

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 20, 2015
TOWN HALL – 6:00 P.M.**

Council Members:

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

Others Present:

Debora Baca – Clerk/Treasurer
Julie Hensley – Town Attorney (Late)
Earl Carter – Public Works Director
Cody McElroy – Mattern & Craig
Jonathan Johnson – Police Captain
Linda Tiller - Attorney
Lou Wallace – Main Street
Bob Harrison –IDA
Allen Gregory-CVTimes

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Fletcher at 6:00 p.m.

Earl Carter asked to add “Grit Chamber” to Old Business. A motion was made by Councilman Holbrook, seconded by Councilman Boardwine, to accept the agenda as amended. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Under public expression, Mr. Short was not in attendance, so Mayor Fletcher opened the floor to the audience for comments.

Lou Wallace reported that the selection committee for Main Street was unable to select a director and Kathy Stewart has agreed to accept the position of Interim Director until a new director is hired. Ms. Wallace also advised that the new Chairman of St. Paul Tomorrow is Juanita Kelly, Lou Wallace is Vice-Chair, Barbara Trent is Secretary, and Bob Harrison will remain as the Treasurer. Friends of the Library and The Lyric Project is sponsoring Cooks and Books this weekend and she had tickets available for purchase. Ms. Wallace asked Council to get the air conditioning problems resolved at the pool building. She said the Lyric sponsored bingo is expected to continue and the group believes this fundraiser will continue to improve. It was also mentioned that the work being done in the roof area of the Lyric still is not complete, and asked Mayor Fletcher to contact the contractor to get the job finished. This year, the Virginia Highlands Festival will be having “A Day in St. Paul” that will include three events to be held in St. Paul and asked that the town crew make sure we are ready for company. She thanked the town for helping Main Street to purchase the stickers that are on the front of the Highlands Festival book. The three events will be held at Bluebell, Estonoa Wetlands, and a tour of Sugar Hill. Ms. Wallace reported that the Nature Conservancy will need a letter of support from the Town for applications to receive grant money and there will be some land purchases taking place for the proposed state park. Ms. Wallace said Main Street is finishing up a \$15,000 grant on the Dye property, and Juanita Kelly will be representing St. Paul at the Industrial Revitalization Fund grant writing class.

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Mayor Fletcher said that Ms. Wallace covered the events he planned to announce, therefore, he had no additional announcements.

A motion was made by Councilman Holbrook to approve the June minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kilgore and passed unanimously.

Captain Johnson handed out disc copies of the revised Police Department policies for Council to consider for approval. Councilman Holbrook suggested that the proposed policy should first be reviewed by the established Policy Committee. Councilman Salyer agreed that the Policy Committee and Town Attorney review the language prior to consideration for adoption by the council. Ms. Baca said Chief Phillips is on that committee and when they are ready to meet, she can coordinate it with Chief Phillips. A motion was made by Councilman Holbrook, seconded by Councilman Boardwine, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously and Mayor Fletcher clarified that the Policy Committee will set a meeting to review the changes.

Old Business:

Councilman Bailey inquired about the bids on the sewer plant generator. Ms. Baca said only one bid was received. The bid was opened and read aloud. It was submitted by James Greear, Dante, VA and the bid amount was \$150. Following brief comments, a motion was made by Councilman Bailey to reject the bid and re-advertise to receive bids. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kilgore and unanimously approved.

Councilman Salyer discussed the air conditioning problems in the upstairs of the pool building. He further advised that a local contractor has bought all of the wall units from the old Village Motel. He has offered them for sale at \$350 and advised that he can put Mr. Carter in contact with Mr. Buchanan. Ms. Baca mentioned the specs included in the package for proposed units. John Hicks worked with a local heating/air conditioning contractor to recommend what may work best for this building. Mr. Carter said these specs would be advertised for bid if council decided to consider installing this type of system. There was a brief discussion regarding wiring and power sources. Mr. Carter said the building is already wired for 220 power. Following further discussion about the need for meeting space and the use of this building, Councilman Kelly said we need to do something about this as soon as possible. Councilman Salyer made a motion to authorize Mr. Carter to work on resolving this issue and allocating up to \$800. The motion was seconded by Councilman Boardwine and carried unanimously.

Next, Earl Carter reminded council members of the previous issues we have had with the vertical turbine pumps at the grit chamber. The cost of one of these pumps is about \$13,125.00. Boggs has a brand new 175 hp vertical pump he is willing to sell us for \$9,129.00. Mr. Carter said we have replaced several of these pumps and it is his recommendation to purchase this spare pump before Boggs sends it back to the factory. Ms. Baca said we can use funds from the project depreciation account since it will be to replace equipment at the grit chamber which is directly related to providing raw water to Dominion. A motion was made by Councilman Boardwine to

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purchase the pump from Boggs. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kilgore. Councilman Holbrook asked about procurement. Following a brief discussion about getting this kind of price and the fact it is under \$10,000, the motion was unanimously approved.

New Business:

Attorney Linda Tiller, representing Brenda Osborne, asked Council to hold a public hearing to consider vacating a road located in the incorporated section of the Tom Robertson subdivision in Russell County. Ms. Osborne owns Lot 96 and 97 and the Jessee's own Lot 98 on the plat. Ms. Tiller brought a VDOT map to show everyone the location of these lots on G. B. Shortt Street. According to the plat, road 885 goes right through the Osborne's yard. The road goes right into the back of the Tom Allen property and was designated for expansion of that subdivision, which never happened. Ms. Tiller shared the proper procedure for vacating a road and asked Council to schedule a public hearing to vacate this road. Ms. Tiller offered to prepare the notice and it would be advertised in a newspaper and at the Russell County courthouse for two consecutive weeks. A motion was offered by Councilman Boardwine to start the procedures necessary to vacate this road. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kilgore and a roll call vote was taken: Salyer-Aye; Bailey-Aye; Holbrook-Aye; Boardwine-Aye; Kilgore-Aye; Kelly-Aye. The motion passed 6-0.

Cody McElroy presented the proposed engineering contract for the Downtown Water Project. Councilman Holbrook moved to approve the contract pending review by the Town Attorney. 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.

Mr. McElroy discussed the refusal of one West Hills resident to sign an easement for the sewer project. He advised that the town could offer payment, alter the design slightly which could cost a little more, and as a last resort, could consider condemnation. Councilman Salyer suggested Mr. McElroy communicate with this property owner.

Ms. Baca presented a finance resolution approving a loan with BB&T in the amount of \$205,000 to finance the backhoe and dump truck. A motion was made by Councilman Holbrook to adopt the Resolution Approving Finance Terms. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kilgore and a roll call vote was taken: Kelly-Aye; Kilgore-Aye; Boardwine-Aye; Holbrook-Aye; Bailey-Aye; Salyer-Aye. The motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Fletcher reported that Scott Long will be retiring at the end of the month and will be greatly missed. He said Scott has been a dedicated employee for twenty years. He not only drove the garbage truck, but would always come out when needed to run the snow plows and he was an excellent welder. Following a brief discussion about the procedure for first posting a vacancy to current employees, a motion was made by Councilman Holbrook authorizing the Treasurer to proceed with advertising the vacant position according to the personnel policy. The motion was seconded by Councilman Salyer and approved unanimously.

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Councilman Bailey shared pictures of trash at the Oxbow Lake area. It appears that animals are getting into the trash cans and he would like to get some animal proof containers. Following discussion about using TVA Oxbow funds to purchase these cans, and the type of cans needed, Councilman Bailey said he would do some research and get prices. We can then write a letter requesting the cans be purchased using our TVA funds.

Next, Councilman Bailey discussed making wi-fi available throughout downtown. He said, even though he has wi-fi at his overnight rentals, many visitors have mentioned to him the need for better accessibility. After a brief discussion about the technical requirements for this, Councilman Kilgore agreed to check out what it would take to get wi-fi throughout the downtown area and the cost. He will then bring this back to the Council.

Councilman Salyer said he has received a call from a local business owner pointing out the problem with pet waste at Oxbow Lake. He further commented on the problem with people from rental property in downtown not picking up after their animals. Councilman Salyer asked the Treasurer to order the doggie posts that have bags and trash cans. There was further discussion about the dog ordinance and complaints about dogs running at large and the difficulty in enforcing the ordinance because we have to rely on the Wise County Animal Control to come in a timely manner. Ms. Hensley suggested that neighbors can videotape the dogs at large and the police department could address it.

Due to the untimeliness of the request from the Trail of the Lonesome Pine, no action was taken.

A motion was made by Councilman Holbrook, seconded by Councilman Boardwine, to enter into Closed Session to discuss Personnel under VA Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1). A roll call vote was taken: Salyer-Aye; Bailey-Aye; Holbrook-Aye; Boardwine-Aye; Kilgore-Aye; Kelly-Aye. The motion passed 6-0.

Councilman Holbrook moved to enter back into Open Session, certifying that the only matter discussed was personnel under VA Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1). The motion was seconded by Councilman Boardwine and a roll call vote was taken: Salyer-Aye; Bailey-Aye; Holbrook-Aye; Boardwine-Aye; Kilgore-Aye; Kelly-Aye. The motion passed 6-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Holbrook to increase Patrolman Woelker's salary by \$1.00 per hour based on our policy. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kilgore and unanimously approved.

Councilman Kilgore moved to purchase three new umbrellas for the lifeguard stands at the swimming pool. The motion was seconded by Councilman Holbrook and passed unanimously. Councilman Kilgore will send Ms. Baca a link to the ones he previously recommended.

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There being no other business to discuss, a motion was made by Councilman Salyer, seconded by Councilman Bailey, to adjourn. The motion passed and Mayor Fletcher adjourned the meeting.

_____ Mayor

_____ Clerk