

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 21, 2023

The Clarksville Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 21st, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Council members present were Mayor Bruce Woerner, Vice-Mayor Danny Pittard, Rick Buchanan, Robert Dennis, Tammy Mulchi, and Alexander Rawles. Council member Chris Clarke was absent. Staff members present were Town Manager Jeff Jones, Treasurer/Clerk Tara Murphy, Town Operations Director Richard Elliott, and Police Chief Ricky Wilkinson.

Call to Order

Mayor Bruce Woerner called the meeting to order and provided the invocation.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the February 21st, 2023 meeting were approved with no additions, deletions, or corrections with a motion by Council member Mulchi, seconded by Vice-Mayor Pittard, and approved by all.

Presentation of the List of Vendors

The list of vendors paid for February 2023 was presented to Council. Council member Buchanan motioned to approve the list of vendors paid for February 2023, seconded by Council member Rawles, and approved by all.

Presentation of Financial Statements

The financial statements for January and February were not presented due to some posting issues with the new software that are being addressed with the company representatives.

Opportunity for Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Presentation of Town Operation Reports

The Town Operations report was presented to Council.

Director Richard Elliott stated that the Rose Hill pump station pump motor is still being worked on as the first repair did not fix the issue. He stated that both pumps at 7th Street pump station stopped working. He stated that one pump can be rebuilt for \$16,000 and the other pump can be replaced for \$18,000 and both will have warranties. Vice-Mayor Pittard asked if the portable pump ran all the time. Director Elliott stated that it is designed to run off and on, not constantly. Director Elliott stated that leaves now have to be bagged and picked up with the garbage. He stated that brush pickup is in process now and the crew was almost caught up around town. He stated that the cemetery cleanup was finished today, but a contractor will be in the cemetery to cut some trees around the perimeter and the Town crew will get the debris. Director Elliott stated that there was a water line break on 5th Street. He informed Council that paving will be done on Carol Avenue and Virginia Avenue as well as Sunnyside Avenue and 3rd Street for potholes. Mayor Woerner asked if the pot holes at the Marina could be fixed also. Director Elliott stated that they would see if they have enough for the pot holes.

Presentation of the Police Activity Report

The Police Activity Report was presented to Council.

Officer Jenkins presented the Council with the flyer for the Eggcellent Adventure. He stated that 460 copies were made to go home with all of the elementary school kids of the county. He stated that all food, water and Kool-Aid is covered. He stated that all of the activities are worked out and he will be placing some special toys in the golden eggs as well as have prizes for the adults. Officer Jenkins also stated that the bounce houses will be on site as well. Chief Wilkinson stated that Officer Elliott completed the CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) so he will be able to serve in the hospitals to sit with patients. He stated that the entire department completed the radar recertification on the 28th. He stated that this recertification has to be done every 2 years. Chief Wilkinson stated that the department will also take the taser training recertification this month. Chief Wilkinson stated that he rode around Town to determine where the vultures are. He stated that people need to be reminded to close the lids on the dumpsters, and he will also use the flash bangs and green laser to chase them off the roost. Town Manager Jones stated that the staff will send letters to the dumpster customers about closing the lids. Chief Wilkinson also warned people to be aware of scams, especially the elderly. He stated that one person was caught. He also wanted to remind everyone that any online purchases should be made with a credit card.

Economic Development Update

Town Manager Jones stated that Tara Tuck, the Economic Development Coordinator, was not able to attend the meeting, but she submitted a report. He stated that she continues to work with the Chamber closely so as to not duplicate efforts for tourism. He stated that Mrs. Tuck continues to work with a graphic designer on town logo possibilities and the online map/shopping/dining guide. He stated that the steering committee is working diligently on the assignments required by the Main Street Program. He stated that the committee plans to apply for 2 grants in April, a way-finder/signage feasibility study and one for funding to implement a Mainstreet Façade Improvement matching program. He stated that a local photographer, Drew Taylor will be spending \$2,000 on a list of items to capture between May, June, and July. He stated that the Rack Card proof for Welcome Centers and Out-of-Towners is ready and it captures the essence of Clarksville, while reflecting the partnership with Virginia.org branding, the Chamber as our DMO, and Mecklenburg County Tourism by using language already in use by Mecklenburg County. He stated that Mrs. Tuck also partnered with the Chamber of Commerce to apply for a \$20,000 Virginia Tourism Corporation Marketing Leverage Grant and will find out in April if it is awarded.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Planning Commission – Town Council Member Appointment

Town Manager Jones stated that Council member Tammy Mulchi has asked to be replaced on the Planning Commission. He stated that the staff requests the Town Council to appoint another Town Council member to the Planning Commission. He stated that there is no term and the person would stay on the Planning Commission until they resign or are no longer on Town Council. He stated that Alexander Rawles has expressed interest in being on the Planning Commission. Vice-Mayor Pittard motioned to appoint Alexander Rawles to the Clarksville Planning Commission and it was seconded by Council member Dennis. The motion carried with a vote of 4 in favor and Council member Rawles abstained.

Sewer Plant Improvement Project Update

Town Manager Jones stated that last month Council approved the required loan resolution related to the permanent financing for the Sewer Improvement Loan/Grant. He stated that the resolution was executed and sent to Rural Development to enable the release of the closing instructions which will give the Town final authorization to go out to bid on the project. He stated that as of Monday, Rural Development issued the closing instructions which will allow the Town to go out for bids. He stated that the Town is also working with Benchmark Community Bank asking them to modify the term on the interim financing. Town Manager Jones informed Council that the Town received a grant for \$429,375 from ARPA funds through the Dept. of Environmental Quality that will be used for the collections system in Kinderton. He stated that the bid package will be in segmented parts to award parts as funds are available.

Update Search Grant – Water Plant Expansion

Town Manager Jones stated that the staff completed the compliance review needed to process the Search Grant for \$30,000 and it has been submitted to Rural Development. He stated that Rural Development will submit the \$30,000 funds in the next 7-10 days. He stated that Dewberry finalized the conditional assessment and Microsoft approved it and is moving forward with financing the next phases of the expansion.

Financial Software Implementation Update

Town Manager Jones stated that the staff worked with Edmunds and the software implementation is complete. He stated that the first utility billing is complete and the bills are being mailed out after a few data conversion problems that were resolved. Town Manager Jones thanked Lori Humphries as she was the project lead on the project and Tara Murphy and Donna Garland who all worked for the successful completion of this project.

Upcoming Events

Town Manager Jones presented the schedule of events. He stated that the Clarksville Community Players will perform "South Pacific" April 20-23. He stated that April 1st is the Eggcellent Adventure as well as the first Cruise-In and the Wine Festival is on April 8th from 12-5. He stated that on May 6th the Lake Life Live series begins.

Marina Lease Update

Town Manager Jones stated that the Town Council awarded the marina sublease and lease to Clarksville Marina LLC, Scott and Kristy Matthews. He stated that the leases have been updated and submitted to the Corps of Engineers as of April 1, 2023.

Property Purchase Update

Town Manager Jones stated that the staff closed on the sale of the YMCA property on April 28th and the deed has been recorded at the county.

Verizon Water Tower Lease Arrangement

Town Manager Jones stated that the Utilities Committee reviewed the request and do not agree with Verizon's offer. He stated that the Town notified Verizon and the staff will see how Verizon proceeds from here.

NEW BUSINESS

Airport Commission Reappointment

Town Manager Jones stated that Mike Denton approached the staff regarding the reappointment of Steve Rozek. He stated that Steve Rozek's term expired and he agrees to be appointed for an additional three-year term beginning July 1, 2022 and expiring June 30, 2025. Council member Rawles motioned to appoint Steve Rozek to the Airport Commission for an additional 3-year term ending June 30, 2025, seconded by Council member Dennis, and approved by all.

Dominion Power MOU Request

Town Manager Jones presented Council with a map, a memorandum of understanding, and the existing 1987 franchise agreement with Dominion Power. He stated that Dominion Power has requested approval of a memorandum of understanding to modify their franchise agreement with the Town of Clarksville which allows them to run power infrastructure through the town limits of Clarksville. He stated that the MOU is requesting to allow Dominion Power to add running fiber infrastructure through the Town on Dominion's existing power infrastructure. He stated that Dominion is providing the fiber backbone (middle mile) so that Empower (Mecklenburg Electric) can provide high speed internet (last miles) to residents of Mecklenburg County including some areas of Clarksville. Town Manager Jones stated that he discussed the MOU with the attorney and he feels that the MOU is not adequate to do what Dominion is trying to do. Town Manager Jones stated that he would have an update at the next meeting.

Closed Session

Mayor Woerner received a motion from Council member Buchanan that Clarksville Town Council convene in Closed Session pursuant to Virginia State Code section 2.2-3711(A) (1 & 3) to discuss items pertaining to personnel and property, seconded by Council member Mulchi, and approved by all.

After ending the Closed Session, Mayor Woerner took a roll call vote, as follows, verifying that Council only considered items that are lawfully exempt from the Freedom of Information Act and only items identified in the motion for the closed session.

Council member Rawles	Aye
Council member Buchanan	Aye
Council member Mulchi	Aye
Council member Dennis	Aye
Vice-Mayor Pittard	Aye

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Bruce F. Woerner, Mayor

Tara Murphy, Treasurer/Clerk