

**WORK SESSION OF
THE TOWN COUNCIL
OF
THE TOWN OF LURAY, VIRGINIA**

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

The Luray Town Council met in a work session on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at 5:40 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
Jerry Schiro
Jason Pettit
Joseph Sours
William L. Webb

Also Present:

Steve Burke, Town Manager
Bryan Chrisman, Assistant Town Manager
Mary Broyles, Clerk- Treasurer
Danielle Babb, Deputy Clerk- Assistant Treasurer
Chief of Police, Carl “Bow” Cook
Jennifer Jenkins, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation

A quorum being present, Mayor Dofflemyer declared the Council to be in session for the transaction of business.

FY20-21 BUDGET UPDATE

Town Manager, Steve Burke, provided an update on the current budget. He noted that the Town’s position is similar to last fiscal year at this time. He said that local businesses have been very versatile in adapting to Covid regulations, thus meals and lodging tax revenues have maintained steady. Mayor Dofflemyer thanked local businesses for their creativity in maintaining services. Councilman Schiro noted the overages in expenditures which are attributed to CARES funds spending. Mr. Burke provided a Budget calendar to Council members and staff which will provide goals and deadlines for the upcoming budget cycle. Mr. Burke said there are no plans for a tax rate increase; however, increases in water and sewer rates will be necessary to fund capital improvements and replacements at the water plant.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Mr. Burke reviewed changes to the draft Inclement Weather Policy. The draft policy addresses early closures and delayed openings for Town Hall as it relates to critical response employees. The policy also addresses compensation for a full day office closure and those who have scheduled leave. This will be an action item for the February Council Meeting.

LURAY LITTLE LEAGUE CONCESSION AGREEMENT

Town Manager, Steve Burke, stated that the Luray Little League had previously been awarded the concession agreement for the 2020 season. However, due to Covid restraints the league was unable to conduct their season. Mr. Burke explained that the concession contract provides for an extension if members are in agreement. Mr. Burke stated that the Superintendent of Parks, Jennifer Jenkins, is present this evening to address any concerns. Superintendent Jenkins said that she has no issues with extending the agreement. She has met with the league and they are excited about the upcoming season and ready to move forward. This will be an action item at the February Council meeting.

PAGE ONE FUNDING REQUEST

Mr. Burke presented a request from Page One for \$25,000 in allocated CARES funding. The Town has expended all funds awarded through CARES funding. Mr. Burke explained that the Town basically has two options; to fund the request through the general fund or await an extension of Cares Act Funds. Councilman Schiro felt that additional funding may be very likely and prefers to wait for the Federal extension. Councilman Sours would like to know more about how the funds will be expended. Councilman Pettit felt the Council should have a standard evaluation for non-profits that make requests for funding.

PLANNING COMMISSION 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Town Manager, Steve Burke, provided the Planning Commission Annual Report for the Town. The Commission provides an annual summary to the Council of the status of planning and summarization of activities within its jurisdiction for the year.

COUNCIL RETREAT DISCUSSION

Mayor Dofflemyer said he would like to proceed with planning the Council retreat. He has secured the Mimslyn for Saturday February 6th. Members agreed to convene around 10:00am, continue through lunch and wrap up in the early afternoon.

TOWN LISTENING SESSION

Councilman Dofflemyer discussed the concept of a Town Listening Session, similar to a Town Hall style meeting. Due to Covid regulations hosting a traditional Town Hall meeting would not be possible. Staff and Council members are considering hosting a "Listening Session" to provide a virtual forum for citizens

to call in and state comments or concerns. Council members, along with Mr. Burke, discussed possible formats, details, and time frames for the meeting. Mayor Dofflemyer explained that the intent would be to hear comments from citizens rather than a question and answer dialogue. Councilman Pettit said that he prefers the option of an outdoor/socially distanced meeting at one of the Town's park shelters. Councilman Webb confirmed that he is in favor of the concept but would like to work out the details and format. Council members agreed that they could discuss the idea further at the Council retreat session.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Jerry Dofflemyer
Mayor

Danielle P. Babb
Deputy Town Clerk