

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

Monday, November 9, 2020

The Luray Town Council met in regular session on Monday, November 9, 2020, 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:

Ron Vickers
Jerry Dofflemyer
Jerry Schiro
Leroy Lancaster
Joseph Sours

Council Absent:

Leah Pence

Also Present:

Steve Burke, Town Manager
Bryan Chrisman, Assistant Town Manager
Mary Broyles, Clerk Treasurer
Danielle Babb, Deputy Clerk Treasurer
Chief Bow Cook, Luray Police Department
Jason Botkins, Litten & Sipe
Meredith Dees, Luray Downtown Initiative
Bill Huffman, Luray Downtown Initiative
Jason Pettit, Luray Downtown Initiative
Audre King, West Luray Recreation Center
Ligon Webb, Luray Board of Zoning Appeals

(This meeting was made public via the Town's Facebook page. Public comments were accepted prior to the meeting via e-mail to sburke@townofluray.com).

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

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

Luray Meadows

Councilman Schiro requested an update on the Luray Meadows site development.

Motion: Councilman Schiro motioned to approve the addition to the Agenda of Luray Meadows update as presented, motion seconded by Councilman Dofflemyer with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Dofflemyer, Schiro, Lancaster, Sours. **Approved 5-0**

Assistant Town Manager, Bryan Chrisman, updated Council on the 52-unit apartment complex by People Incorporated. Mr. Chrisman provided members with a copy of the bid-tabulation sheet with bids provided by two contractors. The overall base bid for those contractors exceeded the grant amount and therefore the remainder will be picked up by People Incorporated. Mr. Chrisman requested the award of the construction contract be placed on the December meeting agenda.

Recognition

Mayor Presgraves recognized Councilman Jerry Dofflemyer on his election as the Mayor of Town of Luray effective January 1, 2021. He also congratulated Jason Pettit, Joey Sours, and Ligon Webb on their election as members of the Town Council.

CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Presgraves read aloud the *Ordinance for the Continuity in the Government of Luray*.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Councilman Schiro motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, motion seconded by Councilman Lancaster with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Dofflemyer, Schiro, Lancaster, Sours. **Approved 5-0**

Consent Agenda

(A) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting –10-13-2020.

(B) Minutes of the Council Work Session Meeting – 10-27-2020.

(C) Accounts Payable checks totaling- \$ 129,007.46

GENERAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

Audre King- West Luray Recreation Center

Mr. King thanked Councilman Lancaster and Mayor Presgraves for their many years of service to the Town of Luray. Mr. King updated Council members on activities happening at the West Luray Recreation Center. The center is serving as the meeting site for the Choices board of directors, hosting court appointed classes, study halls, tutoring, and many youth events. The recreation center also hosted a Halloween Event and will continue to host other youth-oriented events such as tutoring and a mentorship program. Mr. King stated that his goal is for the center and the town to form a meaningful

financial relationship; whereas, all funding for its programs come through donations. Future upgrades to the center include a basketball court and picnic area.

PRESENTATIONS

Halloween at Dean Event

Councilman Vickers, Dofflemyer, and Schiro announced the winners of the Town's 2020 Virtual Halloween Costume Contest. Mr. Vickers noted that over 750 participants attended the Halloween at Dean Event. Winners were announced for the various categories of costumes and the scavenger hunt. Winners may pick up their prizes at Town Hall.

Luray Downtown Initiative-

Ms. Meredith Dees of Luray Downtown Initiative noted that the holiday ornament has arrived. This year's ornament is Luray Fire Department to celebrate their 120th anniversary in 2021. Ms. Dees discussed downtown business decorating for the holidays and the next phase of the Façade Grant Program. Ms. Dees stated that LDI will be hiring a new Program Director as she leaves the position effective February 2021.

ACTION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

CARES Act- Town Business Grant

Town Manager, Steve Burke, presented the applicants for grant funding through the Town's Covid-19 Small Business Grant Program. Mr. Burke stated that he would like Council to consider the addition of \$5,250 to include additional applicants.

Motion: Councilman Dofflemyer moved that the Town Council approve the COVID-19 Small Business Grants as presented. He further moved to add \$5,250 of the Town's allocated CARES Act Funds to include Page One of Page County, Escape 211, and the Luray Fudge Company in the business awarded grants. Motion seconded by Councilman Vickers with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Dofflemyer, Schiro, Lancaster, Sours. **Approved 5-0**

CARES Act- Luray Fire Department Vehicle

Town Manager, Steve Burke, presented a request from Luray Fire Department to award \$40,000 of the Town's CARES funding to purchase a 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe to respond to COVID-19 related emergencies.

Motion: Councilman Vickers moved that the Town Council award \$40,000 of the Town's allocated CARES Act funds to the Luray Fire Department to purchase a 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe to respond to COVID-19 related emergencies as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Sours with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Dofflemyer, Schiro, Lancaster, Sours. **Approved 5-0.**

CARES Act- West Luray Recreation Center

The Town Council is requested to consider a donation of \$5,000 to the insulation of the West Luray Recreation Center for insulation of the building for winter use. Mr. Burke explained that the Recreation Center provides tutoring and a computer lab with internet access for remote learning. Installation of the insulation would allow for continued use of these facilities in the winter.

Motion: Councilman Sours moved to award the full bid amount of \$7,880 to the West Luray Recreation Center for the installation of insulation at the facility to provide winter distance learning for school age children as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Dofflemyer with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Dofflemyer, Schiro, Lancaster, Sours. **Approved 5-0.**

Town of Luray Christmas Party

Mr. Burke stated that Council has considered cancelling the Town's annual Employee Christmas Party in order to minimize exposure to COVID-19. Mr. Burke suggested a small bonus or gift certificate which are both subject to taxes. Mayor Presgraves suggested an Employee Luncheon for each department followed by the afternoon off.

Motion: Councilman Vickers moved that the Town Council cancel the 2020 Town Christmas Party and have an Employee Luncheon. Motion seconded by Councilman Schiro with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Dofflemyer, Schiro, Lancaster, Sours. **Approved 5-0.**

Council members inquired about the annual Christmas Parade. Mr. Burke noted that information is forthcoming and the "reverse parade" will be held the second Saturday in December.

Ms. Dees, Luray Downtown Initiative, noted that the Tree Lighting Ceremony will still be held on Friday December 4th. She would like Mayor Presgraves and Councilman Dofflemyer to both be there to light the tree.

Donation of Property

Town Manager, Steve Burke, requested Council consider the proposal to donate a portion or all of the parcel Tax Map NO. 42A11-A-177 currently owned by Blue Ridge Bank. Staff recommends Council consider the acceptance of the entire parcel. Mr. Burke noted that the real estate tax received by the Town on the property is about \$200 annually. He noted that the condition of the parking lot is adequate and the property does come with about \$6,000 annual lease income.

Motion: Councilman Sours moved that the Town Council accept the donation of the parcel identified as Tax Map No. 42A11-A-177 from Blue Ridge Bank as presented and further direct the Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, and Town Attorney to execute all documents necessary to close on the property. Motion seconded by Councilman Vickers with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Dofflemyer, Schiro, Lancaster, Sours. **Approved 5-0.**

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney, Jason Botkins, provided information to Council members and staff regarding the upcoming Council vacancy. Mr. Botkins noted the procedures and deadlines that are forthcoming. Mr. Dofflemyer’s Council seat will become vacant when he takes the position of Mayor in January 2021. Mr. Botkin’s said that Council will need to advertise and will have 45 days from January 1st to fill the vacancy. The appointment to fill the vacancy can thus be made at the February Council meeting. The Council vacancy will then become part of the regular November 2021 Election.

COUNCIL COMMENTS/ MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Presgraves reminded new members to be sure to take their oath at the courthouse and wished new members the best of luck.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27pm.

Barry Presgraves
Mayor

Danielle Babb
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer