

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2014**  
**TOWN HALL – 6:00 P.M.**

Council Members:

Kyle Fletcher-Mayor  
Kenneth Holbrook  
Greg Bailey  
Tim Boardwine  
Harry Kelly  
Jason Kilgore  
Monty Salyer

Julie Hensley – Town Attorney  
Debora Baca - Treasurer/Clerk  
Bo Phillips – Police Chief  
Earl Carter – Public Works Director  
Bob Harrison - IDA  
Cody McElroy – Mattern & Craig  
Suzy Harrison – Main Street  
Benny & Chub Crowder  
Katherine Chafin  
Allen Gregory - CVTimes

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Fletcher at 6 p.m.

Mayor Fletcher asked to add “Stainless Steel Spreader” to new business. Councilman Salyer asked to add “Resolution of Appreciation” as Item #7 under new business. A motion was made by Councilman Holbrook to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kilgore and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Under public requests, Suzy Harrison explained that one of the rails installed along the arches of the underpass was recently shaken loose. Chad King advised that the specs in the streetscape project called for decorative rails so they are not attached to withstand someone pushing on them. To replace the damaged rail will cost \$715, but he has offered an estimated cost of \$1,210 to replace the damaged rail and to add support to all of the rails. Suzy asked Council to consider covering the cost of the rail replacement and added support to the other rails. Also, there is still an issue with the paint on the Phillips building and the doors on the building owned by Allyson Turner. She has been working with Lane Engineering in an attempt to resolve this matter. It was suggested that the Town Attorney intervene if it cannot be resolved. Ms. Baca said she has made Ms. Hensley aware by forwarding the emails. Mayor Fletcher said he can contact Bobby Lane if necessary. Suzy also reminded council members that the Lyric Kick-Off will be held Saturday to begin fundraising for the renovation of the Lyric Theatre. There will also be the first annual Mandolin Festival held on September 27<sup>th</sup> at the A. R. Matthews Park. This is being sponsored by St. Paul Tomorrow and will include a mandolin competition, music vendors, and classes.

IDA Chairman Bob Harrison said an independent audit has been completed for St. Paul Tomorrow, which include financial statements for Clinch River Days, the Farmers Market EBT Program, and Main Street Account. Larry Sturgill, CPA will provide the reports within the next week and Mr. Harrison will bring a copy to the Town Treasurer for her records.

Benny Crowder spoke to the Council regarding a letter she received from the Dante Rescue Squad concerning a situation wherein Russell County Board of Supervisors are trying to prevent the Dante Rescue Squad from responding to calls in St. Paul and other areas in both Russell and

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Wise counties even if their agency is requested. Ms. Crowder noted that St. Paul does not have a rescue squad and both Dante and Castlewood Rescue provide this service for our community. She spoke about her personal experience and the qualifications of the members from the Dante Rescue that responded to her call. Several others commented on personal experiences and in favor of having a choice of either Dante Rescue Squad or Castlewood Rescue Squad. Mayor Fletcher asked Earl Carter to share what he knows of the situation. Mr. Carter said it is his understanding that the Russell County Attorney is pursuing this matter to comply with Virginia Code. He further explained how emergency management is set up with each squad having a designated service area. Mr. Carter noted that since July of last year, Castlewood Rescue has answered between 98 and 99% of their calls. Councilman Boardwine and others questioned why it is suddenly changing, considering that people have always had a choice. He also suggested that the town increase funding to the Dante Rescue Squad. There was lengthy discussion about response time, equipment, qualifications, jurisdiction, Dante Squad's proximity to St. Paul, and the role that money plays in this. Comments from council members and the public stressed the importance of being able to continue to request either rescue squad. Ms. Crowder provided a copy of the letter she received from the Dante Rescue Squad, encouraging the Town Council and each individual to write the Russell County Board of Supervisors about this situation. Councilman Salyer said if this is, in fact, an issue concerning the Code, then we need to contact our legislators. Mayor Fletcher said he has no problem writing the Board of Supervisors or our delegates and senators. He also said he will work with our town attorney to review the Code. Mayor Fletcher said St. Paul could be in a unique situation since we are in two counties, and this is a very important issue because it could be a matter of life and death. Ms. Hensley said she would look at the Code pertaining to this issue. There was further discussion about how being in two separate counties and emergency management agreements between counties might play a role in how this matter is addressed.

Next, Katherine Chafin asked the Council about using the football field for soccer. She said there are quite a few children from our area that are driving out of town to play youth soccer. Councilman Kilgore said he has spoken to other soccer program leaders in an attempt to bring soccer to St. Paul. He encouraged Ms. Chafin to get some interested parents together to run the program and there would not be a problem using the field. Councilman Salyer suggested running an announcement in the paper asking interested parents to respond. Councilman Kilgore said he would help Ms. Chafin any way he can to get it organized. It was decided that Councilman Kilgore and Ms. Chafin will work out a time for a meeting and then advertise it.

Mayor Fletcher made the following announcements:

- 1) The Wise Airport Air Show will be held on September 16, 2014.
  - 2) The Lyric Block Party will be held on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - 3) Mayor Fletcher and the office staff solicited a cost estimate on landscaping the area at the back of the town hall. The estimate is \$2,495.00 and since this is under \$3,000, he plans to schedule the work to be done by Planters & Designers as soon as possible.
- Councilman Salyer said he thought this was a good idea. Councilman Bailey said the

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stated cost for the plants is too high and suggested comparing prices for the plants. Mayor Fletcher pointed out that this estimate includes his site visit and expertise for designing the layout and suggesting the types of plants to be used. Many of the current plants will be reused.

- 4) Mayor Fletcher thanked Bobby Turner and crew for cleaning up the Gray Hill cemetery.
- 5) The mayor asked Council to be thinking about the need to replace the carpet in the town hall, possibly with vinyl or wood flooring. This is the first place most visitors see and the floors are looking bad.

A motion was made by Councilman Salyer, seconded by Councilman Kilgore, to approve the minutes of July 21, 2014 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

After a discussion about the location of the rocks with steel pieces in them, Councilman Holbrook moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kilgore and carried unanimously.

**Old Business:**

Following a brief discussion about the condition of the building located on the Phipps property, a motion was made by Councilman Salyer to remove this item from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilman Boardwine and unanimously approved.

Councilman Kelly said he is still waiting on another bid for gravel and grading of the IDA parking lot. He asked that this matter be tabled again until September. All agreed.

Mayor Fletcher said the sewer pump station on Gray Hill has been fixed. Councilman Salyer expressed his appreciation for taking care of this matter. Councilman Bailey said Mr. Holbrook has asked that Council consider covering the pump station with a gazebo. With no action to address this request, a motion was made by Councilman Holbrook to remove this item from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilman Boardwine and passed unanimously.

Councilman Salyer asked about the status of dredging Oxbow Lake. Mayor Fletcher said a cost estimate has been obtained and it is over \$70,000. He asked Mr. McElroy to address this issue. Cody said the lake level has been lowered about four feet and the cost estimate is based on a sediment depth of an estimated three feet on the edges and less as you go toward the middle of the lake. At this time, Mattern & Craig can prepare documents to advertise and solicit bids from contractors to remove the sediment per Council's instruction. Mr. McElroy said this would get all of the sediment out and the town could then maintain it each year. Mayor Fletcher told Council that John Hicks feels the town could rent an excavator and do the work with town employees. They could take the dirt to the top of the hill and by doing the work ourselves the town would save a tremendous amount of money. Ms. Baca said the cost estimate John received for renting an excavator for one week was \$4200 plus transporting it to and from the site. Then

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you would need to add the cost of renting a truck to haul the sediment. Mayor Fletcher said John is confident we can do this work with two people for less than \$20,000. Following a brief discussion about remaining TVA funds and procurement costs, a motion was made by Council Kilgore to put the project out to bid. The motion was seconded by Councilman Salyer. During further discussion, Ms. Baca asked how much it would cost to prepare bid documents for advertising and Cody said it would be less than \$1,000. Councilman Holbrook commented that Council can reserve the right to reject any and all bids if they so choose.. A roll call vote was taken: Kelly-Aye; Kilgore-Aye; Boardwine-Aye; Holbrook-Aye; Bailey-Aye; Salyer-Aye. The motion carried 6-0.

Councilman Salyer asked if we have obtained estimates or bids on the work to be done on the Lyric building. Mayor Fletcher said he has asked Wayne Fields to provide a cost estimate and expects to receive it soon.

Councilman Bailey asked Mayor Fletcher if the skunk problem discussed at the last meeting is being addressed. Mayor Fletcher asked Chief Phillips if the county ever brought any skunk traps. Chief Phillips said they contacted Animal Control but have not received any traps. He also said nobody wants to handle them once they are trapped, but he is working on alternative solutions. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Kilgore to purchase three skunk traps. The motion was seconded by Councilman Salyer and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Last month Councilman Bailey asked that ODP be contacted to fix several street lights that were out. At that time, Mayor Fletcher said the night police officer would mark the lights and he would contact ODP. Mayor Fletcher said we have three lights in downtown and two in South St. Paul that have been marked with a red flag. He spoke with John Roberts today and he said they will be over tomorrow or the next day to replace those that are marked. Councilman Bailey said there are several street lights still not working, but some are only working part of the time. He suggested that we make a public announcement that if a resident has a light problem, they should contact the town hall. Ms. Baca said a lot of people do call in when a light is out on their street.

Councilman Bailey said it was agreed upon at the last council meeting that the town should be responsible for painting the side of the Eastern Star building and the Mayor and Earl Carter would decide if the town would do the painting or if we would solicit bids. Mayor Fletcher said he spoke with Joe Jordan but he is retiring and not interested in doing the work. He has checked to see who else does painting and will get an estimate from Mr. Mullins who is painting Frank Kilgore's building and will also try to contact Randy Poole to see if he is interested in giving us a price. As soon as he gets a quote from these painters, Mayor Fletcher said he will proceed with getting the building painted. Chief Phillips mentioned that Joe Jordan has not been paid for the touch up work he did to cover up the graffiti as asked to do by Bob Harrison. A motion was made by Councilman Salyer to pay Joe Jordan \$120 for this work. The motion was seconded by Councilman Holbrook and unanimously approved.

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When discussing last month the removal of the rock causing the rapids in the river, Council authorized payment to remove the rocks contingent upon approval from any required environmental agencies. Councilman Kilgore read an email he received from Marine Resources expressing agreement with the letter that if we do not enter the river, no permits are required. In the meantime, Frank Kilgore asked Pete Bradley to look at it. Mr. Bradley thinks he can wrap a sling around the rock and pull it out with the wrecker without getting near the river. Councilman Kilgore said he is waiting on an estimate from Mr. Bradley. A motion was made by Councilman Holbrook to table this matter until next month. The motion was seconded by Councilman Boardwine and unanimously approved.

Ms. Baca had emailed both proposals submitted for codification of the town ordinances, asking Council members to review so they could select between Municode and American Legal Publishing. Ms. Baca also said she checked with Wise County since they were one of the references listed for Municode. She was told that the staff working with Municode has been very pleased with them. A motion was made by Councilman Bailey to accept the Municode proposal and authorized a contract with them for a base cost of \$8,850 for codification of the town ordinances. Ms. Baca said she will check to make sure they understand that we do not have an electronic version of any of our ordinances except for the zoning. Councilman Bailey said he is sure they understand because he has talked with the Municode representative at the VML Conference. The motion was seconded by Councilman Holbrook and a roll call vote was taken: Salyer-Aye; Bailey-Aye; Holbrook-Aye; Boardwine-Aye; Kilgore-Aye; Kelly-Aye. The motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Baca said the cost of an exhibit booth at the VML Conference in October is \$775, but she does not yet know the details of the days or hours this covers. She also mentioned that several spouses have volunteered to work the exhibit and everyone would be available to help set it up. Ms. Baca said she was not sure how far to extend the invitation to other volunteers that has offered to come to Roanoke for a partial day of working the exhibit and possibly the banquet. We could be talking about an additional two days hotel. Bob and Suzy Harrison said they would not be attending, but Lou Wallace has offered to attend if we can work it out. Councilman Salyer offered a motion to approve getting an exhibit if it can be worked out to get it set up. The motion was seconded by Councilman Boardwine. Councilman Bailey said his wife was willing to work the exhibit both days if needed. Following brief discussion about different things that could be displayed at the exhibit, the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Baca read the only bid submitted on the Lion's Den property. Benny Lane submitted a bid in the amount of \$4000 with the stipulation that the town be responsible for any environmental issues that may arise from the underground oil tank in the back yard. Several comments were made in support of rejecting the bid, some because of the amount offered, and all had concerns about bearing responsibility for something that may occur after the property is sold. Ms. Hensley said it is her understanding that soil testing doesn't start until you have a plan to remove the tank. Councilman Kilgore said he still believes an absolute auction to sell the property "as is" was the best choice. A motion was made by Councilman Kelly to reject the bid. Councilman

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Salyer offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. Councilman Salyer then moved to ask Mattern & Craig to contact DEQ regarding any testing requirements. He further asked Mayor Fletcher to get a cost for a reserve auction. The motion was seconded by Councilman Holbrook and passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

Upon review of resolutions in the council packet, a motion was made by Councilman Salyer to adopt the Rural Development Resolution agreement to obtain funding in loans and grants in the amount of \$660,000 for the downtown water system improvement project. The motion was seconded by Councilman Boardwine and a roll call vote was taken: Kelly-Aye; Kilgore-Aye; Boardwine-Aye; Holbrook-Aye; Bailey-Aye; Salyer-Aye. The motion passed 6-0.

Councilman Salyer moved to adopt a Resolution to Apply for Funding with the Virginia Department of Health for downtown water system improvements in the amount of \$650,000. The motion was seconded by Councilman Boardwine and a roll call vote was taken: Kelly-Aye; Kilgore-Aye; Boardwine-Aye; Holbrook-Aye; Bailey-Aye; Salyer-Aye. The motion passed 6-0.

Councilman Kilgore submitted a quote from W-L Construction for paving of the basketball courts and the cul-de-sac near the park pavilion. He explained that this would include the small strip between the basketball court and tennis courts. It would also include extending the basketball court further back toward the railroad and 3 feet toward the stage, allowing for a true three point line. The money was allocated for this in the budget and the new goals were purchased during last fiscal year. Councilman Kilgore said he also asked that a separate quote be provided to consider the cost of paving from the end of the road just past the pavilion and also the cost of paving all the way to the trail entrance. At this time, Councilman Kilgore said he is making a motion only for approval of the \$9,890.00 for the basketball court. The motion was seconded by Councilman Salyer. Councilman Kelly said W-L will be looking at pricing pavement for the IDA parking lot and asked if Council should wait to have them include that in this work as well. Councilman Kilgore said we have put the basketball courts off since last year and he would like to go ahead and get that much approved tonight. Following discussion about the need to get the additional paving and the cost savings to do it all at once, Councilman Kilgore amended his motion to approve up to \$24,365 for paving of the expanded basketball court, the cul-de-sac, and the roadway up to the bathrooms. Councilman Salyer seconded the amended motion. Mayor Fletcher called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously. Stating concern about vehicles hitting the new restroom building, Councilman Kelly moved to authorize Earl Carter to place three or four bollards in front of the new park restroom. The motion was seconded by Councilman Salyer and after discussion with Mr. Carter regarding the size and material to be used, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Fletcher asked the Council to consider a \$200 donation to the Wise County Airport Air Show to be held in September. A motion was made by Councilman Holbrook, seconded by Councilman Kelly to donate \$200 to the Wise County Airport. The motion passed unanimously.

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A motion was made by Councilman Salyer to allocate \$1,210 to replace and reinforce railing at the underpass. He further moved that quotes be obtained for painting the walls at the underpass. Mayor Fletcher advised Councilman Salyer that the Beautification Committee has already selected the paint color and the paint has been purchased. With weather permitting, the walls will be painted by early next week. The motion was seconded by Councilman Holbrook to approve funds for the railing. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Fletcher said the town is preparing for winter and a new salt spreader is needed. John Hicks obtained a quote of \$13,350 for a stainless steel spreader. Mayor Fletcher said the steel spreader will cost more initially, but will last much longer because the salt won't destroy it. He recommended that the town purchase this spreader. John is getting another quote and will order from the company with the best price. A motion was made by Councilman Boardwine to approve up to \$13,350 for the spreader. The motion was seconded by Councilman Salyer. Councilman Kelly asked what expense line it will come from. Ms. Baca said it would have to be moved from Contingency. Mayor Fletcher called for the vote and the motion passed 6-0.

Councilman Salyer announced that Geoffrey Hensley will be leaving the Virginia Hybrid Energy Center as the result of a promotion with Dominion Power. He noted that Geoffrey has been good to work with and has represented Dominion as a participant in the Clinch River Valley Initiative and worked closely with Ms. Vencil in obtaining grant funding for Wetlands Estonoa. Councilman Salyer moved to approve a Resolution of Appreciation for Geoffrey Hensley. He read a draft of a resolution he had prepared. The motion was seconded by Councilman Holbrook and passed unanimously. Councilman Salyer said he will work with Ms. Baca to get the final resolution prepared and framed for presentation.

Councilman Holbrook moved to enter into Closed Session to discuss Legal Matters under VA Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) and Acquisition & Disposition of Property under VA Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(3). The motion was seconded by Councilman Boardwine and a roll call vote was taken: Kelly-Aye; Kilgore-Aye; Boardwine-Aye; Holbrook-Aye; Bailey-Aye; Salyer-Aye. The motion passed 6-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Holbrook to enter back into Open Session, certifying that the only matters discussed in Closed Session was Legal under VA Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) and Acquisition & Disposition of Property under VA Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(3). The motion was seconded by Councilman Bailey and a roll call vote was taken: Kelly-Aye; Kilgore-Aye; Boardwine-Aye; Holbrook-Aye; Bailey-Aye; Salyer-Aye. The motion passed 6-0.

There being no further business, Mayor Fletcher adjourned the meeting.

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Mayor

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Clerk