

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2023

The Clarksville Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 17th, 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 Tara Murphy, Public Utilities Director William Leonard, Public Works Director Walter Terry, 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 September 19th, 2023 regular meeting were approved with no additions, deletions, or corrections with a motion by Council member Buchanan, seconded by Council member Dennis, and approved by all.

Presentation of the List of Vendors

The list of vendors paid for September 2023 was presented to Council. Council member Rawles motioned to approve the list of vendors paid for September 2023, seconded by Vice-Mayor Pittard, and approved by all.

Presentation of Financial Statements

The financial statements for May 2023 were presented to Council. Council member Dennis motioned to approve the May 2023 financial statements, seconded by Council member Buchanan, and approved by all.

The financial statements for June 2023 were represented to Council. Council member Dennis motioned to approve the June 2023 financial statements, seconded by Vice-Mayor Pittard, and approved by all.

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 introduced Director of Public Works Walter Terry. Director Terry informed Council that there was a water line repair on Nero Street and sewer line repairs on Carol Avenue and Shiney Rock Road. He informed the Council that a new lawn mower was purchased for the Cemetery to replace a lawn mower that was leaking oil and would not run. Director Terry stated that leaf pickup for the Town will begin the second week of November on the 13th. He stated that the crew would follow the same route as in the past years. He informed Council that the old garbage truck is out of service until the brakes are repaired. Public Utilities Director William Leonard informed Council that a new pump was installed at 4th Street lift station. He stated that he continues to do flushing around Town, talking customers about their water and flushing those areas. Director Leonard stated that the Hwy 15 pump has been replaced and is back in service. He stated that the booster pump station needs some maintenance and, he is talking to a couple of vendors to help with the issue.

Director Leonard stated that an operator retired at the end of September and the staff is looking to hire a replacement.

Presentation of the Police Activity Report

The Police Activity Report was presented to Council.

Police Chief Ricky Wilkinson stated that Harvest Days, the Cruise In and Lake Life Live had great weather and very good crowds. Chief Wilkinson stated that Trick or Treat on the Avenue is coming up. He requested Council to approve that no one over 12 years of age can wear a costume mask and to set a curfew of 8 p.m. for trick or treating. Council member Mulchi motioned to approve the Halloween restrictions of no one over the age of 12 can wear a costume mask and the curfew is set for 8 p.m., seconded by Council member Rawles, and approved by all. Chief Wilkinson stated that most of the officers have completed the CIT training, and he would be the last one to get this certification. He stated that the next training will be fire arms training to qualify. Chief Wilkinson informed Council that the shed has been installed at the department. Chief Wilkinson stated that the Town purchased a new Dodge Durango to be used as the K9 vehicle for Officer Darrick Dillon. He stated that the department received an upgrade in the body cameras as part of the agreement with Axon. Council member Buchanan stated that there were more tickets than warnings this month. Chief Wilkinson stated that people are speeding as high as 60 mph on the business bridge. He stated that later he would like to talk to the Town Manager about crosswalks. Council member Buchanan asked what "Price altering" was, and Chief Wilkinson stated that it is shoplifting.

Economic Development Update

Economic Development Coordinator Tara Tuck informed the Council that she established a Historic Downtown Clarksville Tourism booth at the Virginia Avenue Mall to sell the "Clarksville on the Lake" decals and travel mugs as a secondary place to the Town hall. She informed Council that Andrea Burke has agreed to provide a water color of the Clarksville Love sign to be used on other merchandise such as apparel, postcards, note-pads, etc. She stated that logo hats with the Clarksville logo are forthcoming. She stated that the vendor will be working to update the Clarksville website through the New Year. Mrs. Tuck stated that through collaboration with Justin Eubank, Heather Hite, and artist Christine Youman, public art/map/signage will be placed on the wall of Hite's facing 3rd Street to show a map of Clarksville's downtown. She stated that the new social media platforms have been created on Facebook and Instagram and they are featuring a throwback picture once a week. She asked everyone to please like, share, and follow each platform. Mrs. Tuck stated that she met with the Halifax County Tourism Director and the Town of Halifax to discuss opportunities for collaboration and cross promotion and thanked them for participating in the Virginia Travel Guide. She stated that they have a 14-person shuttle that rents for \$40 per hour that people can reserve to travel to local shops, wineries, etc. She informed the Council that the Town Main Street program was awarded both of the Department of Housing & Community Development Grants. She stated that the grants are a \$30,000 Virginia Community Vitality Grant: Clarksville Wayfinding Assessment Project and the \$100,000 Virginia Business District Resurgence Grant: Clarksville Façade Improvement Match Program. She stated that she and Town Manager Jones will develop the criteria for the grant and once the MOU is signed, the Town will have 12 months to spend the funds. Mrs. Tuck stated that they have already approached the businesses earlier in the year so that they would be shovel ready once the funds are available. She informed Council that she will be attending the DHCD Mainstreet Development Ready Workshop in October. Mrs. Tuck also informed Council about a local vendor with metal art at Sandy Fork Farm Supply.

Mayor Woerner suggested having something placed on the Council Chambers wall for pictures.

Town Manager Jones thanked Director Terry and Director Leonard for working so well in the transition, and Chief Wilkinson for all of the help and work on the events in the Town. He also thanked Tara Tuck for her work with tourism and the Mainstreet program.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Marina Lease Update

Town Manager Jones stated that the staff is talking to the architect to make a couple of changes to the plans and specifications. He stated that once the changes are made, they will develop the construction RFP.

Sewer Plant Improvement Project Update

Town Manager Jones stated that WACO was in the area looking at the site and they will mobilize sometime next week. He stated that the notice to proceed is dated 10/23/23 for both WACO and Harman Saunders Construction. He stated that Harman Saunders is doing some preliminary work excavating some sewer lines at Kinderton and making repairs before the linings will be installed beginning in January. Town Manager Jones stated that the staff is working with Rural Development to make sure the permanent financing starts once the interim financing is exhausted.

Update – Water Plant Expansion

Town Manager Jones stated that Dewberry, the Utilities Committee, Microsoft, and Mecklenburg County continue to work on the engineering and plans for the water plant expansion and the water and sewer line replacement projects that include pump station upgrades and the construction of the water tank farms. He stated that the design for Lakeside and Boyd's corner pump stations is 95% complete and they are still working to finalize the easement with 7Eleven and the property owners at Boyd's Corner. He stated that the plan is to bid this part out in November. Town Manager Jones stated that the bids for the elevated tanks and the tank farm are due back November 16th at the county. He stated that the meetings with VDOT and VDH for the Hwy 58 Business water and sewer line replacement continue as the structural engineers continue to work on the loading models with VDOT to work out some discrepancies for the replacement of the utilities on the bridge. He stated that the anticipated bid process will be March 2024 and the construction time is 18 months.

Financial Software Implementation Update

Town Manager Jones stated that some issues continue to come up that have to be worked out with the financial software and Treasurer Murphy is working to finish the outstanding months now that some other items are finished.

Upcoming Events

Town Manager Jones presented the schedule of events. He stated that the Double Nickel players are planning their next mystery dinner theater October 20, 21, and 22nd. He stated that the Veteran's Day observance is November 10th and the Clarksville Players will hold Hallelujah Girls later in November. Town Manager Jones stated that the Clarksville Open House is November 19th and the Grand Illumination is November 26th at 6 p.m. He stated that the Community Thanksgiving Dinner returns this year on November 22nd.

Planters Warehouse Update

Town Manager Jones stated that the contractor has been working on the final footings for the buildings and the concrete slabs for the buildings.

Fire Truck Update

Town Manager Jones informed the Council that the fire truck is here. He stated that the staff is working with Rural Development and hope to close the loan this week.

Cove Project Update

Town Manager Jones stated that the Town is working with SPDC on the RFP to secure an engineer for this project. Council member Mulchi questioned if there was a committee formed to work on the Cove Project and what is the Town engineering. Town Manager Jones stated that the committee has not been formed yet and the engineers will work on the design that was laid out for the dock system and walkways to the docks. Council member Mulchi questioned who decided what made up Phase I of the Cove Project. Town Manager Jones stated that a piece of the originally planned Cove Project was set aside to be Phase I, and the Council agreed to apply for the DCR grant with this part. Council member Mulchi stated that she has heard some concerns from property owners in the Cove and feels the residents should be addressed and felt the committee would do this. Town Manager Jones stated that the Council can meet with the residents, but the design cannot change tremendously as this design has already been approved to some degree by the Corps of Engineers and it was what was used to get the grant. He stated that the grant time frame has already started. He stated that the dock system will not affect the residents' docks. Council member Buchanan questioned the difference in the docks and why the side walk goes to 3rd Street. Town Manager Jones stated that the dock design meets the Corps of Engineers standards. He stated that the sidewalk goes to 3rd Street because that was part of the original design, but that part does not have to be done. Council member Buchanan questioned why no steps were included to the docks. Town Manager Jones stated that no steps were included to make it handicap accessible. Council member Mulchi feels the Town should form a committee to discuss the Cove Project before anything else is done and motioned to this effect. Council member Buchanan seconded the motion. Council member Dennis stated that the application has been made and the funds awarded and he doesn't feel the Town needs to wait any longer to start the project. Council member Rawles stated that he is not opposed to a committee, but he wants to make sure that the committee cannot make changes. Council member Mulchi stated that the residents' concerns need to be addressed and the Council needs to determine how to do that. Vice-Mayor Pittard stated that he is going to abstain from any discussions because he is part of the Cove and his family has concerns about the way it is designed currently, but they are not opposed to the Cove Project. Town Manager Jones stated that the Council passed a resolution when the application was sent in for the grant. Council member Mulchi stated that if a resolution was passed, the Council needs to move forward and she withdrew her motion.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Bruce F. Woerner, Mayor

Tara Murphy, Treasurer/Clerk