

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 19, 2024

The Clarksville Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 19, 2024. Council members present were Mayor Bruce Woerner, Rick Buchanan, Pat Charles, Robert Dennis, and Alexander Rawles. Vice-Mayor Danny Pittard and Council member Chris Clarke were absent. Staff Members present were Town Manager Jeff Jones, Treasurer Tara Murphy, Public Works Director Walter Terry, Public Utilities Director William Leonard, and Police Chief Ricky Wilkinson.

Call to Order

Mayor Woerner called the Town Council meeting to order and provided the invocation. He stated that Clarksville has lost 4 individuals recently and asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Bob Howerton, Glenna Nunn, Janet Jones, and Barbara Martin.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 20th, 2024 joint Planning Commission and Town Council meeting were approved with no additions, deletions, or corrections with a motion by Council member Dennis, seconded by Council member Buchanan, and approved by all.

Presentation of List of Vendors Paid

The list of vendors paid for February 2024 was presented to Council. Council member Rawles motioned to approve the list of vendors paid for February 2024, seconded by Council member Charles, and approved by all.

Presentation of Financial Statements

The financial statements for January 2024 were presented to Council. Council member Rawles motioned to approve the financial statements for January 2024, seconded by Council member Dennis, and approved by all.

The financial statements for February 2024 were presented to Council. Council member Buchanan motioned to approve the financial statements for February 2024, seconded by Council member Charles, and approved by all.

Resilient Pathways – Suzanna LoMango

Suzanna LoMango presented Council with information on the organization that she and Christine Pennington started that is located at 126 N. Main Street, Chase City, VA. She stated that the organization works to reset negative behaviors by uplifting youth, empowering families, and transforming communities. She stated that they offer programs for positive changes such as life coaching, family & youth mentorship programs, parenting & family unity classes, life skills, and truancy prevention. Ms. LoMango stated that the organization also offers three 1-week classes over the summer for rising 4th to 8th grade students.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Presentation of Town Operation Reports

The Town Operations report was presented to Council.

Public Works Director Walter Terry stated that the crew repaired water leaks on Buffalo Road, Hwy 15, and Forest Hill, and also worked on the Fine Arts Center water meter. He stated that the crew has been working on the lot clean up at the Marina to get ready for the new building. He stated that the annual cemetery clean-up will go from March 18th to the 31st. He stated that the public can return their items April 1st. Town Manager Jones stated that this will give the residents more notice. Director Terry informed Council that he will be going out on March 27th to have shoulder surgery. Public Utilities Director William Leonard stated that the annual CCR report has been done and it will be published in the newspaper as well as placed on the Town of Clarksville website, www.clarksvilleva.org. He stated that Southern Corrosion conducted the water tank inspections with no issues. He stated that Rose Hill pump station and Forest Hill St. pump station are back in service. Director Leonard stated that Hwy 15 also has a pump that needs repair and that work may be under warranty. He stated that the training of the new employees at the Waste Plant is going well. He stated that they are working to get ready for the upgrade to begin.

Presentation of the Police Activity Report

The Police Activity Report was presented to Council.

Chief Wilkinson stated that Sergeant Jenkins plans the Eggcellent Adventure on March 23rd weather permitting. He stated that the first Cruise In will be April 6th, the Wine Festival on April 13th, and then the first Lake Life Live will be May 4th and then the Chamber will hold the Big Lake Flea Market. Chief Wilkinson stated that the department is working with Benchmark bank to hold "Lunch and Learn" to help inform people and businesses of possible scam tactics such as prepaid cards. Chief Wilkinson stated that he spoke with the Lawson family and they are excited about the memorial highway project. He stated that he is looking at naming a section of highway instead of a bridge. Chief Wilkinson stated that he wants to name Virginia Avenue and Hwy 58 Business from Hwy 15 to CVS. Town Manager Jones stated that the Council will have to approve a resolution and purchase the signs and get them installed. Chief Wilkinson stated that he would like to put the badge #12 on the sign with the name. Chief Wilkinson informed Council that the police report mileage has been updated.

Economic Development Update

Town Manager Jones stated that Economic Development Coordinator Tara Tuck is at a meeting in Wake Forest. He stated that she applied for an additional \$20,000 tourism marketing grant and will find out if it is awarded in April. He stated that work is ongoing on upgrading the Town website and migrating content. He stated that the tourism website is live. He stated that the mural project sponsored by Mecklenburg County Tourism has been passed to another property owner and the installation is expected to be completed by the summer tourism season. He stated that the Chamber of Commerce is considering doing a mural also. Town Manager Jones stated that the Johnny Folsom band at the Fine Arts Center was a success. He stated that the marketing materials, the postcards and note cards are moving well in the retail stores and she is still working on the t-shirts/hats design. He stated that with the Main Street program, about \$800K in private investment has been spent between 2nd and 8th Street and this is needed in order to remain a part of the Main Street Program. He stated that several properties/buildings have begun work under the façade improvement grant. He stated that she is working with the consulting firm on mapping the area and determining the best placement for signage in and around Town and developing parking areas. Town Manager Jones stated that she is also working with the AARP on a historic preservation project in relation to the turn around area.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Marina Building Update

He stated that the staff received only two bids and they are working with the low bidder to get back to within the budget for the project.

Sewer Plant Improvement Project Update

Town Manager Jones stated that WACO has mobilized to the site and will begin the reactor excavation this week. He stated that they have submitted change orders for the digester. He stated that the sludge pumps at the plant need work too. Town Manager Jones stated that J. Harman Saunders has started the KCC project working behind Kinderton Manor replacing sewer lines and had to isolate some issues and remediate a main line there as well as work on the pump station.

Update Water Plant Expansion & Distribution System Upgrades

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 Lakeside and Boyd's corner pump stations easements have gotten to the right people with 7Eleven and the property owners at Boyd's Corner so they can be signed soon, and construction will start in April. He stated that Mecklenburg County held a pre-construction meeting for the tank farms and the construction will start in April 2024. Town Manager Jones stated that H. G. Reynolds was awarded the ground storage tank bid and they plan to start in June 2024. He stated that Dewberry is waiting for final approval from VDOT and the Corps of Engineers for the design for the Hwy 58 Bridge utilities and the construction will be in the summer of 2024. He stated that the water plant expansion design is in process.

VA Brownfield – Site Assessment & Planning Grant Update

Town Manager Jones stated that the firm plans to be on site April 8th to begin the final assessment of the Burlington property.

Planters Warehouse Update

Town Manager Jones stated that the contractor continues to make progress on the construction and estimates completion is summer 2024.

Cove Project - Update

Town Manager Jones stated that the team met with the Corps of Engineers. He stated that Dewberry is working on permitting and licensure. He stated that they are working on surveying and the preliminary design to have that completed by August of 2024.

Calendar of Events & Tentative Road Closure Schedule

Town Manager Jones presented a list of the upcoming events and the road closure schedule.

NEW BUSINESS

Mural on Chamber of Commerce Building

Town Manager Jones stated that the Chamber of Commerce wants to put a mural on the side of the Chamber building and is asking for permission from the Town to place a mural on the side of the building. He stated that the building is natural brick and he does not recommend painting the brick. He stated that if the Council agrees to do this, there are some other materials that could be mounted to the side of building instead of painting the building. Council member Rawles stated that he feels the Town Council should have input into what is placed on the Chamber building because it is a Town building and Council member Charles agreed. Town Manager Jones asked who would like to serve on the committee for the development of the mural. Council member Charles stated that she would serve on the committee.

Council member Charles motioned to approve the placement of a mural on material to be attached to the Town Chamber of Commerce building that is representative of Clarksville with the Town Council having final approval of the art work, seconded by Council member Dennis, and approved by all.

2024-2025 Budget Calendar

Town Manager Jones presented Council with a tentative Budget calendar with the first budget requests received at the April 16th meeting, the first draft presented May 21st for Council's review and to publish in the paper, with public input at a special June 6th meeting and with final approval at the June 18th 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 Rawles, 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 Charles	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