

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 18, 2023

The Clarksville Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 18th, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Council members present were Mayor Bruce Woerner, Vice-Mayor Danny Pittard, Rick Buchanan, Chris Clarke, Robert Dennis, Tammy Mulchi, and Alexander Rawles. 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 of the March 16th, 2023 were approved with no additions, deletions, or corrections with a motion by Council member Mulchi, seconded by Council member Buchanan, and approved by all.

The minutes from the March 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 March 2023 was presented to Council. Council member Rawles motioned to approve the list of vendors paid for March 2023, seconded by Council member Dennis, and approved by all.

Presentation of Financial Statements

The financial statements 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.

Town Manager Jones stated that Carol Avenue has been paved as well as Sunnyside Avenue and some patching was done on 4th and 3rd Street. He stated that the next patch area will be on Virginia Avenue. He stated that the Rose Hill pump station pump is in place today. He stated that both pumps at 7th Street pump station stopped working and the by-pass pump is working until the pumps can be repaired and replaced. Town Manager Jones stated that Truck #5 has had some heavy-duty repairs and the truck is still not running, so the staff has decided to retire this truck. He stated that Richard Elliott, Greg Cranfill, and William Leonard are attending the Virginia Rural Water conference earning continuing education hours. He stated that a tree service is coming to the cemetery to cut some trees as well as limbs overhanging into the cemetery.

Presentation of the Police Activity Report

The Police Activity Report was presented to Council.

Chief Wilkinson stated that Officer Flora is on the downhill swing of the academy after completing defensive driving. He stated that he will be trained in DUI and active shooter training next. Chief Wilkinson stated that all of the department is working on VCIN training for recertification. He stated that he has determined that the drawing point for the vultures is the open containers at Dollar General Market and they need to put lids on the dumpsters. He stated that he did see some at the 7-11 today and he continues to check the ballpark. Chief Wilkinson stated that the Cruise-In was very light due to the weather and the Wine Festival was rescheduled to May 27th. He stated that he is already preparing for Lake Fest. Officer Jenkins reported that the Eggcellent Adventure was a success even with the weather. He stated there were 200-300 in attendance and all the eggs were found. He stated that \$200 in donations was collected. Council member Mulchi stated that the event was great and Officer Jenkins and his wife did a great job and Clarksville is lucky to have them. Officer Jenkins stated that the next event he would like to hold is a movie night in Clarksville. He stated that he will contact the fire department and rescue to have the first responders present and he would like to hold the event at Robbins Ballpark. He stated that he wants to have bouncy houses, slides and an obstacle course for the event and use the community outreach funds to pay the expense. Officer Jenkins stated that the area churches are going to provide cotton candy and snow cones. He stated that he would like to hold the event on June 23rd and the rain date would be June 24th. Council member Mulchi motioned to hold the movie night event in Robbins Ballpark, seconded by Council member Buchanan, and approved by all.

Economic Development Update

Tara Tuck presented the graphic design for the new branding of Clarksville. She stated that with the new branding, she gave careful consideration to reflect a sense of place in the branding with the trees, the bridge, the buildings of the lakeside town, the Sun to pay homage to the former logo, the green land, the light blue/dark blue for the 2 rivers meeting the lake and the royal blue for the Buggs Island/Kerr Lake. She stated that she is working on two grants through Main Street; \$30,000 for the Wayfinding/Signage Assessment Study and \$100,000 to implement a Façade Improvement Match Grant Program. She stated that the rack cards were delivered to the Welcome Center in Bracey last month and the map/shopping/dining guide is still in the design phase. Mayor Woerner stated that Mrs. Tuck is requesting approval of the new logo. Vice-Mayor Pittard motioned to approve the new logo for the branding of Clarksville, seconded by Council member Mulchi, and approved by all.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Marina Lease Update

Town Manager Jones stated that the Matthews and the Corps of Engineers have executed the leases. He stated that the new owners will start April 1 with the Diamonds helping with the transition. He stated that the Corps of Engineers also included a supplemental agreement to be signed stating that they agree with who the Town chose for the sub-lease.

Sewer Plant Improvement Project Update

Town Manager Jones stated that the solicitation was put out and the bids are due back May 4th, 2023 by 2 p.m. He stated that the staff is working with Benchmark Community Bank to extend the term of the interim financing and he presented a resolution authorizing the extension of the financing for an additional 18 months. Vice-Mayor Pittard motioned to approve the resolution to authorize the extension of the interim financing for 18 months, seconded by Council member Buchanan, and approved by all.

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 will be released by Rural Development. He stated that the town staff, Dewberry, Utilities Committee, Microsoft, and Mecklenburg County have finalized the conditional assessment. He stated that Microsoft continues to work on approval and funding for the next phases of enhancements and expansion of the utilities project.

Financial Software Implementation Update

Town Manager Jones stated that the Edmunds software implementation is complete. He stated that the first utility billing is complete and the bills are mailed. He stated that the utility bills are correct. However, there are some issues with the posting of transactions to the general ledger and Treasurer Murphy is working diligently with Edmunds to resolve the issue so that accurate financial reports can be presented for approval.

Upcoming Events

Town Manager Jones presented the schedule of events. He stated that the Lake Life Live concerts start in May with the second Cruise In and then the Big Lake Flea Market will be May 13th. He stated that the Wine Festival was rescheduled to May 27th.

Planters Warehouse Update

Town Manager Jones stated that the contractor has resolved the issue with the storm drainage and are awaiting final approval from VDOT. He stated that once the approval is received, Haase will mobilize and continue work on the project.

Property Maintenance

Town Manager Jones stated that 14 properties have been identified, 2 addressed, 3 in-process and 9 still need to be addressed. He presented an example for the adoption of uniform codes and vacant building registration law in an effort to provide viable strategies to assist with the enforcement and repair of vacant buildings and structures. He stated that he talked with the Town Attorney about options to provide better policies to assist with inspection and access to vacant building and structures and to aid in the remediation and redevelopment of vacated buildings and properties. Town Manager Jones listed some options to deal with problem structures: zoning code violations; nuisance; dangerous or unsafe buildings; adopt uniform statewide building & maintenance code; spot blot abatement; and the EDA. He stated that a person cannot enter a structure unless there is evidence of a problem from a window or door. Town Manager Jones also stated that he is working with the local Fire Chief with the assistance of the State Fire Marshall on options for needed inspections and remediation of related violations of the state fire code. He asked the Council to review the handout and contact him with any questions.

Verizon Water Tower Lease Arrangement

Town Manager Jones stated that he contacted Verizon and they are looking at their options, and he is waiting to hear back from Verizon.

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 the attorney suggested that an ordinance would be needed in this situation. Town Manager Jones asked Dominion if they had any such ordinance and he is waiting to hear back from them.

Fire Truck Update

Town Manager Jones informed the Council that the Town should receive delivery of the new fire truck by mid-June. He informed Council that the town will have to float the loan three to four days until Rural Development can reimburse the invoice.

NEW BUSINESS

2023-2024 Budget

Town Manager Jones presented a tentative budget schedule. He stated that the Council will be briefed on the budget on May 23, 2023 before holding the public hearing and first reading on June 1, 2023 with the adoption on June 20, 2023.

Resolution – Janet Jones

Town Manager Jones presented a resolution to recognize Janet Jones for all of the contributions she had made to the Town and the community and to have a Janet Jones Day in Clarksville on May 6th, 2023. Council member Clarke motioned to approve the resolution to recognize Ms. Janet Jones and set May 6th, 2023 as "Janet Jones Day" in Clarksville, seconded by Council member Mulchi, and approved by all.

Other Updates

Town Manager Jones informed the Council that the engineers are in the final stages of the Marina Building engineering and design.

Town Manager Jones stated that he is working with Southside Planning District Commission on some possible funding for Phase I of the Cove Project.

Closed Session

Mayor Woerner received a motion from Council member Clarke 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 Buchanan, 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 Clarke	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