

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 19, 2013

Call to Order

The Clarksville Town Council met in regular session on March 19, 2013, at 7:30 p.m. Mayor Kevin Allgood called the meeting to order and provided the invocation. Council members present were Mayor Kevin Allgood, Christopher Clarke, Carolyn Hite, Glenn Jurczyk, Bill Nunn, and Mike Sizemore. Vice-Mayor Connie Torres was absent. Staff members present were Treasurer/Clerk Tara Murphy, Town Clerk Wendy Feild, Town Operations Director Richard Elliott, and Police Chief Ricky Wilkinson. Mayor Allgood recognized Jeff Jones, the newly hired Town Manager and stated he will start on April 2, 2013.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 19th, 2013 meeting were approved with no additions, deletions, or corrections with a motion by Council member Sizemore, seconded by Council member Hite, and approved by all.

The minutes of the March 5th, 2013 Special meeting were approved with no additions, deletions, or corrections with a motion by Council member Hite, seconded by Council member Sizemore, and approved by all.

The minutes of the March 5th, 2013 Council Workshop were approved with no additions, deletions, or corrections with a motion by Council member Nunn, seconded by Council member Sizemore, and approved by all.

Presentation of List of Vendors Paid

The list of vendors paid for February 2013 was presented to Council. Council member Sizemore motioned to approve the list of vendors paid for February 2013, seconded by Council member Clarke, and approved by all.

Presentation of Financial Statements

The Financial Statements for February 2013 were presented to Council. Council member Clarke motioned to approve the February 2013 financial statements, seconded by Council member Hite, and approved by all.

Presentation of Town Operation Reports

The Town Operations reports were presented to Council.

Town Operations Director Richard Elliott reported to Council that there was an issue with a sewer line blockage on Market Street behind the Lamplighter and the Lake Motel. He stated that with the help of a track hoe from Harman Saunders Construction, the problem was corrected and new lines were installed in 2/3 of the area. He stated that the new sewer lines have been photographed and marked so that they can be located in the future. Director Elliott stated that the Southwest Downtown Improvement Project curb and gutters have been installed and most of the sidewalks are complete and 90% of the storm drain is complete. He stated that the asphalt work should start in 2-3 weeks. Director Elliott informed Council that he contacted VDOT regarding some water issues in that area, and VDOT is looking into the issue to determine if they can provide any assistance. Director Elliott stated that the crew poured concrete at Robbins Ballpark, and they have completed approximately 2/3 of the project and placed some of the bleachers back in place.

Presentation of Police Activity Report

The Police Activity report was presented to Council.

Chief Ricky Wilkinson stated that he recently upgraded the officer's body armor. He stated that some of the armor is to be worn on the outside of the uniforms for a more tactical look. He stated that the Department of Justice has a grant that they may be eligible to be reimbursed for half of the cost for the body armor. He stated that the armor has to be upgraded every 5-6 years. Chief Wilkinson reported to Council that Car #33, the Dodge Charger, hit a deer while checking on lights at the airport. He stated that they are waiting on an estimate for the repair. He stated that Car #32, the 2009 Ford, has some knocking, and the mechanic stated the flywheel may be cracked, and the estimate to correct the problem is \$400. He stated that they are stripping out the equipment from the Intrepid to get it ready to sell. Chief Wilkinson reported that the Administrative Assistant, Carol Newcomb, was in Lynchburg Hospital having a second stint put in related to heart issues, but she is back to work. He also informed Council that he will be going out on medical leave to have gall bladder surgery on March 28th, 2013.

Council member Sizemore questioned who does the maintenance on the Police automobiles. Chief Wilkinson stated that Clarksville Tire provides the maintenance on the vehicles. Mayor Allgood stated that Clarksville Tire was awarded the bid to provide maintenance on the Police vehicles, and it is to be revisited annually.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update on Robbins Park

Council member Jurczyk stated that the Robbins Ballpark Improvements are 50% complete, and he anticipates completion by April 21st. He stated that he was approached by the Ruritan president about the Town not allowing golf carts on the Robbins Ballpark field during the Relay for Life. He stated that he was not aware of this. The golf carts are used to carry the cancer survivors that cannot walk. Mayor Allgood stated that the Relay for Life has used golf carts in the past, and they are allowed. Council member Jurczyk also stated that the Ruritan's are having a bronze plaque made to honor Paula Olson for her work with the Relay for Life. Council member Jurczyk stated that he got an estimate to have the signs remade for approximately \$900, but he is going to get more prices and see what can be done within the budget. He reported that the project is on budget. He stated that the next step is to paint the building, and then the Town will have to do the work inside and paint the floors. Council member Jurczyk feels that the next issue will be a gate. He stated that a gate was not part of the original budget, but the wall needs to be cut to allow for a 16' entrance. He stated that a couple of safety issues have come up, and the Dixie Youth have asked for some chain link fence to be installed near the dug outs to keep balls out of the dug outs and also some padding or paint needs to be placed around the light poles 6' up the sides since they are located inside the ballpark.

Mayor Allgood stated the \$3,000 estimated for the gate is not in the original budget. Treasurer Murphy stated that in addition to the \$300 in the line items, \$1,000 is in the CD for Recreation Improvements that can be put towards that expense. Council member Jurczyk does not want to commit any of the contribution from the Ruritans at this point. Mayor Allgood stated that the Council can authorize the project to proceed to include replacing the gate and funds could be appropriated at a later date.

Council member Hite motioned to proceed with the work to replace the gate, and the Town Council will appropriate the funds as needed, seconded by Council member Jurczyk, and approved by all.

Director Elliott informed Council that he received a request from the Dixie Youth to use the Town's backhoe for some maintenance at the ballpark. He stated that the individual who wants to use it is also a Town employee. Mayor Allgood stated that the Dixie Youth could use the Town's backhoe for maintenance to the ball field.

Rural Development Loan Resolution

Treasurer Murphy presented the Town Council with a loan resolution from Rural Development. She stated that Art Powers of Rural Development delivered the letter of conditions for the Rural Development funding for the Sewer Improvements on March 7th. She stated that Rural Development is providing a funding package of \$1,875,000 in loan funds at a rate of 1.875% for 40 years and grant funds of \$512,000. She stated that the Loan Resolution is required by Rural Development for the Town Council to adopt thereby authorizing the issuance of the debt and accepting the grant funds for the project.

Council member Sizemore motioned to adopt the loan resolution from Rural Development to authorize the issuance of \$1,875,000 in debt and accept the \$512,000 in grant funds for the Sewer Improvements project, seconded by Council member Clarke, and approved by all.

Resolution of the Governing Body

Treasurer Murphy also presented the Resolution of the Governing Body to Council and stated that the resolution is also required by Rural Development to designate who is authorized to sign the documents of the funding packet. She stated that normally this person is the Town Manager, and it will be at least 6 months before the loan will close, so the Town Manager will definitely be in place.

Council member Hite motioned to approve the Resolution of the Governing Body to designate the Town Manager as the person who is authorized to sign the documents for the Rural Development funding packet, seconded by Council member Jurczyk, and approved by all

Tax Sale/Seizures

Treasurer Murphy stated that the Town currently has a list of delinquent Real Estate taxes dating back to 2006-07 for some customers totaling \$5,005.53. She stated that Council is reviewing some of the other collection methods; however, the staff is asking Council if the Town could proceed with the next steps to pursuing collection of these taxes through a tax sale as the Town did back in 2007-08. She stated that the next step would be to contact the Town Attorney to see if the same agreement would be used again or if there would be any changes. Treasurer Murphy stated that the staff is asking for Council's permission to pursue the next steps for a tax sale.

Council member Sizemore motioned to allow the Town staff to pursue the next steps for collection of the outstanding real estate taxes through a tax sale, seconded by Council member Jurczyk, and approved by all.

Reconsider Special Use Permit

Mayor Allgood stated that he was approached regarding reconsidering the Special Use Permit request from last month. He stated that he talked with the Town Attorney, and the matter can be brought up again before Council if he receives a motion from a person that originally opposed the motion asking that the issue be considered again.

Council member Sizemore motioned for Council to reconsider the Special Use Permit request from the February meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Jurczyk, and the motion carried with a vote of three in favor and two opposed (Council members Hite and Nunn).

Council member Sizemore stated that the Special Use Permit request was for the person to repair guns in his shop. He stated that the person will not be selling guns unless a special request is received. He stated that the precedent was set in 1996 when the same type of request was granted for a residence on Buffalo Road. He stated that he feels he should have voted differently.

Council member Nunn does not feel that a gun shop is needed in a residential area. Council member Hite does not approve having any type of gun business in a residential area.

Council member Jurczyk motioned to grant the Special Use Permit request including the same 7 restrictions proposed by the Planning Commission, seconded by Council member Clarke. The motion carried with a vote of three in favor and two opposed (Council members Hite and Nunn).

NEW BUSINESS

Planning Commission Recommendation

Planning Commission Chair Linda Davenport informed the Council that the Planning Commission held a public hearing on the request from Mrs. Debbie Connolly to rezone the property at 1024 Virginia Avenue from B-1 to B-2 to allow for business use on the first floor and residential use on the second floor of the building. She stated that the only public comment came from Glenwood Talbott, who lives beside the property. She stated that the Planning Commission requests that the Town Council ask the Town Manager and staff to notify Mr. Talbott of any changes in the business type in the future. She also stated that the Planning Commission recommends approving the rezoning request for the property at 1024 Virginia Avenue from B-1 to B-2.

Council member Jurczyk motioned to grant the rezoning request for the property at 1024 Virginia Avenue from B-1 to B-2 and also for the Town to try to remember to notify Mr. Talbott in the future of changes at that location, seconded by Council member Clarke, and approved by all.

Budget Amendment – Robbins Ballpark Improvements

Treasurer Murphy stated that per Glenn Jurczyk's report last month, the Clarksville Ruritans have agreed to contribute \$25,000 to the Robbins Ballpark Improvements. If it pleases Council, we need to appropriate these funds into the budget and the offsetting expenditures to account for the Robbins Ballpark Improvements.

Council member Clarke motioned to appropriate the \$25,000 contribution from the Ruritans for the Robbins Ballpark Improvements and the offsetting expenditures to account for this project, seconded by Council member Sizemore, and approved by all.

Resolutions Honoring Bluestone High School Students

Council member Clarke presented three resolutions before the Town Council to recognize the Bluestone High School JV Boys Basketball team, the Bluestone High School Band, and the Bluestone High School JV Girls Basketball team.

Council member Clarke motioned to adopt a resolution to recognize and congratulate the Bluestone High School Band on being recognized as an All-Virginia Band by the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association, seconded by Council member Nunn, and approved by all.

Council member Clarke motioned to adopt a resolution to recognize and congratulate the Bluestone High School JV Girls Basketball team on winning the 2012-2013 Virginia High School League - A James River District Championship for the regular season, seconded by Council member Sizemore, and approved by all.

Council member Clarke motioned to adopt a resolution to recognize and congratulate the Bluestone High School JV Boys Basketball team on winning the 2012-2013 Virginia High School League - A James River District Championship for the regular season, seconded by Council member Hite, and approved by all.

Council member Clarke also recognized Bluestone High School Principal Kristy Somerville and Mecklenburg County Public School Superintendent Dr. James Thornton.

Opportunity for Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Kevin Allgood, Mayor

Tara Murphy, Treasurer/Clerk