

# TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2025

The Clarksville Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 18, 2025. Council members present were Mayor Bruce Woerner, Vice-Mayor Danny Pittard, Rick Buchanan, Pat Charles, Chris Clarke, Robert Dennis, and Alexander Rawles. Staff members present were Town Manager Jeff Jones, Treasurer Tara Murphy, Police Chief Ricky Wilkinson, and Economic Development Coordinator Tara Tuck.

## Call to Order

Mayor Woerner called the Town Council meeting to order and provided the invocation.

## Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 Town Council 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 List of Vendors Paid

The list of vendors paid for January 2025 was presented to Council. Council member Charles motioned to approve the list of vendors paid for January 2025, seconded by Council member Dennis, and approved by all.

## Presentation of Financial Statements

The financial statements for January 2025 were presented to Council. Vice-Mayor Pittard motioned to approve the financial statements for January 2025, seconded by Council member Rawles, and approved by all.

## Friends of Occoneechee State Park – John Taylor

John Taylor stated that he is the President of the Friends of Occoneechee State Park. He stated that the group started to support the park rangers to provide a safe place to go for the community. He stated that they volunteer hours in the park and raise funds to help the park. He stated that the group has two proposed projects for 2025, an ADA compliant fishing pier and a disc golf course. Mr. Taylor stated that the pier is on contract and is progressing getting all of the necessary approvals for the project. He stated that they already have a designer for the disc golf course and that project is also going through the approval process. He stated that these two projects are being funded by donations and grants as well as help from the VFW and Microsoft. Mr. Taylor stated this year the park will host "Music in the Park" again this year and the VFW has been the primary sponsor for this event. He stated that if a person has an annual pass to the park, the music is free. Mr. Taylor stated that the group is always looking for more volunteers. He stated that the group is also working with the Lions Club on a vision impaired event for the community. Mayor Woerner asked where the fishing pier will go and Mr. Taylor stated that the pier will be at the end of the road that goes by the visitor center.

## Public Comment

Michelle Hector of the Mecklenburg County YMCA presented a picture of a former Mayor for the frame on the wall. She stated that the YMCA has 909 members now and had a very good January and February. She stated that the Y purchased a new stair master and leg press. She stated that Casino Night has been moved to the YMCA building due to the weather.

## Town Operation Reports

The Town Operations report was presented to Council.

Town Manager Jones stated that both Director William Leonard and Director Walter Terry could not be at the meeting. He stated that the Public Works Department was able to take down the Christmas tree today and was working to get ready for the upcoming weather. He stated that the department has been busy with water and sewer line repairs for leaks. He stated that the cemetery cleanup will be from 3/16 to 4/1. He also informed the Council and the public that leaf pickup will end on 2/28/25 and any remaining leaves will have to be bagged and put out with the regular garbage. He stated that both trash trucks have been out of service for repairs and the newest truck is now back in service and the Town hopes to have the other truck back next week. Town Manager Jones stated that Public Utilities Director William Leonard continues to perform lift stations maintenance due to issues with the cold weather. He stated that they had a repair at the Hwy 58 water intake structure for a leak in the valves and a tee inside. He stated that the control system had to be repaired at the Springfield Place lift station. Town Manager Jones also stated that the 6" water line under the Hwy 58 Business bridge has a leak and they are working to get it repaired. He stated that there was also a repair in the air vacuum system in a manhole on Commerce Street.

## Police Activity Report

The Police Activity Report was presented to Council.

Chief Ricky Wilkinson informed Council that Justin Thornton is in week 7 of the Police Academy now participating in firearms training, defensive tactics and driving. He stated that Officer Duckworth is attending an Advanced DUI class. Chief Wilkinson stated that the department will go live with E-Citations on 2/26. He stated that the citations have to be to the courthouse by the end of each day via a drop box. Town Manager Jones stated that the approval letters were received from Halifax County and Mecklenburg County for the Glen Lawson memorial. He stated that the VDOT commission met today to vote on the request. Town Manager Jones stated that he would meet with VDOT about the positioning of the signs and then work to get the dedication ceremony set up with the family.

## Economic Development Update

Mrs. Tara Tuck stated that the 2025 Virginia Travel Guide is out now and Clarksville is featured on 8 pages in this issue. She presented the Clarksville branded trucker hat that sells for \$25 and it is available at Hite's, the Virginia Avenue Mall and Town Hall. She stated that in March, the Virginia Welcome Center in Bracey is holding a Tourism Blitz to showcase the Town wares and she is collecting items to showcase. Mrs. Tuck stated that the Department of Housing & Community Development DHCD and Southside Planning District Commission are investigating opportunities for the Blank's building, possibly funding for environmental and feasibility studies. Mrs. Tuck presented a resolution to designate the Clarksville on the Lake as the Destination Marketing Organization for the Town of Clarksville. Town Manager Jones asked Council for action on the resolution to designate Clarksville on the Lake as the Destination Marketing Organization for the Town of Clarksville. He stated that it was a conflict of interest for the Chamber of Commerce to be the DMO because it only promoted its members rather than all businesses. Council member Clarke motioned to adopt the resolution to designate Clarksville on the Lake as the Destination Marketing Organization for the Town of Clarksville, seconded by Council member Buchanan, and approved by all.

Tara Tuck stated that she's wrapping up the Virginia Tourism Corp. 2024 DMO Marketing Grant for this year and gathering information for the reimbursement as well as working on the 2025 DMO Marketing Grant application. She stated that the Town website will be ready by early March. She stated that she attended a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event for Virginia Main Street and that only 28 communities in Virginia are part of Virginia Main Street. She stated that the HDC website, [downtownclarksvilleva.com](http://downtownclarksvilleva.com) is live now. She stated that the HDC received \$45,000 additional grant funds to be used for the Façade Improvement project and the cap will be \$10,000 match this time. He stated that HDC is waiting on 3 quotes for Gateway signs for the Wayfinding Implementation grant.

She stated that HDC is having the 1<sup>st</sup> annual You are the Heart of Downtown Clarksville business appreciation event on February 24<sup>th</sup> at Bridgewater Bar & Grill. She stated the HDC took over the lampposts decorating as part of Beautification and the next one will be a Spring Lamp Post decorating event. Mrs. Tuck stated that she is continuing reporting and information gathering for grant compliance.

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## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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### Marina Building Update

Town Manager Jones stated that the contractor is working on the first floor installing cabinets, painting and interior finish work is in process. He stated the laminate floors are installed. He stated that the contractor is installing the external siding and rails and painting the exterior metal and boxing in the eaves and installing the roof. He stated that the bathroom and shower tiles have been installed and the epoxy floors have been poured and finished and the bathroom finish work is underway and they plan to install the fixtures next week. Town Manager Jones stated that the second-floor sheet rock and the drop ceilings as well as the painting of the walls and interior finish work are underway.

### Sewer Plant Improvement Project Update

Town Manager Jones stated that the Town exhausted the project loan funds and began using the grant funds. He stated that the DEQ grant funds have also been exhausted, and the new Kinderton lift station part of the project is complete. He stated that currently WACO and the sub-contractors installed the grit collector and auger and plans the start-up February 23<sup>rd</sup>. He stated the contractor has installed all handrails and slide gates to the new reactor, and the reactor mixer startup is scheduled for the last week in February. He stated that the contractors completed the new blower room including the installation of the electrical system, Scada system, and the control systems for the blower room. He stated that WACO and the sub-contractors continue to work on the round digester and it has been drained and a new drop leg was installed so it is ready to be put back in production. He stated that the UV system replacement is the next item to be addressed. He stated that the Town staff and Harman Saunders are working on a control system issue at the new Kinderton Pump Station and the pump station remains in operation. He stated that the problem appears to be related to a phase fail when the weather is below freezing. He stated that system diagnostics are being reviewed as well as the system setting to try to isolate and correct the problem.

### 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 WACO completed the preliminary site preparation for Boyd's Corner lift station and continues to work on the access issues for the installation of a pre-fabricated building at the Lakeside pump station site which includes changes to the fencing and the road to allow crane access. Town Manager Jones stated that the foundation work is complete, and construction is scheduled for March 2025. He stated that the tank painting is scheduled for late June 2025 and the electrical is scheduled to be completed in mid-July 2025. He stated that the tank materials and parts arrived in early February and the pumps and panels will arrive in early March. He stated that all of the site pipe work is complete. He stated that installation of the bypass water connection to the data center property is complete. Town Manager Jones stated that the tank erection should begin in mid-April. He stated that substantial completion of the booster station is estimated to be June 2025 and substantial completion of the ground storage tanks is November 2025. He stated that Dewberry continues to work 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.

## Cove Project Update

Town Manager Jones stated that due to sickness, the meeting with the property owners has been changed to next week.

## Planters Warehouse (Royster Project) Update

Town Manager Jones stated that the contractor is finishing the exterior siding and painting and installing the HVAC units is underway as well as the exterior rails, the decking and lights, and the security systems. He stated that contractor continues the installation of the counters, sinks, cabinets, refrigerators, ranges, washer/dryers, dishwashers, and microwaves. He stated that the contractor completed the work on the storm drainage dog-house to connect the site storm drainage to the town storm system under the sidewalk and is currently working on the water and sewer connections. He stated that the contractor and the developer continue to work on the final grading and stabilization at the rear of the property. He stated that Pointe Realty has been contracted to handle the marketing and managing of the leases. Town Manager Jones stated that 9 units have been leased.

## Upcoming Events

Town Manager Jones stated that the Clarksville Community Players will have “Fiddler on the Roof” showing beginning March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the New Birth Car Club will begin the cruise-ins the first Saturday in April. He stated that the wine festival is scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the first Lake Life Live will be May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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## NEW BUSINESS

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## Budget 2025-2026

Town Manager Jones presented a tentative 2025-2026 Budget schedule.

## Closed Session

Mayor Woerner received a motion from Vice-Mayor Pittard 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 Clarke, 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 Dennis	Aye
Council member Buchanan	Aye
Vice-Mayor Pittard	Aye
Council member Charles	Aye
Council member Clarke	Aye

## Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Bruce F. Woerner, Mayor

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Tara Murphy, Treasurer/Clerk