

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

Council Members:

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

Allen Gregory-CVTimes

Debora Baca – Clerk/Treasurer
Julie Hensley – Town Attorney
Earl Carter – Public Works Director
Jonathan Johnson – Police Capt.
Cody McElroy – Mattern & Craig
Bob Harrison – IDA
Kathy Stewart – Lyric Project
Hazel Jessee – Library Director
Ronnie David – Business Owner
Terry Vencil – Estonoa Director
Misty Johnson – CHS/Estonoa
Frank Summers – Ridge Runner Camping
First Assembly of God Church members
(sign in sheet attached)

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Fletcher at 6:00 p.m. Due to the number of people attending, Mayor Fletcher asked that each speaker limit their comments to five minutes.

Mayor Fletcher asked for approval of the agenda. Councilman Salyer asked to remove Item #8 under New Business. A motion was made by Councilman Bailey to accept the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilman Boardwine and unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

Under Public Requests, Ronnie David requested approval from the Town Council to allow Fat Boys BBQ to place two small tables and chairs on the sidewalk for outside dining. He also asked if the town could contact Verizon to help with getting the telephone pole on the corner removed. Mr. David said the wires attached to this pole do not connect to any live service. The Sunset Digital line can be rerouted. Mayor Fletcher agreed that the pole needs to come down anyway and a meeting with utility companies is planned to talk about getting all of the poles on that block down.

Next, Terry Vencil advised that she will be retiring from Castlewood High School this year. She introduced Misty Johnson, the science teacher that will be assigned to teaching environmental classes at the Vencil Learning Center. Ms. Vencil submitted her letter of resignation as the Estonoa Director and Councilman Salyer read the letter. Councilman Salyer expressed sadness in accepting this resignation, but welcomed Ms. Johnson. Ms. Vencil said she plans to stay in the position until September to help Misty transition into teaching the class. She also talked about her devotion to Estonoa and the many hours it takes to make sure it is maintained and operated as it should be. She encouraged the Council to consider hiring a full time person that

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can write grants and facilitate many more groups. Mayor Fletcher and several council members offered comments about Estonoa and commended Ms. Vencil for all of her work.

Councilman Bailey asked that everyone speaking state their name and address. Mayor Fletcher asked everyone to please put their name and address on the sign-in sheet as well.

Allen Gregory requested that Council consider installing lighting and heating in the upstairs of the Railroad Museum. The facility could be used for many things if the town could get this done. Also, access to the upstairs would be much easier if an additional handrail was installed. Mayor Fletcher agreed the upstairs should be improved.

Hazel Jessee, Interim Branch Manager for the J. Fred Matthews Library, introduced herself to the council members. She is a Coeburn native and is pleased to be working with the St. Paul library. Ms. Jessee said they are working on an upgrade to the children's section at the library and would appreciate continued support from the town.

Frank Summers talked about his new business, Ridge Runner Campground. Mr. Summers spoke briefly about his business plan. The property is located outside the town limits, in Wise County, about one and one-half miles from the power plant and about one mile from Spearhead Trails on Gray Hill. He is planning to offer 50 tent sites, 25 RV sites, and about 14 camper sites, available with water and sewer. He is also planning to have restroom and shower facilities. Mr. Summers will work with Terri Ann Funk to transport trail visitors to Clinch River Adventures to float the river. He further plans to make arrangements for visitors to come into town for pool swimming and dining. Mr. Summers asked the Town Council to consider helping him with some gravel for road work and to help him get water to his property. He also needs a fire hydrant for insurance purposes, and he asked how to get a 911 address. Ms. Baca advised that he needs to contact Jessica Swinney or Robert Mullins at the Wise County Building Department to obtain a 911 address. Mayor Fletcher told Mr. Summers he would have to meet with Earl Carter to discuss the feasibility of the other requests.

Carmilla Musick, Dante First Assembly of God Church, spoke against allowing a brewery in town. She submitted to the Council a petition with 113 signatures stating opposition to placing a brewery or having liquor by the drink in St. Paul. Others church members speaking against having a brewery and liquor by the drink were: Jerry Estep, Lisa McClellan, Thelma Cline, and Rick Wallace, a minister and retired police officer from Lebanon, VA. Mayor Fletcher pointed out that liquor by the drink is not an issue before the town council. This is a state legislative issue and an individual business applies for a license through the state. The Town Attorney said there is nothing in the Code that provides the town with a population of less than 3,000 the authority to hold a referendum on the subject. If it is brought to the Legislature and passed, then it is available by application to the ABC Board. Mr. Wallace said if he or Mr. Estep oppose this issue at the legislature, it would fall on deaf ears, especially since they are not from St. Paul, but if the Town Council stands with them in opposition, it would have a greater impact.

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Next, Kathy Stewart spoke on behalf of St. Paul Main Street. She reported that the Lyric Project has had two successful bingo sessions and the next one will be on May 2nd. Some of the Main Street Committee are attending classes and recently attended a two day session called Small Towns of the Clinch led by Mark Wilson. Ms. Stewart and Lou Wallace attended the National Main Street Conference in Atlanta. The conference was very helpful and they learned many new things to help improve the downtown area. St. Paul Tomorrow will be reapplying for an IRF grant for the Lyric Project. A grant application has also been sent to the Slemple Foundation and they will also be applying for a few other small foundation grants. Main Street Manager Teresa Harless worked with Kelly Miller of DEQ and the Upper Tennessee Roundtable to apply for a Dominion grant in the amount of \$50,000 to work on storm water in the Farmers Market area. Dominion has awarded this project \$25,000 and the committee will be meeting to revise the project budget. She encouraged council members to give serious consideration in selecting an Estonoa Director because its success also impacts the downtown area. Ms. Stewart announced that Main Street Director Teresa Harless has tendered her resignation effective July 1st and this position will be advertised in May.

Mayor Fletcher made the following announcements:

- 1) The Main Street \$25,000 grant from Dominion is for Environmental Stewardship. The money will be used to address storm water issues.
- 2) The town crew is getting the pool ready and accepting applications for lifeguards and managers.
- 3) Wise County Cleanup Day is scheduled for April 25th from 10 a.m. – 12 noon. Those interested in participating can sign up at the town hall at 10 a.m. on Saturday.
- 4) Mayor Fletcher has received multiple complaints regarding bad language at the skate park. He may place this on the agenda next month to considering closing it earlier.
- 5) Mayor Fletcher said he will be meeting with Dominion officials in the near future to discuss the need for a new water intake site.

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

Councilman Boardwine moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kilgore and carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Last month, Councilman Bailey asked the Town Attorney to research implementation of a float tax. Ms. Hensley said she doesn't see any problem writing an ordinance to implement the tax. The ordinance would have to follow the advertising and public hearing guidelines and it could be passed with an effective date sometime in the future. Councilman Bailey said he has talked with other town and county leaders and has not received any negative response, noting this is exactly the kind of revenue localities should be seeking because the burden isn't placed on local citizens.

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Mayor Fletcher agreed that different revenue sources is something the town should be considering. Councilman Bailey moved to table this matter until November. The motion was seconded by Councilman Boardwine and passed unanimously.

Earl Carter recommended two applicants to be hired as Street Department seasonal workers. Councilman Salyer asked that Item #2 be moved to follow closed session. All agreed.

Mr. Carter met with Carter Machinery regarding the purchase of a backhoe. Ms. Baca explained that CAT has the bid through NJPA, who procures for the best equipment pricing nationwide. The town is a member of NJPA and would receive the lowest pricing through them. Mr. Carter said he will also get pricing for a used machine. He pointed out that used equipment is not eligible for the government discounts available for a new purchase, therefore the difference in cost for a good used backhoe and a new one is going to be marginal. There was some discussion about different types of warranties. Mr. Carter also suggested keeping the old backhoe and having it repaired at a cost of \$12,689.00. If we trade it in, the estimated value would be about \$7500 because of the repair cost. It would be a greater advantage to repair the old one and use it with the hammer so you don't have to use the new one for that type of work. Ms. Baca said if the Council decides to repair the old backhoe, CAT will finance the cost for 18 months at zero percent interest. She will also look for the best interest rate in financing the new one. Councilman Boardwine offered a motion to repair the old backhoe at a cost of \$12,689. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kelly. Upon inquiry by Councilman Salyer, Ms. Baca said the repair cost was budgeted for next year. Following the brief discussion, a roll call vote was taken: Kelly-Aye; Kilgore-Aye; Boardwine-Aye; Holbrook-Absent; Bailey-Aye; Salyer-Aye. The motion passed 5-0. A motion was made by Councilman Boardwine, seconded by Councilman Kilgore, to purchase a new backhoe through the NJPA program with Carter Machinery and finance for up to three years. Councilman Salyer clarified that the funds would be in the upcoming budget. Ms. Baca advised that we don't have the exact cost, but she has included an estimated \$55,000 as a payment in the next budget year. She recommended getting rates from Zion Bank or BB&T to do a governmental purchase/lease to compare with the CAT Financing rates. Mayor Fletcher asked for a roll call vote: Kelly-Aye; Kilgore-Aye; Boardwine-Aye; Holbrook-Absent; Bailey-Aye; Salyer-Aye. The motion carried 5-0.

Last month, a request was made to provide a couple of new grills and picnic tables near the boat ramp at the park. Ms. Baca said a large grill is needed at the picnic shelter. There hasn't been one there in about two years. A motion was made by Councilman Boardwine, seconded by Councilman Salyer, to allocate up to \$1,500 to purchase one large grill, two smaller grills and picnic tables. Councilman Salyer asked Councilman Boardwine for a friendly amendment that this be turned over to the Beautification Committee to select the type of picnic tables. Councilman Boardwine agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

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New Business:

Cody McElroy explained that the “Mandatory Clause” in the Sewer Use Ordinance only addresses the mandatory hookup. It is loosely written indicating a mandatory monthly charge. Town Attorney Julie Hensley agreed the language is confusing, but would have to take some time to review the language. The intent of this was to charge a minimum sewer bill if sewer is made available to them, whether or not they choose to hook up to it. A motion was made by Councilman Salyer to authorize the Town Attorney to work with Mr. McElroy to amend the wording on this section of the Sewer Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kilgore and unanimously approved.

Councilman Salyer made a motion to approve Ronnie David’s request to place outside dining tables on the sidewalk in front of Fat Boys BBQ. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kilgore. There was a brief discussion regarding the sidewalk width on Russell Street. Mr. David said the tables would not interfere with sidewalk traffic. The motion passed unanimously.

The town has previously allocated money to place signs from Bluebell to Oxbow Trails. Frank Kilgore and Councilman Kilgore has placed temporary signs. Ms. Baca said that Frank had emailed her about getting the permanent signs placed as well as directional signs from the highway directing people to the different trails. She also said those who have been involved in placing and designing signage need to work on this. Mayor Fletcher referred this matter to Councilman Kilgore and Councilman Kelly to work with Frank on the placement of signage.

Ms. Baca said the only response to the advertisement for a long term lease on the caboose was from Clinch River Adventures and the proposal is included in their packets. Clinch River Adventures offered to sign a lease for three years with the payment of \$3,540 in upgrades to the property. A motion was made by Councilman Salyer to accept the proposal from Clinch River Adventures as presented. Councilman Bailey offered a substitute motion to accept the proposal, but ask that receipts for the work be provided. The motion was seconded by Councilman Boardwine and passed unanimously.

Councilman Kilgore proposed that the Town purchase a wood chipper. He said it would help reduce the amount of brush we have to haul. There was discussion about Dominion taking wood chips. Mayor Fletcher said the wood chips would have to be tested before Dominion would take them. There was further discussion about selling wood chips and places where they could be used. Councilman Kilgore moved to allocate up to \$5,000 on a 12” wood chipper. The motion was seconded by Councilman Boardwine. Councilman Salyer offered a substitute motion to refer this request to the Budget Committee to include in the budget for next year. Councilman Kelly offered a second and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Fletcher recommended that \$100 fee be charged for use of Bowman Field for softball tournaments. Councilman Kilgore suggested \$75 with a \$25 cleaning fee. Ms. Baca said taking and refunding the deposit and having someone check on the cleaning can become cumbersome

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and controversial about what is “clean”. A motion was made by Councilman Boardwine to set a \$100 rental fee for softball tournaments at the field. The motion was seconded by Councilman Salyer and passed unanimously.

Captain Johnson had asked for Item #7, but he got called out. Ms. Baca said she believes Captain Johnson wanted to request that the junked police car sitting at the Grit Chamber be donated to Russell County. Earl Carter said it doesn’t have a transmission in it. A motion was made by Councilman Boardwine to donate the old police car to Russell County. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kilgore and passed unanimously.

Councilman Salyer said VDOT is cleaning up Rt. 58 everywhere around us, but has not cleaned any of the gravel up in St. Paul. He read a rough draft of a letter he would like to send to VDOT regarding their lack of street cleaning within the town limits. He offered a motion that Mayor Fletcher send a final draft of this letter requesting VDOT sweep and remove the excessive gravel on Hwy. 58 within the town limits of St. Paul running from Wise County to Russell County. The motion was seconded by Councilman Boardwine and there was discussion about how bad it looks, safety, and how other towns have been cleaned. Mayor Fletcher said the trash along the highway is something we can work on, but the gravel is something VDOT should be doing. Councilman Salyer said he has talked to Mr. Cross about the trash and he will be sending a crew once the bridge work is completed, but the issue is with the gravel on the road. There were comments about the danger and lack of attention to Rt. 58 in St. Paul. Mayor Fletcher talked about the condition of our bridge and the standing water. He said Dominion could make that request. Councilman Boardwine said it is not Dominion’s responsibility, it is the town’s responsibility to see that VDOT gets it cleaned up. Councilman Salyer called for the question and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Salyer made a motion that the Budget & Finance Committee consider an allocation for an Executive Director for Estonoa, which might even include a cooperative effort with Main Street. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bailey and unanimously approved.

Councilman Kelly informed the Council that new flags have been ordered for the Veteran’s Memorial and money was already allocated in this year’s budget as “Contribution to Veteran’s Memorial”. He also noted that the flag on Johnnie Ramey Drive also needs to be replaced.

Captain Johnson returned to the meeting. He advised that the donation request for the police car was to Castlewood Fire & Rescue, not Russell County. Councilman Salyer asked if there has been an actual vote by the Russell County Board of Supervisors to only allow Castlewood Rescue to come into St. Paul, and to exclude Dante Rescue. Mr. Carter said he is not aware of any such vote. Councilman Bailey said he attended the last Board of Supervisors meeting and he didn’t hear that, but did hear comments from rescue workers that the two organizations are working together. Councilman Boardwine said he appreciates that Castlewood is working with Dante now. Mr. Carter did confirm that each agency is assigned a primary service area, but there is nothing that says another rescue can’t come into that area. Councilman Salyer moved to honor

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Captain Johnson's request. Ms. Baca advised that the previous motion should first be rescinded. Councilman Boardwine moved to rescind his previous motion to donate the car to Russell County. The motion was seconded by Councilman Salyer and passed unanimously. Next, Councilman Boardwine moved to donate the junked police car to Castlewood Fire & Rescue. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kilgore and was unanimously approved.

Mayor Fletcher said he would like to appoint himself, Vice Mayor Holbrook, and Earl Carter to the Engineering Selection Committee for the Downtown Water Rehabilitation Project. Councilman Kilgore so moved. The motion was seconded by Councilman Boardwine and a roll call vote was taken: Kelly-Aye; Kilgore-Aye; Boardwine-Aye; Holbrook-Absent; Bailey-Aye; Salyer-Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

A request was made to Mayor Fletcher by Frances Wall for a donation to St. Paul Elementary School for a school trip. She will be taking students on a field trip to the Charlottesville area to visit homes of presidents. A motion was made by Councilman Salyer to donate \$100 for this trip. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kilgore and passed unanimously.

Councilman Salyer moved to donate \$100 to the Wise County Sheriff Golf Tournament to benefit Special Olympics. Councilman Bailey said he would like to donate enough for a hole sponsorship. Ms. Baca checked and a hole sponsorship is \$100. The motion was seconded by Councilman Boardwine and passed unanimously.

A request was received from Russell County for Kid's Fishing Day. Ms. Baca reminded Council that the St. Paul Police Department also holds a fishing tournament during Clinch River Days. A motion was made by Councilman Salyer to remove this request and move on. The motion was seconded by Councilman Boardwine and passed unanimously. Councilman Kelly moved to donate \$500 to the Dante Rescue Squad. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kilgore and unanimously approved.

The Council decided to set the budget public hearing for 5:30 p.m. on May 18th prior to the next council meeting.

Ms. Baca mentioned that the sewer plant flooding may be covered by VML because the plant is located in Zone X. VDEM now may cover the overtime and any deductible.

Councilman Bailey moved to enter into Closed Session to discuss Personnel under VA Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), Acquisition & Disposition of Property under VA Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(3), and Legal under VA Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(7). The motion was seconded by Councilman Kelly and a roll call vote was taken: Kelly-Aye; Kilgore-Aye; Boardwine-Aye; Holbrook-Absent; Bailey-Aye; Salyer-Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

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Councilman Kelly moved to return to Open Session, certifying that the only matter discussed in Closed Session 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; Kilgore-Aye; Boardwine-Aye; Holbrook-Absent; Bailey-Aye; Salyer-Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

Councilman Bailey made a motion to hire Justin Breeding and Travis Scarberry at \$7.50 per hour as seasonal workers for the Street Department. The motion was seconded by Councilman Boardwine and passed unanimously.

Councilman Bailey moved to end the probation period for Police Officer Shannon Dishman and increase his salary \$1.00 per hour. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kelly and a roll call vote was taken: Salyer-Aye; Bailey-Aye; Holbrook-Absent; Boardwine-Aye; Kilgore-Aye; Kelly-Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

Councilman Salyer offered a motion that only auxiliary police officers that are in full compliance with the St. Paul Police Department Auxiliary Program be allowed to accompany and/or ride with town police officers during the duty hours. The motion was seconded by Councilman Boardwine and a roll call vote was taken: Kelly-Aye; Kilgore-Aye; Boardwine-Aye; Holbrook-Absent; Bailey-Aye; Salyer-Aye. The motion passed 5-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bailey to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kelly and passed unanimously

Mayor Fletcher adjourned the meeting.

Mayor

Clerk