

**MINUTES OF A TOWN COUNCIL-SPECIAL MEETING
TOWN OF LURAY, VIRGINIA
Saturday, March 2, 2013**

The Luray Town Council met in a special meeting on Saturday, March 2, 2013 at 2:00 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
Mary Menefee
Leroy Lancaster
Joey Sours
John Meaney**

**Also Present: Jerry Schiro, Interim Town Manager
Bryan Chrisman, Assistant Town Manager**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Barry Presgraves and everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Personnel, Section 2.2-3711.A.1 – Candidates for Employment-Town Manager,
Candidates for Appointment- Town Council**

Mayor Presgraves requested a motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Section 2.2-3711.A.7 and Section 2.2-3711.A.1.

Motion: Councilman Vickers motioned to recess the regular session and to convene in executive session; Councilman Sours seconded the motion with the following members voting YEA: Council Members Vickers, Menefee, Lancaster, Sours, Meaney. **Approved 5-0**

Motion: Councilman Vickers motioned to adjourn the closed session and to reconvene in open session; Councilman Meaney seconded the motion with the following members voting YEA: Council Members Vickers, Menefee, Lancaster, Sours, Meaney. **Approved 5-0**

Mayor Presgraves asked members of Council to certify that to the best of their knowledge only matters covered under Section 2.2-3711.A.1 were heard, discussed, or considered during the closed session. **The roll was called with all members certifying “Yes”.**

Budget Status

Interim Town Manager, Jerry Schiro, informed Council of some important budget updates. Mr. Schiro informed Council members that the Main Street Bridge grant has a 20% match provision. Council and staff were not aware of this previously and this will affect the town's overall cash flow. While this will likely span two fiscal years, this will definitely need to be considered as a part of the town's budget process. Councilwoman Menefee questioned what percentages of total costs are associated with staff and benefits. Mr. Schiro asked for Council's direction on advertising for a real estate tax rate increase. He advised members that it may be necessary to advertise for a \$.06 cent increase. Councilman Lancaster agreed with Mr. Schiro that it is best to advertise for the higher rate; while he hopes that it will not be necessary. Council discussed which rate should be advertised and the overall effect of an increase in order to achieve a balanced budget.

Motion: Councilman Vickers motioned to authorize the advertisement for a \$.06 cent increase in the real estate tax rate; Councilman Sours seconded the motion with the following members voting YEA: Council Members Vickers, Menefee, Lancaster, Sours, Meaney. **Approved 5-0**

Councilman Sours said that he would like to see Council make every effort to not increase taxes at the advertised rate. Councilman Lancaster advised that he does not want to see the town pull any money from reserves. Councilman Vickers asked if the budget contains any provisions for legal contingencies. Council and Staff discussed that the proposed budget does not include provisions for potential legal costs. Mayor Presgraves suggested the possibility of looking at a \$.08 cent real estate tax rate increase. Council stressed the need for providing the public with information about a potential tax rate increase and explanations for such an increase. Mr. Schiro asked if Council is directing him to advertise a \$.08 cent increase.

Motion: Councilman Vickers rescinded his motion to advertise for a \$.06 cent tax rate increase until further consideration; Councilman Sours seconded the motion with the following members voting YEA: Council Members Vickers, Menefee, Lancaster, Sours, Meaney. **Approved 5-0**

Council members discussed potential areas for decrease in budget costs. Mr. Schiro suggested looking at each department over the next series of work session meetings and discussing areas that can be decreased. This would allow for Council to go through each department individually with the department head. Councilman Lancaster recalled that this method used to be utilized and that Council used to review each employee's salary on an individual basis. Council requested a listing of employees by department including their salaries, benefits, grade, and step.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Mayor Presgraves adjourned the special meeting of the Town Council at approximately 3:35 pm.

Barry Presgraves
Mayor

Danielle P. Babb
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer