

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 16, 2024

The Clarksville Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 16, 2024. Council members present were Mayor Bruce Woerner, Vice-Mayor Danny Pittard, Rick Buchanan, Pat Charles, Robert Dennis, 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, Economic Development Coordinator Tara Tuck, and Police Chief Ricky Wilkinson.

Call to Order

Mayor Woerner called the Town Council meeting to order and provided the invocation. He asked for a moment of silence in memory of Steve Herman.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 18th, 2024 Town Council meeting were approved with no additions, deletions, or corrections with a motion by Council member Rawles, seconded by Council member Buchanan, and approved by all.

Presentation of List of Vendors Paid

The list of vendors paid for June 2024 was presented to Council. Council member Dennis motioned to approve the list of vendors paid for June 2024, seconded by Vice-Mayor Pittard, and approved by all.

Presentation of Financial Statements

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

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Presentation of Town Operation Reports

The Town Operations report was presented to Council.

Public Utilities Director William Leonard stated that the Public Works crew repaired 3 water leaks and performed sewer lateral cleanouts as well. He stated that the trash truck is down. He stated that the crew is working hard to prepare the Town for Lake Fest. Director Leonard stated that they still continue to work with the contractor on the Waste Plant upgrade. He stated that the crew continues the lift station maintenance and is getting ready to install the pump back in Mill Village lift station.

Presentation of the Police Activity Report

The Police Activity Report was presented to Council.

Police Chief Wilkinson stated that the July 4th parade was a good event with a good crowd. He stated that the Lake Life Live was well attended with no issues and the Cruise In had good participation. He stated that he will have part time officer help for Lake Fest. Chief Wilkinson stated that the department participated in an active shooter event hosted by the Clarksville Vol. Fire Dept. and he stated that it was a good experience. He stated that Mayor Woerner approached him about setting a town wide speed limit of 25 mph unless otherwise posted and they were in agreement to proceed with the speed limit change. Town Manager Jones stated that he talked with the VDOT representative. He stated that the representative will work with their engineers and submit the request to make the change.

Economic Development Update

Tara Tuck reported to Council that the VA Tourism Corp. 2024 travel guide sold out and the town received a grant to help offset the cost for the participants in the 2025 edition. She stated that the new Town magnets are in and on sale at the booth in the VA Avenue Mall. She stated that the Justin Cody Fox Band is coming to the Fine Arts Center on October 5th. Mrs. Tuck stated that the 2025 Brochure is at the printer and should be available soon. She stated that the new Destination Development Manager Lisa Tharpe of the Virginia Travel Corporation came to Clarksville with two Welcome Center Directors to tour Clarksville shops and amenities to be able to share the information with travelers. She stated that she is working with the LoyalBrew.com trail app company to develop a Wine, Brew and Whiskey Trail in the area and Tina Morgan uploaded the MeckVAMural Trail to the app. Mrs. Tuck also stated that she is working with Halifax County to shuttle folks into Halifax County from Woodbine Winery as the starting and ending point with stops at the Factory Street Brewing for lunch and then to Springfield Distillery. She stated that the cost for the shuttle ride with lunch and 3 tastings is \$30 and this will start on August Fridays from 11:30 am to 4 pm. Mrs. Tuck also stated that she is working with Chris Doss of Occoneechee State Park on the possibilities to bring an 18-hole disc golf course to the park. She reported to Council that she will be attending the Virginia Rural Leadership Institute conference in Bristol, Abington, and Marion later this week.

Tara Tuck reported that the Historic Downtown Clarksville (HDC) received a \$60,000 grant for the Small Area Revitalization Project (SmARP) for the Historic Downtown Master Plan consultation. She stated that the RFP will go out in August. She stated that HDC received the \$22,500 Main Street/DHCD Community Vitality Grant for Wayfinding Implementation sign fabrication and installation. Several properties//buildings in the downtown have taken advantage of the Façade Improvement grant match program. She stated that the work continues with the consulting firm for the Wayfinding Assessment on mapping the area and determining the type and the best placement of signage in and around Town. She stated that the application for Phase III has been submitted. She stated that the Bubble UP Clarksville continues on Saturdays at some of the businesses along Virginia Avenue.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Marina Building Update

Town Manager Jones stated that the contractor has the 4 walls almost complete and is working on the flooring. He stated that the marina operators joined Mayor Woerner and myself to look at samples for the exterior block and the bath fixtures. He stated that Dominion will move the power in a couple of weeks.

Sewer Plant Improvement Project Update

Town Manager Jones stated that the Town has almost exhausted the loan funds and will begin using the grant funds. He stated that the DEQ grant is almost done and the Kinderton part of the project is 80% complete. He stated that WACO has completed the reactor and began accumulating water into it in order to do testing.

They continue to do repairs to the clarifier and get prices for the muffin monster. He stated that Dominion still needs to move the power from the old lift station to the new one. He stated that Harman Saunders needs to replace a manhole.

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 easement was signed and recorded, but the property owners discovered an issue in the wording and the attorneys are working on the issue. He stated that the contractor is grading and leveling the property for the tank farm and a preliminary water connection has been made to begin to fill the tanks. He stated that Dewberry is working on the redesign of the Hwy 58 water and sewer lines and will submit them to the Corps of Engineers and VDOT for final approval. He stated that the water plant expansion design is in process.

Enterprise Zone

Town Manager Jones stated that an Enterprise Zone program is a partnership between state and local government that encourages job creation and private investment. The program accomplishes this by designating Zones throughout the state and providing two grant-based incentives, the Job Creation Grant and the Real Property Investment Grant, to qualified investors and job creators with the zones, while the locality provides local incentives. He stated that here there are state, county and local incentives that can be used in the Mecklenburg County Enterprise Zone. He stated that currently, the Town is working with Southside Planning District Commission to make modifications to the zone.

Planters Warehouse Update

Town Manager Jones stated that the contractor continues to work the plumbing and the interior from back to front, but has not finished the HVAC. Council member Buchanan questioned if the building has to be complete before the apartments can be leased? Town Manager Jones stated that the developer would need the certificate of occupancy before the apartments can be leased.

Cove Project - Update

Town Manager Jones presented the 50% design plans from Dewberry for the Town Council's review. He stated that he will be meeting with the engineers next week about the completion of the design. He stated that the next step would be to work on the permitting process. Town Manager Jones stated that if any Council member has any questions or issues, to let him know.

Calendar of Events

Town Manager Jones presented a list of the upcoming events and the road closure schedule. He stated that Lake Fest starts Friday. He stated that Hwy 58 Business will close from 2nd to 3rd Street at 10 a.m. to set up the Ferris wheel. He stated that after that, from 3rd to 7th will be closed to allow for the first half of the vendors to set up for the event.

NEW BUSINESS

EDA Reappointments

Town Manager Jones stated that Charles F. Simmons and James H. Moody have come to the end of their terms with the EDA and have agreed to serve an additional term. He requested that the Town Council reappoint the two for an additional term ending June 3, 2028. Council member Buchanan motioned to reappoint Charles F. Simmons and James H. Moody to serve an additional term on the Clarksville EDA ending June 3 2028, seconded by Council member Dennis, and approved by all.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned after a motion by Vice-Mayor Pittard, seconded by Council member Dennis, and approved by all.

Bruce F. Woerner, Mayor

Tara Murphy, Treasurer/Clerk