petition that they are trying to obtain 10,000 signatures on that states that Highway 77 should be widened to a four-lane highway. If they are able to obtain the required signatures, they plan on taking it to Governor Ivy's office to hand deliver. They asked that the Town of Ohatchee help them by supporting the petition and allowing it to be posted in several area businesses around town. Mayor Baswell and the council were in support of the petition and in helping in any way they could.

Mayor Baswell began a discussion of Agenda items. He will be asking council to approve starting to accept credit card payments for utility bills, business licenses and taxes. We would go through a company called The Payment Group. There would be no cost to the town and a contract isn't required. The Payment Group will supply all marketing materials, software and training. There were no questions about the credit card use for payments.

Mayor Baswell will also be asking Council to approve a pay increase for Chris Lehr. Chris has become certified as a Water Operator and can now take over the job that Tim Christopher has been doing. The Mayor proposes a dollar per hour increase to begin at the start of the next payroll period. There were no questions on the increase.

Mayor Baswell informed council that Coosa Valley Electric Company proposed to provide decorative lighting at the Industrial Park at no cost to the town except for a monthly fee of \$20.00 for each pole. After a brief discussion it was decided to hold the matter for vote at a different time in order to give Council time to consider the offer.

Mayor Baswell also informed council that he had met with the architect about a cost for going ahead with the addition to the Senior Center. The members were shown two drawings that were prepared in order to decide which design they preferred. A cost estimate was not yet available but Mayor Baswell will be getting a figure soon.

Mayor Baswell also provided the council with a packet that gave them the information about what was previously done concerning who was responsible for maintaining specific roads in our area. He wanted the committee, consisting of Butch Mitchell, Anthony Crosson and Perry Howard to have the information before they went to physically inspect which roads would be high priority. Mayor Baswell intends to stand by his position and go by State Law but would be willing to accept the maintenance of several small roads within subdivisions that were maintained jointly before.

Copies of the current Personnel Policy Book were given to the committee (Teresa Lot, Anthony Crosson and Celesia Jennings) that will be working on updating the book. It was decided to have a separate committee for review of our wages and salary to be able to come up with a pay scale that will work for us. The members of the committee will be Butch Mitchell, Perry Howard, Celesia Jennings and Teresa Lott. They hope to begin working on it as soon as next week.

Mayor also informed council that a program for Martin Luther King Day was being held at Ebenezer Baptist Church on Monday January 21<sup>st</sup>. He urged councilmembers to attend the program.

The work session was adjourned at 6:08.

**Ohatchee Town Council Meeting**  
**January 15, 2019**  
**6:10 p.m.**

The Town Council of Ohatchee met on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 6:10 p.m. at the Municipal Complex for the scheduled meeting. Members present were Mayor Steven Baswell, Councilmembers Anthony Crosson, Perry Howard and Celesia Jennings. Councilmembers Butch Mitchell and Teresa Lott were absent. Mayor Baswell declared a quorum present and the meeting was called to order.

The minutes of the work session and council meeting held on December 18, 2018 were presented for consideration. Councilmember Celesia Jennings made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilmember Anthony Crosson seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Invoices in the amount of \$9457.56 were presented for payment. Councilmember Celesia Jennings made a motion to approve the payment of the invoices as presented. Councilmember Anthony Crosson seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Mayor Baswell called for a motion to approve the acceptance of credit card payments through The Payment Group. Councilmember Celesia Jennings made a motion to approve, seconded by Anthony Crosson. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Mayor Baswell called for a motion to approve a pay increase for Chris Lehr. Councilmember Perry Howard made a motion to approve the increase, seconded by Celesia Jennings. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Katie Brown=Condit took the floor to present MDA Professional Group's findings of their audit of financial statements for fiscal year 2018.

There were no questions on the results presented. She explained that, if after having time to review the statements in more detail, anyone had any questions about the findings, to feel free to call her for an explanation.

Being there no further business to come before the Council, a Motion to Adjourn was made by Councilmember Celesia Jennings and seconded by Anthony Crosson. Meeting adjourned at 6:40.

Suzanne E. Frederick  
Town Clerk

Steve Bawell  
Mayor

Celesia Jennings  
Council Member

Bob McLeod  
Council Member

Ray R. Howard  
Council Member

Jenna Lott  
Council Member

Anthony Crosson  
Council Member