

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

Monday, April 12, 2021

The Luray Town Council met in regular session on Monday, April 12, 2021, 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 Jerry Dofflemyer

Council Present:

Ron Vickers
Stephanie Lillard
Jerry Schiro
Jason Pettit
Joseph Sours
Ligon Webb

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
Bill Huffman, Luray Downtown Initiative
Jackie Elliott, Luray Downtown Initiative
Jim Davis, Hawksbill Greenway Foundation
Travis Hoke, 514 Luray Avenue (Alleyway Vacation Request)
Mayor Mike Knight, Town of Stanley
Chief Ryan Dean, Stanley Police Department
Aaron Cabbage, Stanley Police Department
Rebecca Jenkins, Stanley Police Department
Corey Seal, Luray Police Department
Sgt. Lonnie Foster, Luray Police Department
Debbie Dart, Former Executive Director- Choices
Joey Haddock, Luray Water Plant Superintendent

(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 Dofflemyer declared the Council to be in session for the transaction of business. All present stood for a moment of silence. Councilman Webb led everyone in the United States Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was then called with all Council members present.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

There were no changes to the Agenda.

CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Consent Agenda

- (A) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting –3-8-2021
- (B) Minutes of the Work Session- 3-23-2021
- (C) Financial Statements ending 3-31-2021
- (D) Accounts Payable checks totaling- \$ 184,480.48

GENERAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

Katie Bowles, 400 Hauser Blvd. Apt. 8c, Los Angeles CA – (e-mailed comment)

Town Manager, Steve Burke, stated that Ms. Bowles submitted an e-mail for citizen comment in accordance with the meeting deadline. Mr. Burke read aloud the e-mail regarding the Confederate Statues in Luray.

PRESENTATIONS

Stanley Police Department

Chief Ryan Dean, Stanley Police Department-

Chief Dean thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing him to speak this evening. He said that the Town of Stanley has been through a lot in these past few weeks, and that as small towns, it is important to work together. He thanked the Council and Chief Cook for everything that was done for them in their time of need. Chief Dean said that if any positives came from this tragedy, it is that all departments in Page County worked together side-by-side. He noted that many tasks throughout the past few weeks were taken care of in advance of the need arising, such as traffic control and so many other things. Chief Dean expressed his thanks to Luray Police Department and said that a bond has been formed beyond explanation.

Mayor Mike Knight, Town of Stanley

Mayor Knight echoed Chief Dean's sentiments of appreciation. He expressed that despite the sad time, there was great pride in the unity of our community. Mayor Knight offered the Town of Stanley's support to the Town for any future needs.

Luray Downtown Initiative

Program Director, Jackie Elliott, thanked Bryan Chrisman and Morgan Housden for the tour of Creekside Commons. She said this project will be a nice addition to downtown. Ms. Elliott said that the second round of façade grant application is wrapping up and the committee will meet to go over them and make a selection.

Hawksbill Greenway Foundation

Jim Davis, Hawksbill Greenway Foundation Member, discussed updates from the Foundation Board. The Board is holding regular monthly meetings in conjunction with the Town's Parks Superintendent. One

upcoming project will involve the Page County GIS Department; where Josh Hahn will work to map the Memorial gifts along Greenway. The mapping project will then assist with identifying donors to discuss repairs and maintenance to benches. Mr. Davis discussed other long term goals such as QR Codes on Greenway exercise devices, an alternate route for the proposed Greenway Expansion, and development of Yager Springs as a Greenway route extension. Lastly, Mr. Davis thanked Jen Jenkins for her invaluable help and thanked the many volunteers who serve on the committee.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Alley Vacation Request – 514 Luray Avenue

Town Manager, Steve Burke, presented the alleyway vacation request from Travis Hoke. Mr. Hoke is requesting the vacation of approximately .041 acres of the alley behind his property located at 514 Luray Avenue (Tax Map No. 42A11-18-89-9. The Council previously discussed the request at the March Work Session.

Mayor Dofflemyer opened the hearing for citizen comment. With no comments from the public, the hearing was then closed.

Motion: Councilman Vickers motioned to approve the Ordinance of Vacation regarding the 0.041 acres of alley behind 514 Luray Avenue as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Schiro with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Lillard, Schiro, Pettit, Sours, Webb. **Approved 6-0**

ACTION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

Proclamation- Debbie Dart

Town Manager, Steve Burke, read aloud the Proclamation of Recognition recognizing Debbie Dart for her nearly 24 years of service as Executive Director of Choices since 1997. Ms. Dart has served as the only director and has led her staff in housing, feeding, protecting, and educating women and children living in fear in Page County. Ms. Dart was instrumental in rebuilding Choices after a fire destroyed the facility in 1998. The Mayor and Council presented the Proclamation to Ms. Dart and thanked her for her many years of dedication.

Ms. Dart thanked Council for their kind recognition and said that she has been honored to serve the Community.

Motion: Councilman Pettit approved the Proclamation of Recognition recognizing Debbie Dart for her service to Luray and Page County as the Executive Director of Choices, the Council on Domestic Violence for Page County. Motion seconded by Councilman Sours with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Lillard, Schiro, Pettit, Sours, Webb. **Approved 6-0**

Proclamation- Arbor Day

Town Manager, Steve Burke, presented the annual Arbor Day Proclamation. As customary, a tree planting will be held, but no public celebration has been planned due to Covid-19 restrictions. In fact, Superintendent Jen Jenkins has applied for grant funding thus allowing several tree plantings to occur. Commemorative medallions have been provided to Council and Staff members in honor of Arbor Day 2021.

Motion: Councilman Sours approved the Proclamation to Celebrate Arbor Day as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Vickers with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Lillard, Schiro, Pettit, Sours, Webb. **Approved 6-0**

Airport Funding Request

Mr. Burke requested the release of \$20,000 in airport funding. The funding was originally included in the FY2020-2021 Budget to fund the Luray Airport Terminal Building Design. Mr. Burke explained that the funding was frozen due to precautionary efforts to reduce spending due to potential revenue shortfalls from Covid-19 impacts.

Motion: Councilman Schiro moved to approve the release of \$20,000 in funding to the Luray-Page County Airport Authority for the Terminal Building Design that was included in the adopted FY 2020-2021 Town Budget. Motion seconded by Councilman Vickers with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Lillard, Schiro, Pettit, Sours, Webb. **Approved 6-0**

COVID-19 Municipal Relief Program

Mr. Burke presented the COVID-19 Municipal Utility Relief Program to assist Town utility customers who have been unable to pay their water and sewer bills due to economic hardship. Mr. Burke said the Town was awarded \$4,655.92 from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development in December 2020. Mr. Burke presented the draft application and proposed a maximum of \$500 per person in assistance. Council members discussed the expiration of the funds and the appropriation to utility customers on a first come first serve basis. Mr. Burke explained that the DHCD awarded the funds in December 2020, however; the funds were just recently received by the Town. Council members discussed options for advertising the program and researching delinquent accounts. Members preferred delaying notice until a print advertisement could go out in the local newspaper. Members also considered reducing the amount of assistance per customer in an effort to help more citizens.

Motion: Councilwoman Lillard moved that the Town Council adopts the Town of Luray's COVID-19 Municipal Utility Relief Program as presented and further authorize the Town Treasurer to administer the program and award utility credit in conformance with the plan requirements. Motion seconded by Councilman Sours with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Lillard, Schiro, Pettit, Sours, Webb. **Approved 6-0**

Code Amendment- Chapter 82-45 to 54

Town Manager, Steve Burke, requested Council consider adoption of a proposed Code Amendment to various Sections (45-54) of Chapter 82 in regards to the payment of a vehicle license tax. The Town of Luray no longer issues decals to display on vehicles as proof of payment. The proposed amendments will simply clarify that the decals are no longer provided.

Motion: Councilman Schiro moved the Council adopt the Code Amendments to Chapter 82 Sections 45 to 54 of the Town Code related to vehicle licenses and the punishment for enforcement as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Pettit with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Lillard, Schiro, Pettit, Sours, Webb. **Approved 6-0**

Code Amendment-Chapter 82-16

Mr. Burke requested Council members consider the adoption of a proposed Code Amendment to Chapter 82-16- Use of Town Streets by Trucks and Carriers Regulated to address the impact to Town streets by oversized loads.

Motion: Councilman Pettit moved that the Town Council adopt the Code Amendment to Chapter 82-16 related to the use of Town streets to deliver oversized loads as presented and further move that Town council adopt the revised Zoning Permit application for Site Development as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Vickers with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Lillard, Schiro, Pettit, Sours, Webb. **Approved 6-0**

Transfer of Ownership of Quba

Town Manager, Steve Burke, requested Council consider the agreement to transfer ownership of the Town Police Canine “Quba” to Sgt. Nathan Dofflemyer. He explained that recent changes in the Code of Virginia which decriminalized marijuana have compromised Quba’s credibility in court. Sgt. Dofflemyer has been Quba’s handler since July 2018. Chief Cook provided statistics on Quba’s deployment on traffic stops since 2018. Councilman Webb complemented Sgt. Dofflemyer on his job as the Town’s canine officer.

Motion: Councilman Sours moved that the Council approve the agreement to transfer ownership of Quba from the Town of Luray to Sergeant Nathan Dofflemyer as presented. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lillard with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Lillard, Schiro, Pettit, Sours, Webb. **Approved 6-0**

FY 2021-2022 Budget Advertisement

The Council is requested to consider approval of the Public Hearing Advertisement for the FY 2021-2022 Town Budget. The draft advertisement includes a Public Hearing date of May 10th. Mr. Burke noted that the Council cannot act on the budget until at least seven days after the hearing per the Code of Virginia. Council could then consider adoption at either the June 14th or June 22nd meeting.

Motion: Councilman Vickers moved to approve the Public Hearing Advertisement for the FY 2021-2022 Town Budget for May 10th, 2021. Motion seconded by Councilman Sours with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Lillard, Schiro, Pettit, Sours, Webb. **Approved 6-0**

FY 2021-2022 Budget – Water and Sewer Fund Discussion

Mr. Burke presented the FY 2021-2022 Budget discussion regarding the Water and Sewer Funds. Per Council’s request from the work session meeting, department supervisors were invited to attend the meeting for the discussion of the water and sewer funds. Members reviewed the proposed revenues and expenditures. Councilman Vickers asked if the water meter upgrade project continues. Mr. Burke explained that meters are changed out in an ongoing effort to update them. Councilman Schiro inquired about the Town’s water loss ratio. Superintendent of Water Treatment, Joey Haddock, responded that about 5 years ago the water loss ratio was at about 64%. Since that time, the loss ratio has been reduced to about 25%. Council members inquired about capital projects that were unfunded this budget cycle and items that are still needed for future improvements. Mr.

Burke and Mayor Dofflemyer offered that any Council member wanting to tour the Water Treatment or Sewer Plant could do so, and they would facilitate a visit.

Luray Meadows Update

Mr. Burke provided an update of the Luray Meadows Apartments project. Representatives from the Town, DHCD, NSVRC, Racey Engineering, People Inc., and Pine Knoll Construction conducted a pre-construction meeting on Tuesday March 30th. Town Attorney, Jason Botkins, has obtained signatures and finalized all documents. The Notice to Proceed with Construction is forthcoming and improvements should begin in April. Mr. Burke noted that while there are many layers to the management of this project, the overall result will be very positive for the community.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Mr. Botkins said he had nothing further this evening.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Ron Vickers discussed updates from the NSVRC meeting regarding recycling. Councilman Vickers would like to see the Town continue with recycling and try to work toward a solution. Mr. Burke explained that due to COVID-19 regulations, inmate labor has not been available to the Town. Mr. Burke said he plans to resume the program as soon as allowable.

MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Dofflemyer noted the number of Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies lately and is encouraged by the Town’s vibrancy and increasing amount of visitors.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Jerry Dofflemyer
Mayor

Danielle Babb
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer