

MINUTES OF A TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TOWN OF LURAY, VIRGINIA
Tuesday, May 24, 2016

The Luray Town Council met in a work session on Tuesday, May 24, 2016 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: Ron Vickers
Jerry Dofflemyer
Jerry Schiro
Leroy Lancaster
Joey Sours
John Meaney

Also Present:

Charlie Hoke, Town Manager
Bryan Chrisman, Assistant Town Manager
Mary Broyles, Treasurer
Danielle Babb, Deputy Clerk Treasurer
Salem Stanley, Vacation Races
Ms. Summer Merica, Teacher, Luray High School
Mrs. Susan Betcher, Career Coach, Luray High School
Luray High School Earth Science Students
Kelsey Vaughn, LHS- YADAPP (Dog Park Proposal)

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

UPDATES AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Luray High School Earth Science Water Study Group Presentation

Luray High School Earth Science students received a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Organization to study the Shenandoah River watershed. Students presented a power point presentation to Council members on their findings.

Ms. Summer Merica, Luray High School, explained that she along with her best Earth Science students from Luray High School are in attendance to discuss the grant obtained from the Chesapeake Bay Organization. She explained that in August 2015 she, along with a student from Page County High

School, applied for the grant and were able to conduct hands on water testing and study water pollution. She said that fifteen students total were able to go on a one day field experience. The group studied local tributaries and how they affect the overall pollution of the bay. The group also studied Lake Arrowhead and included those findings in their presentation. Alex White, Megan Kenney, and Brayden Burrill all participated in the presentation and explained their findings. They discussed the importance of the bay and its effects on homes, ecosystems, and the economy. Highlights of the presentation included discussion of nutrients, eutrophication, sediment contamination, and toxic waste. The group presented information concerning Lake Arrowhead and noted the nitrogen, oxygen, and phosphate levels. The group found that Lake Arrowhead has diverse and abundant life and received an overall grade of an A -. The group said that they feel very fortunate to have been a part of this effort and hope to continue research efforts in the future. The students provided fliers to all council members and asked council to distribute these to staff members and the community also.

Councilman Meaney asked students about their most shocking finding during the research. Ms. Merica said she felt the students most shocking finding pertained to the effects of pharmaceuticals that pass through human waste and affect fish. Councilman Lancaster suggested including the student's flier in the town water bills.

Dog Park Proposal

Town Manager, Charlie Hoke, said that Kelsey Vaughn (LHS Junior- YADAPP club) has presented a proposal to the Council to raise funds to cover the cost of funding a dog park for Luray. Council asked staff to look into the proposal and various sites were reviewed. Mr. Hoke said the best location was at R.H. Dean Park at the south eastern corner. The estimate for fencing, grading, benches, and shade structures totaled about \$25,000. Mr. Hoke said that he contacted two other localities that have dog parks and spoke with their managers/maintenance. The main concerns noted were aggressive dogs, aggressive owner's, and mud. Mr. Hoke said that he did contact VML Insurance and they advised that the town would be covered for a dog park if council chooses to move forward on the project. However, VML did advise that with additional claims also comes higher cost premiums. A rough sketch of the proposed location and design was provided in the council packets.

Mayor Presgraves expressed concern over the perpetual maintenance of the park where the students are concerned. Ms. Kelsey Vauhgn said that many new students join the club each year and she feels the maintenance of the park will be minimal. Mr. Hoke agreed that most owners will clean up after their pets and that there will be some work on behalf of park maintenance but it is encouraged that they not perform these duties while the dog park is occupied. Councilman Vickers asked how much demand there is for the park. Mr. Hoke explained that some localities charge an annual fee so that they may monitor the use and vaccinations of the dogs. Councilman Schiro said that while the maintenance is not extensive the administrative responsibilities may be. He noted that the administrative portion will include ensuring the proper vaccinations and licenses, preregistration, etc. Councilman Schiro noted his personal experience with these parks and said that sometimes dogs that are not ordinarily aggressive can be in this situation. He added that if these situations occur, that also becomes an administrative issue to mitigate these problems. Councilman Dofflemyer added that the area would have to be monitored and member discussed a swipe card system. Councilman Lancaster asked if a veterinarian

had been consulted. Councilman Lancaster also noted that the town is very different in that it is dog friendly and has many areas for dogs to be active. Kelsey Vaughn responded that she had contacted a local veterinarian and he was in favor of increased activity for area dogs. Council members continued to discuss concerns about the project. Councilman Schiro commended the work done so far on the project and agreed with Councilman Lancaster about the suitability of the project for the town. Councilman Vickers questioned the funding for the project and Ms. Vaughn noted that the students would pursue grant funding and contributions. Council members and Ms. Vaughn agreed to both continue their research and council members requested more information on the amount of demand for the project.

Shenandoah Half Marathon 2017 Race Proposal

Salem Stanley, Vacation Races – St. George, Utah

Mr. Stanley thanked everyone for their time and presented information on the proposed Shenandoah Half Marathon. He provided members a power point presentation and discussed the growing participation of half marathons. He said that participation has grown significantly since the 1990's and he started his company, Vacation Races, in 2013. He recognized the desire for these races in the National Park setting. Mr. Stanley reviewed other races conducted over the past few years which included; the Zion, Rocky Mountain, Lake Powell, and the Great Smoky Mountains Half Marathons. Mr. Stanley explained that his company manages and promotes all of its events and focuses on mitigating environmental impacts. One of the steps it takes to limit environmental impact is by being a "cup free" event in an effort to reduce paper cup waste. Mr. Stanley discussed the race participants and noted that many are first time visitors to the park. He also discussed the proposed timing of the race and noted that April and September are favorable months. Mr. Stanley also discussed the tentative agenda and the proposed course location. The proposed location would begin in Stanley at the Hawksbill Pool and continue on Ida Road to Valleyburg Road, then make a loop around Lake Arrowhead. Mr. Stanley also emphasized that his company is a for profit organization and fully expects to pay for any expenses incurred. Mr. Stanley said that he would be requesting to use some of the facilities in town for a fee. Council members discussed the amount of parking that would be feasible at the lake. Councilman Meaney inquired about the number of participants. Mr. Stanley said that he anticipates between 700 and 2,000. Councilman Schiro noted that most of the race is located within the County and asked if contact had been made with the other entities. Mr. Stanley said that he is working with VDOT and Page County, and is awaiting a meeting with the Town of Stanley. Mayor Presgraves acknowledged the benefit to the local economy and tourism but asked that we also remember the residents and their traffic needs. Councilman Dofflemyer asked if the race would also partner with local charities. Mr. Stanley said that they would partner with local organizations and those trying to raise money. Councilman Sours inquired about the promotional process for the event. Council members agreed that they are in favor of supporting the event. Mr. Hoke advised Mr. Stanley to work with Parks Director, Pat O'Brien, on the timing of the event in order to consider the town's event schedule. Council members encouraged Mr. Stanley to look at a September race event.

ACTION ITEMS

VDOT Blanket Funding Resolution

Assistant Town Manager, Bryan Chrisman, said that in September 2015 Council adopted a similar resolution. Mr. Chrisman said that the current draft was provided to him by our VDOT representatives and he is requesting that Council adopt the resolution this evening.

Motion: Councilman Vickers motioned to approve the Resolution for Blanket Project Funding, motion seconded by Councilman Dofflemyer with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Dofflemyer, Schiro, Lancaster, Sours, Meaney. **Approved 6-0**

Adjourn

With no further business, Mayor Presgraves adjourned the work session of the Luray Town Council at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Mayor, Barry Presgraves

Deputy Clerk, Danielle Babb