

**MINUTES OF A TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TOWN OF LURAY, VIRGINIA
Tuesday, November 24, 2009**

The Luray Town Council met in a work session on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 at 5:30 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: William Menefee
Leroy Lancaster
Jerry Schiro
Earl "Rock" Racer

Council Absent: Nancy Shifflett
Lonnie Arrington

Also Present: Rick Black, Town Manager
Bryan Chrisman, Assistant Town Manager
Mary Broyles, Treasurer
Danielle Babb, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer
Ligon Webb, Town Planner
Jason Spitler, Town Attorney
Liz Lewis, Luray Arts and Cultural District
Catherine Stewart, Luray Downtown Initiative
Member of the Luray Little League

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

Changes or Additions to the Agenda

Mayor Presgraves asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda. Town Manager, Rick Black, requested to discuss the airport and to move the discussion on the Luray Little League to Executive Session.

Liz Lewis, Proposed Luray Arts and Cultural District

Liz Lewis presented information on the proposed Arts and Cultural District. She emphasized that Council's role is in getting the district established. Ms. Lewis stated that she would like to see the designation be more than a slogan but to use the designation to enhance economic benefits. Ms. Lewis feels that this district will further enhance the existing community efforts for improvements. This district designation will most importantly allow for further applications of grant funding. The Planning

Commission will hold a public hearing on this topic at the January 2010 meeting, with the Council hearing the topic in February.

Proposed Sign Ordinance Amendments

Town Planner, Ligon Webb, reviewed the proposed sign ordinance amendments. He stated that the Planning Commission began work on these proposed amendments several months ago and has developed standards for five kinds of signs. Those include ground mounted signs, projection signs, wall signs, awning/canopy/marquee signs, and monument signs. Mr. Webb clarified that the ordinance will not affect existing conforming or non-conforming signs but will provide a standard for “shorter and smaller” new signs. Mr. Webb discussed the difference between externally and internally lighted signs. Also, he reviewed each of the types of signs along with their size specifications. Mr. Webb stressed that the overall object of the amendments is to make Town signage more aesthetically pleasing.

Councilman Lancaster stated that he would like for Mr. Webb to sample approximately 20 signs and determine which ones would be in compliance with the proposed amendments. Mr. Webb stated that he would put together some examples for Council.

Council members discussed the enforcement of the sign ordinance. Town Attorney, Jason Spitler, stated that he and Mr. Webb are working on an example of a sign that is not in compliance. They have notified the business owner with a last attempt to gain compliance before turning it over to Officer Brice in Code Enforcement. Mr. Spitler told Council that he would report back on this situation at the December Council meeting.

Trailside Restrooms

Town Manager, Rick Black stated that at the September work session, Council requested that staff prepare a design for the trailside restrooms. In Council’s packets there are to scale views of the proposed restrooms. He explained that these drawings are based on recommendations from contractors and subcontractors. These drawings reflect changes that will make the project more cost efficient. Also, Mr. Black has included a letter from Kenneth Fox, Page County Building Official, detailing what information the Town would need to provide in order to get a building permit. Mr. Black also told Council that the Department of Conservation and Recreation has extended the grant close out for the restrooms until December 31, 2010.

Mayor Presgraves asked what the cost estimates would be on the new design. Mr. Black stated that he estimates approximately \$75,000 for both facilities.

Councilman Lancaster questioned several aspects of the design including the ceiling structure and sewer lines. Town Manager, Rick Black, clarified several items on the designs. Mr. Lancaster stated that he would still like to see more detail on the drawings, and to exclude the pay phones before they are voted on. Councilman Schiro clarified that Council is asking for more detail on the drawings and that they would like to take action on the trailside restrooms at the December Council Meeting. Mr. Black confirmed this.

Proposed 2010 Council Meeting Schedule

Town Manager, Rick Black, discussed the proposed meeting and holiday schedule for 2010. The schedule will be on the consent agenda for the December Council Meeting.

North Alley (Price House)

Town Manager, Rick Black, told Council that he had invited several contractors to look at the property and inform staff of the state of repairs. The contractors found the structure in sound condition but noted outdated electrical and plumbing. The estimate to upgrade these items is at a cost of approximately \$20,000. He suggested that if these upgrades were made the space could have several possibilities; office space for LDI, general storage, Parks and Recreation storage. He also stated that the locks on the building have now been secured.

Town Alleys

Town Manager, Rick Black, stated that based on feedback from the Sam Gee alleyway vacation, he recommends no longer vacating alleyways. Mr. Black also expressed that the town should no longer maintain these or entertain any requests for whole or partial vacating.

Luray-Page County Airport

Mr. Black told Council that he had received an e-mail from Brian McKeehan, Delta Airport Consultants, which spoke of wrapping up the AWOS and Beacon Project. The local share for the town is at approximately \$3,000. This item will be on the December Council Meeting consent agenda for approval. Also, Mr. Black stated that electronic weather information will be available for local weather reports per Mr. Eldridge.

Town Attorney Report

Town Attorney, Jason Spitler, noted that the items for his report would require an Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Consideration of the Investment of Public Funds, Section 2.2-3711.A.6 Legal Matters, Section 2.2-3711.A.7

Mayor Presgraves requested a motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Sections 2.2-3711.A.6 and 2.2-3711.A.7. **Motion:** Councilman Racer motioned to recess the regular session and to convene in executive session; Councilman Lancaster seconded the motion with the following members voting YEA: Council Members Menefee, Lancaster, Schiro, and Racer. **Approved 4-0**

Motion: Councilman Lancaster motioned to adjourn the closed session and to reconvene in open session; Councilman Racer seconded the motion with the following members voting YEA: Council Menefee, Arrington, Lancaster, and Racer. **Approved 4-0**

Mayor Presgraves asked members of Council to certify that to the best of their knowledge the only matters covered under Section 2.2-3711.A.6 and 2.2-3711.A.7 were heard, discussed, or considered during the closed session. **The roll was called with all members certifying "Yes".**

Changes or Additions to the Agenda

Town Manager, Rick Black, discussed Page Memorial Hospital's plans to build a new building on the hospital campus. Also, he stated that transportation issues will need to be addressed in the future by all three parties in the area. Page Memorial Hospital, Mont Vue, and the adjacent land owner will need to consider the traffic issues at the entrance of West Main and Memorial Drive. Mayor Presgraves would like to see the area rezoned to a B-1 district. The district is currently in R-3 zoning.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Mayor Presgraves adjourned the work session of the Town Council at approximately 7:18 pm.

Barry Presgraves
Mayor

Danielle P. Babb
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer