

MINUTES OF A TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TOWN OF LURAY, VIRGINIA
Tuesday, July 26, 2016

The Luray Town Council met in a work session on Tuesday, July 26, 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: Jerry Dofflemyer
Jerry Schiro
Leroy Lancaster
Joey Sours
John Meaney

Council Absent: Ron Vickers

Also Present:

Charlie Hoke, Town Manager
Bryan Chrisman, Assistant Town Manager
Ligon Webb, Town Planner
Mary Broyles, Treasurer
Danielle Babb, Deputy Clerk Treasurer
Chris Slater, Page News and Courier
Jason Botkins, Town Attorney
Cathy Herbert, Performing Arts Luray

Mayor Presgraves led members in the United States Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called with one member absent.

UPDATES AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

PAL'S Grant Request

Ms. Cathy Herbert, 201 Hawksbill Heights Drive

Ms. Herbert spoke on behalf of Performing Arts Luray board members regarding a grant opportunity. The grant is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts fund. The concept is to apply for the grant in hopes of revitalizing the plaza. The goal would be to transform this into a multi-use facility that could be used more effectively. She explained that the grant is targeted for small localities and must be a partnership between an arts organization and the municipality. Ms. Herbert said that the board would like to work with the town on this and hopes PAL's can partner in this effort.

Mayor Presgraves questioned the associated cost to the town. Ms. Herbert stressed that there is no cost to the town. PAL's would like to apply for a \$50,000 matching grant. Councilman Sours confirmed that the matching funds can be 100% in-kind match. Councilman Schiro asked if the town would be a co-applicant on the grant. Ms. Herbert confirmed that the town would be a co-applicant and would be required to write a letter of support. Councilman Dofflemyer thanked the board members for their work on the proposal. Councilman Dofflemyer asked if this would be an all-weather facility. Ms. Herbert said that there are many different options available and would like to solicit participation in the overall concept. She said that the end goal is to produce a more usable area. Mayor Presgraves requested a copy of the grant application. Mr. Hoke said that he would supply members with a copy of the application link. Members discussed the format of the application, letters of support, and the two year time frame of the grant agreement. Council members agreed to support the grant application.

VDOT Bridge Update

Assistant Town Manager, Bryan Chrisman, updated members on the status of bridge funding. While the bridge processes have gone smoothly, the funding process has not. Currently the problem is timing and the change in the manner of which VDOT is funding projects. The town is anxiously awaiting the status of State of Good Repair Funding. The vote on these funds will not be taken by the Commonwealth Transportation Board until January 2017.

Mr. Chrisman said that in August 2016 VDOT will issue the Bridge Project Ranking List, currently the town's project is anticipated to be ranked second on the regional list. In September and October 2016 the project team will be requesting State of Good Repair Funding and plans to ask for \$1 million dollars. In November 2016 VDOT will finalize the list for the CTB after re-scoring. In December 2016, the CTB will review the draft funding allocations list with a vote in January 2017.

Councilman Schiro expressed concerns about the political effects on the funding allocations. Mr. Chrisman confirmed that regardless of the January decision, the project team will be ready to go either way. Councilman Schiro and Mr. Chrisman discussed the town's "back-up" plan which will consist of utilizing revenue sharing funds. Mr. Chrisman said that the plan is to conduct the design phase in 2017, with proposed construction and demolition in 2018, and project close-out in early 2019. He said that the town intends to spend its federal funding first in order to meet grant deadlines.

Sign Ordinance Update

Town Planner, Ligon Webb, presented information on the Sign Ordinance update. Mr. Webb recalled some changes that were discussed at the last meeting and questions regarding advertising of those changes. Mr. Webb said that upon consulting with the Town Attorney, Jason Botkins, his position is that the town is well within its rights for advertisement of the ordinance. Mr. Webb asked Mr. Botkins if he would provide an overview of his changes to the ordinance.

Town Attorney, Jason Botkins, explained that the issue arose from a US Supreme Court case that was handed down in June 2015. The issue at hand was a sign ordinance from the Town of Gilbert. The

Town of Gilbert's ordinance was similar in nature to the allowances for certain types of signs. The US Supreme Court ruled that if one has to first "read" the sign to determine if it is in compliance, then the ordinance is deemed unconstitutional.

Mr. Webb thanked Mr. Botkins for his work on the ordinance and reviewed the changes discussed at the last meeting. In addition to Mr. Botkins' revisions, the Planning Commission suggested changes for "theaters", feather banners, and terminations of business. Councilman Sours questioned the removal of sign frames whereas they are a significant structure. Mr. Chrisman said that the ordinance defines signs as both the sign and frame. Mr. Webb said that these would be upon request and that town staff would use reasonable discretion in asking the owner to remove some structures. Mr. Webb said that he would provide the changes for next month's meeting for action.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel, Section 2.2-3711.A.1

Mayor Presgraves requested a motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters relevant to Section 2.2-3711.A.1.

Motion: Councilman Sours motioned to recess the regular session and to convene in executive session; Councilman Lancaster seconded the motion with the following members voting YEA: Council Members Dofflemyer, Schiro, Lancaster, Sours, Meaney. **Approved 5-0**

Motion: Councilman Schiro motioned to adjourn the closed session and to reconvene in open session; Councilman Dofflemyer seconded the motion with the following members voting YEA: Council Members Dofflemyer, Schiro, Lancaster, Sours, Meaney. **Approved 5-0**

Mayor Presgraves asked members of Council to certify that to the best of their knowledge only matters covered under Section 2.2-3711.A.1 were heard, discussed, or considered during the closed session.

The roll was called with all members certifying "Yes".

Adjourn

With no further business, Mayor Presgraves adjourned the work session of the Luray Town Council at approximately 6:46 p.m.

Mayor, Barry Presgraves

Deputy Clerk, Danielle Babb