

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

Monday, February 10, 2020

The Luray Town Council met in regular session on Monday, February 10, 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
Leah Pence

Also Present:

Steve Burke, Town Manager
Jason Botkins, Litten & Sipe
Mary Broyles, Clerk-Treasurer
Danielle Babb, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer
Chief Carl "Bow" Cook, Luray Police Department
Bill Huffman, Luray Downtown Initiative
Meredith Dees, Luray Downtown Initiative
Randy Arrington, Page Valley News
Ken Racine, Luray Triathlon
Ligon Webb, Director of Building and Zoning- Madison County
Dr. Kim Blosser, Lord Fairfax Community College
Bonnie Snyder, 312 Second Street, Luray
Jeremy Hilliard, 4 Massanutten Place, Luray
Sam McNeely, Green Hill Cemetery Board
Rose Ann Smythe, Syntelligent Analytic Solutions LLC
Cathy Herbert, 201 Hawksbill Heights Drive, Luray
Lisa McQuail, 450 Creekside Drive, Luray
Richard Lawrence, 8 Springcrest Drive, Luray

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. Mayor Presgraves led everyone in the United States Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called with all members present.

CHANGE OF AGENDA ORDER

Mayor Presgraves requested that Council consider moving item VIII.-C. Resolution to Support 2nd Amendment Rights to the first item of business on the agenda.

Motion: Councilman Lancaster motioned to change the order of the agenda as presented, motion seconded by Councilman Dofflemyer with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Dofflemyer, Schiro, Lancaster, Sours, Pence. **Approved 6-0**

Mayor Presgraves opened the Citizen Comment Period for those signed up to speak.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Bonnie Snyder, 312 Second Street –

Ms. Snyder spoke in support of the Second Amendment Resolution of Support. She felt it was important to share a message of unity between the Town and County, whereas Page County has supported this resolution.

Jeremy Hilliards, 4 Massanutten Place-

Mr. Hilliards spoke as a native of Luray in support of the Second Amendment Resolution. Mr. Hilliards is also a member of the *Shenandoah Valley Supporters of the Second Amendment* group.

Sam McNeely, 3 Meadow Lane –

Mr. McNeely spoke on behalf of the board of the Green Hill Cemetery. Mr. McNeely commended the efforts of the Town to support the cemetery in their restoration efforts. He noted that 75% of the tombstone restoration work has now been completed. Community support efforts have included work days, many volunteer hours, and donations. The cemetery board has also been able to conduct several events and hold “Sunday Strolls”. Work continues on obtaining the National Register of Historic Places certification and is nearly complete. Mr. McNeely would also like to see the rear boundary of the cemetery secured in order to avoid any vandalism. Lastly, Mr. McNeely discussed a message of thanks from a visitor to the cemetery.

RoseAnne Smythe, 127 South Court Street-

Ms. Smythe spoke of good news regarding a very successful business in Town. Syntelligent Analytic Solutions LLC was just awarded another national award for its HUBZone efforts. Syntelligent won the HUBZone and National Impact Award and currently employs 35 employees locally. She noted that Syntelligent is committed to community wide efforts including; local job fairs, high school business class assistance, resume building workshops, and service to the Chamber of Commerce.

Cathy Herbert, 201 Hawksbill Heights Drive-

Ms. Cathy Herbert spoke in opposition of the Second Amendment Resolution. Ms. Herbert felt that the Town should not lend itself liable to any issues and should allow the courts to litigate.

Lisa McQuail, 450 Creekside Drive-

Ms. McQuail noted that she recently relocated from Fairfax to Luray and spoke highly of the local school system. She discussed her position against the Second Amendment Resolution and countered some of Mr. Hilliards' prior comments.

Richard Lawrence, 8 Springcrest Drive-

Mr. Lawrence noted that he is a firearm owner; he spoke in favor of the Resolution and the entire Constitution.

Resolution to Support 2nd Amendment Rights

Motion: Councilman Lancaster motioned to adopt the Resolution of Support of 2nd Amendment Rights as presented, motion seconded by Councilman Sours with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Dofflemyer, Schiro, Lancaster, Sours. NAY: Vickers, Pence. **Approved 4-2**

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Councilman Vickers motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, motion seconded by Councilman Sours with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Dofflemyer, Schiro, Lancaster, Sours, Pence. **Approved 6-0**

Consent Agenda

- (A) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting –1-13-2020
- (B) Minutes of the Council Work Session- 1-28-2020
- (C) Accounts Payable checks totaling- \$ 123,948.66
- (D) Financial Statements ending January 31, 2020.

PRESENTATIONS

Lord Fairfax Community College- Luray Campus Update

Dr. Kim Blosser updated Council members on the status of the Luray campus construction. Currently General Excavation Incorporated is doing the site work for the center and vertical construction will begin in March. Bids for construction of the campus came back higher than anticipated but financing has been secured through a loan with Blue Ridge Bank and Pioneer Bank collectively. Completion of construction is slated for Christmas Day 2020. Dr. Blosser is hopeful that students will be able to start classes at the new center in January 2021. The Luray campus of LFCC will be able to host more course offerings and expanded labs.

Luray Marathon & Half Marathon

Mr. Ken Racine, Racine Multi-Sports, discussed the 2020 event schedule for activities in Luray/Page County. 2020 events will include the Luray Marathon, Half Marathon, Swimfest, race clinic, and 5K Run. Mr. Racine provided a handout that detailed 2019 events and participation, along with upcoming 2020 events with dates. Council members complemented Mr. Racine's efforts and presentation.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

WWTP Improvements Bond Issuance

Town Manager, Steve Burke, requested that Council conduct a public hearing for the consideration of a Resolution for issuance of a bond to provide financing for Wastewater Improvements. Mr. Burke stated that he has spoken with Ms. Moler, Page County Administrator, who has indicated that Page County is not interested in financially participating in these improvements. Mr. Burke explained that the general obligation bond would provide for a maximum amount of \$2,000,000 to provide funds to finance the construction of enhanced septage receiving, new influent screening facilities, improvements to pumps, fencing, and other various repairs. Mr. Burke stated that Page County has offered a memorandum of understanding that the Town's facilities would serve as the primary septage receival station for county-wide waste. Councilman Dofflemyer asked about the financial impact to citizens for these improvements. Mr. Burke explained that the main financial impact will be on the septage haulers. Councilman Schiro expressed concerns about septage haulers going elsewhere if the Town's fees are higher. He stressed that the debt the Town will be incurring is primarily in order to accommodate the amount of septic waste hauled to the town's plant. Councilman Schiro felt the Town needs some sort of assurance from the haulers that they will continue to utilize the receiving station. Councilwoman Pence questioned the authority of the memorandum of understanding. Council members expressed their concerns of the risk of the investment and the impact to citizens should the haulers choose not to use the Town's facilities. Councilman Vickers questioned if the Town is able to refuse out of town septage and the associated mandates to do so. Council members and staff discussed the other components of the proposed upgrades. Members proposed beginning other upgrades and holding off on the septic recieval upgrades. Mr. Burke explained that the financing structure will allow the Town to make draws on the loan as needed. He indicated that not all projects need to be started at once.

Mayor Presgraves opened the public hearing for citizen comment. With no members present to speak on the issue, the hearing was then closed. **Motion:** Councilman Dofflemyer motioned to approve the Resolution as presented, motion seconded by Councilman Vickers with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Dofflemyer, Schiro, Lancaster, Sours, Pence. **Approved 6-0**

DEPARTMENTS, TOWN BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Luray Downtown Initiative

Ms. Meredith Dees discussed LDI's Façade Improvement Grant program and noted that three award recipients have been chosen at today's meeting. She added that the board has been thrilled with the turnout of applicants. Ms. Dees said that while these façade improvements will provide incremental change, she hopes the impact will spur larger changes. The grant program provides matching funds of up to \$2,500 for improvements, and up to \$500 for signage and awnings.

Lastly, Ms. Dees reminded Council and staff of the upcoming plans for a Mardi Gras themed downtown event. The event will take place on Saturday February 22nd.

ACTION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

Code Amendment- Chapter 18- Animals

Mr. Burke requested that Council adopt the draft Code Amendments to Sections 1 to 9 of Chapter 18- Animals. Council has previously discussed the amendments and Mr. Burke asked for any questions. Councilman Dofflemyer requested clarification on kennels and the definition thereof. Councilman Sours expressed concerns regarding kennels and the setback issue with small lots. Town Attorney, Jason Botkins, reminded that these ordinance amendments are safety ordinances and not matters of the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Burke advised Council members that if they would like more clarification they could refer the amendments back to staff to provide further definition and clarification on the matter of kennels.

Motion: Councilman Schiro motioned to refer the Code Amendments to Chapter 18 back to Town Staff for further clarification. Motion seconded by Councilman Lancaster with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Dofflemyer, Schiro, Lancaster, Sours, Pence. **Approved 6-0**

Town Manager Employment Agreement

The Luray Town Council was requested to reappoint Steven Burke as Town Manager. The employment agreement has been drafted and both parties are in agreement.

Motion: Councilwoman Pence moved that the Town Council reappoint Steven Burke as Town manager of the Town of Luray and authorized the Mayor to execute the Employment Agreement. Motion seconded by Councilman Dofflemyer with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Dofflemyer, Schiro, Lancaster, Sours, Pence. **Approved 6-0**

Bid Award- Dean Park Concessionaire

Mr. Burke requested Council members consider the award of Concession Services for the R.H. Dean Park 2020 Season to Luray Little League. Bids were solicited and opened in accordance with the deadline. The bids received were; Luray Little League - \$2,000, and C and S Concession - \$1,000.

Motion: Councilman Sours moved that the Town Council award the contract for Concession Services for Ralph Dean Park for the 2020 Season to the Luray Little League as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Vickers with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Dofflemyer, Schiro, Lancaster, Sours, Pence. **Approved 6-0**

Councilman Sours asked about bids for the Imagination Station playground replacement. Mr. Burke explained that bids are due Friday February 15th and a review panel will evaluate the bids. The Council will then assess the bids at a work session meeting. Councilman Dofflemyer inquired about the handling of the field maintenance by the Little League. Mr. Burke responded that last season went well and he is hopeful for another successful season. Mayor Presgraves noted the league's new board of directors.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Jason Botkins, Town Attorney, had no further business for the evening.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Barry Presgraves
Mayor

Danielle Babb
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer