

**A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE TOWN COUNCIL  
OF THE TOWN OF LURAY, PAGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2014**

The Luray Town Council met in regular session on Monday, November 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Luray Town Council Chambers located at 45 East Main Street, Luray, Virginia at which time there were present the following:

**Presiding:** Mayor Barry Presgraves

**Council Present:** Ronald Vickers  
Pam Flasch  
Jerry Schiro  
Leroy Lancaster  
Joey Sours  
John Meaney

**Also Present:**

Charlie Hoke, Town Manager  
Bryan Chrisman, Assistant Town Manager  
~~Mary Broyles, Clerk Treasurer~~  
Danielle Babb, Deputy Clerk Treasurer  
Ligon Webb, Town Planner  
Chief Page Campbell, Luray Police Department  
Jeff McMillan, Page News and Courier  
Jason Spitler, Town Attorney  
Liz Lewis, Luray Downtown Initiative  
Bill Fisher, Luray Downtown Initiative  
Dixon Freeland, 133 South Court Street (South Court Street Parking)  
Dennis Shenk, President- Luray Little League  
Members of Luray Little League  
Ada Whitehead, 2138 Beahm Lane, Rileyville (South Court Street Parking)

A quorum being present, Mayor Barry Presgraves declared the Council to be in session for the transaction of business. All present stood for a moment of silence. Councilman Sours led everyone in reciting the United States Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion:** Councilman Schiro motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, motion seconded by Councilman Lancaster with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Flasch, Schiro, Lancaster, Sours, Meaney.

**Approved 6-0**

### ***Consent Agenda***

- A) Minutes of Regular Council Meeting – 10-14-14
- B) Minutes of the Council Work Session - 10-28-14
- C) Financial Report – Month Ending October 31, 2014
- D) Accounts payable checks totaling \$ 125,120.92

### **GENERAL CITIZEN COMMENT**

#### **Dixon Freeland- 133 S. Court**

Mr. Dixon Freeland spoke to Council regarding comments about the Main Street Bridge Project and the parking issues on South Court Street. As a 26 year resident of Court Street he has some concerns about the bridge project in relation to the changes that will need to take place for traffic accessibility. Also, there are proposed restrictions to parking in the narrow portions of Court Street. Mr. Freeland said that for the most part traffic is quite smooth and is a bit heavier during the 8:00am hour and 5:00pm hour. He said that occasionally there are some heavy trucks and congestion, but that most people are courteous and patient. Mr. Freeland said that with a higher flow of traffic during the bridge construction this will likely worsen. He expressed concerns about using the curbside for additional parking for guests, loading, unloading, etc. Mr. Freeland questioned if the parking restrictions are only related to the project or if those would be lifted after the project is completed. He also mentioned that mobility is a concern for residents due to the steep grade of many resident driveways. Mr. Freeland asked that members consider some alternatives and urged council to assist the residents in finding a solution for everyone.

#### **Ada Whitehead- 2138 Beahm Lane, Rileyville**

Ms. Whitehead said that she is a caregiver for both Ms. Sedwick and her daughter (123 S. Court Street) and is speaking on their behalf. She said that parking is definitely an issue for caregivers, as they utilize curbside parking due to mobility issues. Also, she added that winter weather poses a big problem due to the slope of Ms. Sedwick's driveway.

#### **Charles Smith- 606 Hollow Run Road, Luray**

Mr. Smith spoke on behalf of the Luray Little League and questioned why the ball field was originally built. He said that it appears to him that the Luray Little League is being pushed out of the park. He stated that schedules are becoming limited for practices, games, and meetings. Mr. Smith questioned if the town's intention was to make money off of the facility or if it is to benefit the taxpayers of the community.

### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

#### **PARKS AND RECREATION**

Mr. Hoke spoke about a proposal from Councilwoman Flasch and Parks Director, Pat O'Brien. He stated that Mr. Paul Revell has been a dedicated advocate of the Greenway and the Town's Arbor Day Celebration. The proposal is to honor Mr. Revell by installing fifteen trees throughout the greenway area and to install an inscribed bench. The intent is to honor Mr. Revell's continued dedication to the town's parks. Mayor Presgraves added that Mr. Revell's efforts have attributed to contributions in excess of \$150,000 over the past 14 years of the town's Tree City USA achievement. Mayor Presgraves said that he has been very fond of Luray over the years and has been a great asset.

Mr. Hoke added that the Tree and Beautification Committee and the Luray Hawksbill Greenway Foundation will be sponsoring the trees.

**Motion:** Councilman Vickers motioned to approve the proposal and recognize Paul Revell for his contributions to the Town of Luray, motion seconded by Councilman Sours with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Flasch, Schiro, Lancaster, Sours, Meaney. **Approved 6-0**

## **PLANNING AND ZONING**

Town Planner, Ligon Webb, stated the he had no further items than his written report. However, he did mention that next month Council should review the final plat for Luray Meadows. The applicant intends to purchase 6.3 acres from the current owner and must subdivide this acreage in order to divide this from the larger 29 acre parcel.

## **TOWN AFFILIATED BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

### **Bill Fisher, Luray Downtown Initiative**

Mr. Bill Fisher said that several events have taken place since the last meeting; including the downtown Halloween event. He said this event was well attended and only one issue resulted in a complaint. Also, Mr. Fisher said that Ms. Lewis is working on a Buy Local “bingo” for Small Business Saturday. Mr. Fisher said that Mr. Malone has provided the financial reports but could not be present this evening. Councilman Meaney discussed Small Business Saturday and the statistics for revenues that “stay local”.

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### **Luray Page County Chamber of Commerce**

Mayor Presgraves said that Director John Robbins was not in attendance this evening.

## **UPDATES AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Luray Little League – Dennis Shenk**

Mr. Dennis Shenk, President Luray Little League, came before Council to discuss some items of business from the work session meeting. Mr. Shenk said that he felt things were going smoothly but some items of business have resurfaced. Mr. Shenk reminded that the league is an all-volunteer organization. He also noted that the league has always held its meetings at the park and is now being advised that they can no longer hold meetings there. He also discussed the league’s decision not to make a “cash” contribution to the town. Despite this, he said that many items were purchased that were for the benefit of the children; those items included sports equipment and field materials. Mr. Shenk noted that these contributions amounted to about 25% of their net profit for the season. Mr. Shenk said that the league has always been willing to assist with lining the fields and preparations. Mr. Shenk noted arrangements for Harrisonburg and Bridgewater leagues and their field use. He said that the proposal to bid out the concession stands is not a problem for the league due to difficulty in finding volunteers. Mr. Shenk stated that those involved with the league many years ago have advised him that an agreement was in place to furnish them with a place for meetings. Mr. Shenk said that the park is enjoyed by many local kids and benefits the local community. He also advised that many of his board members were in attendance this evening.

Town Manager, Charlie Hoke, stated that he brought this issue to Council's attention because of some scheduling issues at the park. Mr. Hoke said that the facilities were purchased and are maintained for the citizens of Luray but that the town does not discriminate against anyone that would like to use these parks. Mr. Hoke said that scheduling has become an issue and there will be facility use forms to assist with this. Mr. Hoke said that he would like to minimize the amount of fields that are reserved, since some fields are often reserved and not used. As far as lining the fields, Mr. Hoke would like to get everyone to work together to minimize the staff hours needed. He advised that the town has steadily decreased its budget over the years and wants to avoid raising taxes to provide the same level of services. Thus, all departments have been asked to tighten their budgets. Mr. Hoke said that all groups; including Little League, Midget League, and Recreation League will be asked to help prepare the fields.

As far as meeting after hours, Mr. Hoke said that the park gates are closed at dusk and this requires an employee to work overtime hours to reopen and close the park. Mr. Hoke said that there are a number of places in the community where groups can meet at no cost. Mr. Sherk stressed that not holding meetings at the park is a major problem for the league. Councilwoman Flasch suggested that community groups can hold meetings free of charge at the Chamber Office. Mr. Hoke said that there are other options than having the town pay for after-hours personnel. Mayor Presgraves suggested that if this is only one night a month, perhaps we can accommodate this. He said that the annual maintenance cost of the park is in excess of \$300,000 annually and that he does not want to see taxes increase in order to subsidize the park. Mr. Hoke said that he has worked with Mr. O'Brien to come up with facility use forms and policies for all of the town's parks. If the Council directs him to allow the meetings after hours he will do so. Councilman Lancaster suggested having our employee unlock the gate for members to enter and then allow the league to lock up after the meeting, keeping the gates locked during that time. Mr. Sherk said this would not be a problem and he would be willing to close up after the meeting.

Mr. Sherk discussed the issue of having a town member on the league board. He explained that due to election time constraints the town representative was made a non-voting member. Mayor Presgraves said that it has been difficult to find a town representative to take this position and would be even more difficult if this were to be a non-voting member. He said that he would not be willing to ask someone to take this as a token position. Mayor Presgraves reminded that the town took a risk in spending nearly a million dollars on this facility and has a fiduciary responsibility to the citizens. Mayor Presgraves asked about the league's audit report. Mr. Sherk said that it is currently with the accounting firm for review. Mayor Presgraves reminded the league members that their relationship with the town is not an adversarial one. He expressed that the league is an important part of the town and that this is indeed a partnership. Lastly, Mr. Sherk and Mr. Hoke discussed obtaining a tentative schedule for the upcoming season.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **South Court Street Parking Restrictions**

Assistant Town Manager, Bryan Chrisman said that members have a revised staff report on the South Court Street Parking Restriction Proposal. There was some additional information received from residents that indicated keeping the parking available was extremely important to them. With that said, the town also has an obligation to the parking and traffic safety in this area. Mr. Chrisman said that he has requested a courtesy review from the Virginia Department of Transportation. This review has not yet been completed but will likely be scheduled for this week. Mr. Chrisman would like to provide this report to Council once complete. He also recognized that once there is additional volume on this street the safety concerns will become greater. Mr. Chrisman is recommending that Council members hold off on making any decisions until the courtesy review is

complete. He would like to consider this at a future meeting and hold off on taking any action at tonight's meeting.

Mayor Presgraves asked for Chief Campbell's opinion on this issue. Chief Campbell said that he has looked at this issue and has also implemented the use of the speed trailer to slow down traffic in the area. He also noted that the findings were extremely low for speeding in the area. Chief Campbell also discussed other issues such as the lack of street width and sight distance.

### **Approval of Conceptual Design for West Main Intersection Improvements**

Mr. Chrisman provided a map for the conceptual design for the West Main Street Intersection Improvements. Mr. Chrisman said that House Bill 2 directs the Commonwealth Transportation Board to review all projects within the inventory for suitability and either allocation or de-allocation of funding. Mr. Chrisman said that the town currently has \$1.5 million allocated at the state level for this improvement project. He said that if this project were selected for de-allocation there will be no funding for this project and funds will go to another project in the commonwealth. Mr. Chrisman said that this project has been around for some time and needs to launch into the design phase in order to secure these funds. He urged Council to take action on this project in order to move into the preliminary engineering phase. This phase would include a public hearing and allow for the citizens' comments. Councilwoman Flasch recalled that this project has been around for many years and has been a subject of the Comprehensive Plan.

**Motion:** Councilman Lancaster motioned to approve the Conceptual Design for West Main Intersection Improvements, motion seconded by Councilwoman Flasch with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Flasch, Schiro, Lancaster, Sours, Meaney. **Approved 6-0**

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### **TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Town Attorney, Jason Spitler, said that members have been provided with a letter regarding a detailed summary of transferring town elections from November to May. Mr. Spitler said there seems to be more pros than cons to doing so and added that no referendum would be required. Mr. Spitler said that this change is a prevailing trend throughout the Commonwealth and he feels the voters will be strongly in favor. Mr. Spitler and Mr. Hoke are proposing that Council hold a public hearing and solicit citizen comments on the issue. He said that town election voter turnout has dwindled significantly over the years. Mr. Spitler is requesting to advertise for the public hearing on December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Regular Council Meeting and provide public notice for two consecutive weeks in the local newspaper. Mr. Spitler suggested two weeks of advertising due to the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday. If the Council so chooses they will be asked to adopt a resolution at the December meeting in order to approach Delegate Todd Gilbert in early 2015. There will be only some small changes needed to the town's code and the voting districts/precincts will need to be established. This change will eliminate the courthouse as a polling location and voters will utilize their current November polling place. If approved this change would be in place for the November 2016 Elections and current member terms would be extended from June 30<sup>th</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup>. Mayor Presgraves concurred that advertising for two consecutive weeks would be beneficial. Council members agreed to proceed with the advertisement for a Public Hearing.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURN**

Mayor Presgraves advised Council members of the upcoming Christmas Parades for both Luray (December 13<sup>th</sup>) and the Town of Stanley (December 5<sup>th</sup>). Mayor Presgraves also advised members and staff that he would be having a medical procedure tomorrow and that he plans to be out of the office for the remainder of the week.

With no further business, Mayor Presgraves adjourned the regular session of the Luray Town Council at approximately 8:20pm.

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Barry Presgraves  
Mayor

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Danielle Babb  
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer