

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF VINTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT 7:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE VINTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING LOCATED AT 311 SOUTH POLLARD STREET, VINTON, VIRGINIA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bradley E. Grose, Mayor
Keith N. Liles, Vice Mayor
Sabrina McCarty
Janet Scheid
Michael W. Stovall

STAFF PRESENT: Barry W. Thompson, Town Manager
Susan N. Johnson, Executive Assistant/Town Clerk
Jeremy Carroll, Town Attorney
Pete Peters, Assistant Town Manager/Director of Economic Development
Anne Cantrell, Treasurer/Finance Director
Joey Hiner, Public Works Director
Thomas Foster, Police Chief
Nathan McClung, Principal Planner

The Mayor called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Town Clerk called the roll with Council Member McCarty, Council Member Scheid, Council Member Stovall, Vice Mayor Liles and Mayor Grose present.

Roll call

After a Moment of Silence, Matthew King with the Boy Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Under upcoming community events, Council Member McCarty announced the following: February 8 – 7:00 p.m. – Virginia Tech v. West Virginia and February 9 – 7:00 p.m. – Virginia Tech v. Stevenson University – Lancer Lot; February 22-March 12 – 7:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. – Husband in Clover – Star City Playhouse; March 7 – 12 Noon – Chamber Lunch N Lunch with Keith Hartman of the Small Development Business Center and March 26 – Senior Expo - Vinton War Memorial.

Chief Foster commented on State Trooper Lucas Dowell that was killed in the line of duty yesterday in Cumberland County. He then read a quote from Albert Schweitzer, "The purpose of human life is to serve and to show compassion and the will to help others". This was the 66th Virginia State Trooper to be killed in the line of duty and he became the 14th law enforcement officer to be killed in 2019.

Under requests to postpone, add to or change the order of agenda items, the Town Manager requested Item 2 (c) under Items Requiring Action be tabled to a future meeting. After further review, it was determined this needs to go through our small purchase procurement process. Council Member Stovall made a motion to table the item to a future meeting; the motion was seconded by Council Member Scheid and carried by the following vote, with all members voting: Vote 5-0; Yeas (5) – McCarty, Scheid, Stovall, Liles, Grose; Nays (0) – None.

Council Member Scheid made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; the motion was seconded by Council Member McCarty and carried by the following vote, with all members voting: Vote 5-0; Yeas (5) – McCarty, Scheid, Stovall, Liles, Grose; Nays (0) – None.

The next item on the agenda was a quarterly report from the Vinton Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Oakes reviewed his quarterly report, which was a part of the agenda package and is on file in the Town Clerk's Office as a part of the permanent record. Chief Oakes commented that he has one member graduating from the Roanoke County Volunteer Academy tomorrow night and has one that was not able to get in the Roanoke County Academy, but was able to get into one in Giles County. Also, there are two other applications in process.

The Mayor asked if the Fire Department automatically respond to calls for automobile accidents. Chief Oakes responded that if it is a fender bender, they most likely would not get called; however, if there are fluid leaks or injuries, they would get called.

Under citizens' comments and petitions, Alvin Atkinson of Tinker Avenue, Vinton, commented that the property at 525 Tinker Avenue was being renovated and the renovations are being done late at night and they are drag racing up and down the road, which is creating a lot of noise. This has been going on for about two weeks and he has spoken with Officer Bray. Chief Foster commented that he would have an officer that evening star monitoring the issue of the drag racing. Stephanie Roberts of Tinker Avenue also commented that the drag racing has been going on consistently at odd hours.

Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to execute an Engagement Letter for Professional Services between the Town of Vinton and VML VACO Finance tabled to a future meeting.

Approved minutes of Regular Council meeting of January 15, 2019

The next item on the agenda was a briefing on the 2019 Roanoke County Real Estate Reassessment. Sandy Walton, Senior Appraiser with Roanoke County reviewed a PowerPoint presentation, which was a part of the agenda package and is on file in the Town Clerk's Office as a part of the permanent record.

Council Member Scheid commented on the Roanoke County real estate assessment change between 2018 and 2019 being 3.17 and the Town being 2.46. She asked how that compared with previous years and Ms. Walton responded that she would get that information and email to Council. Council Member Scheid next asked if the percentage change by classification with multi-family residential included the old William Byrd High School property that is being renovated. Ms. Walton responded that she would also email that information to Council.

The next item on the agenda was a briefing on the 2017-2024 grants that have been applied for and secured by the Town. The Town Manager commented that Nathan McClung has prepared a listing of all of the grants that the Town has been able to secure, which document will be placed in Dropbox and updated from time to time. Mr. McClung commented that several departments provided the information for the listing. He then reviewed the listing, which was a part of the agenda package and is on file in the Town Clerk's Office as a part of the permanent record.

The Mayor made comments on the importance of grants for the Town and how they have improved the quality of life, the appearance of the community, the safety of our citizens and staff and have spurred private investments. The Town Manager expressed appreciation to all of the departments for their hard work on going after grants to help supplement the budget. He also expressed appreciation to Council for their support when they are asked to approve grant requests.

The next item on the agenda was to consider adoption of a Resolution allowing the Town Treasurer/Finance Director to remove outstanding Personal Property delinquent taxes and Vehicle License Fees over five years old from the active records to a permanent file. Anne Cantrell commented that the amounts requested to be written off are roughly the same as last year. Looking at the collection rate over the past five

years, they have been able to collect 98.61% of the personal property taxes and 92.69% of the vehicle license fees. In perspective in 2012, the collection rate was 98% in personal property and 93% in vehicle license fees. This is according to State Code Section 58.1-3940 which states that the Treasurer cannot collect after the five year period. Vice Mayor Liles made a motion to adopt the Resolution as presented; the motion was seconded by Council Member McCarty and carried by the following vote, with all members voting: Vote 5-0; Yeas (5) – McCarty, Scheid, Stovall, Liles, Grose; Nays (0) – None.

The next item on the agenda was to consider adoption of a Resolution allowing the Town Treasurer/Finance Director to remove outstanding water and sewer delinquent bills over five years old from the active records to a permanent file. Anne Cantrell commented that they are writing off \$11,553.50, but they billed \$2,916,411. The write-off is 0.39%, which is a collection rate of 99.61%. These bills are written off the books, but they can be pulled back out if the opportunity ever comes up to collect them. Council Member Scheid made a motion to adopt the Resolution as presented; the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Liles and carried by the following vote, with all members voting: Vote 5-0; Yeas (5) – McCarty, Scheid, Stovall, Liles, Grose; Nays (0) – None.

Under reports from Council Committees, Joey Hiner commented that the Public Works Committee met on January 24, 2019. The main topic was the refuse ordinance update and the Committee reviewed the comments from Council at their January 15, 2019 meeting, specifically about the Southampton and Dillon Woods town homes. Staff met with three members of the Southampton HOA Board to discuss options for their refuse collection. One of the options was the possibility of dumpsters, but the concerns expressed were the locations, tidiness, security and the residents being able to take their trash to the dumpster site. Another option discussed was third-party curbside collection. The HOA Board members asked if they could bring their cans out to the right-of-way because two of the streets are internal. However, this would mean that they would have 36 cans lined up on one side and 36 on the other side.

With regard to Dillon Woods, staff met with the President of the HOA. There is not a good

Adopted Resolution No. 2282 allowing the Town Treasurer/Finance Director to remove outstanding Personal Property delinquent taxes and Vehicle License Fees over five years old from the active records to a permanent file

Adopted Resolution No. 2283 allowing the Town Treasurer/Finance Director to remove outstanding water and sewer delinquent bills over five years old from the active records to a permanent file

location for a dumpster. Other options discussed were a different size can for the residents, a single location for a number of the larger cans that would be accessible for our crews or third party curbside collection.

The Committee reviewed drafts of letters that were sent out on Thursday to 33 properties that would be affected by the limiting the number of units to four and not going on private property. Public Works has received seven calls in response to those letters. The letters included the date of the Public Hearing and several citizens have indicated that they would like to attend the Public Hearing. Staff has since discovered some other properties that would be affected and will be sending those property owners the same letter.

At the last meeting, Council directed staff to order the carts from Toter, which has been done and later this week there will be a conference call to schedule the set up and delivery. A total of 3,400 carts were ordered with the bulk of the order being the 96-gallon, but there will also be some of the 64-gallon as well as the 48-gallon carts for some of the smaller areas and as a possible option for the Dillon Woods Townhomes.

The Mayor asked approximately how many properties have more than four units and Mr. Hiner responded there are 17-18.

With regard to Southampton, Council Member Stovall asked who would pay for the dumpster. Mr. Hiner responded the Town would take care of preparing the site, the screening and the monthly charges would be billed to the Town.

Mr. Hiner made further comments regarding properties that do not have a good location for a large dumpster, but perhaps they could use a smaller one or use a third party for curbside collection. There are some facilities in Roanoke City that use private contractors and staff is in the process of getting information on these private contractors from Roanoke City to provide to those property owners. Council Member Stovall asked if that information would be available by February 19th, the date of the Public Hearing. The Town Manager responded that staff is addressing questions now and that he and Mr. Hiner will be meeting with one of the apartment owners tomorrow.

Council Member Scheid asked if we would have a resolution for Southampton by February 19th. The Town Manager responded there has been one meeting with the property manager, one with the HOA and there will be another meeting with the HOA. We told them that we will continue picking up their refuse as we have been until a solution is in place. The HOA appreciated the Town including them in the process. Vice Mayor Liles expressed appreciation to Mr. Hiner for partnering with the community and making sure that we have a common ground for all of our taxpayers and going the extra mile.

With regard to the Dillon Woods Townhomes, Council Member Scheid asked if we are now thinking the smaller 48-gallon cans will work for them and they will pull them out to the right-of-way. Mr. Hiner commented there has been no final decision, but the last correspondence was a request for a can smaller than the 48-gallon. There was further discussion concerning the garage space for residents to store their cans and the ability of the elderly residents to get a 64-gallon cart out to the curb. Currently they are putting their garbage outside their garage and we are going on their private property to pick it up. Mr. Hiner commented that another option being considered is a corral with three full-sized cans that the residents could share and would be accessible to the right-of-way. Vice Mayor Liles asked if the 32-gallon would work with the tippers and Mr. Hiner responded they are made by the same company, but he has not checked to see if they are compatible.

The Mayor expressed appreciation to Public Works, the Committee and Town Administration for trying to accommodate a lot of different situations. This is going to be quite a change for the Town and it is important that we do it right and accommodate our citizens as best we can. Council Member Stovall commented that all of his questions have been answered and that staff has done a good job.

The Town Manager commented that if the Ordinance is passed by Council on February 19th, notices will be sent to all the service locations in the downtown area as well as to the areas outside the downtown explaining the new change in the refuse collection and that the media can also publish an article to assist in getting the

message out. Arrangements have been made with our mailing company to prepare and send out the mailing for us.

Under appointments to Boards/Commissions/

Committees, Vice Mayor Liles made a motion to re-appoint Dave Jones to the Planning Commission for a new four-year term beginning March 1, 2019 and ending February 28, 2023; the motion was seconded by Council Member Stovall and carried by the following vote, with all members voting: Vote 5-0; Yeas (5) – McCarty, Scheid, Stovall, Liles, Grose; Nays (0) – None.

Re-appointed Dave Jones to the Planning Commission for a new four-year term beginning March 1, 2019 and ending February 28, 2023

The Mayor commented on two recent ribbon cuttings, one at Master Sergeant BBQ and for a bakery at Izzy's Place.

Comments from Council: Council Member

Scheid asked the status of the dumpsters at Lake Drive Plaza. The Town Manager commented that staff met with Brenda Thompson of Brixmor today. Chief Foster commented that there were two previous meetings scheduled with Ms. Thompson, but both were cancelled due to weather. They discussed with her the concerns that the doors to the dumpster station were not staying closed. Two of the doors were broken and non-operational, having been struck by the contractors that empty the dumpsters. Some possible solutions were discussed such as providing a side entrance for employees to use to access the dumpsters. The main doors would remain closed and only be opened by the contractor emptying the dumpsters. Some reconfiguration would need to be done and they discussed possibly removing one of the dumpsters to make room and emptying more often or making the station larger. Ms. Thompson has reached out to contractors to get immediate repairs done on the gates and fencing.

Chief Foster next commented that they discussed the problem of plastic bags and other debris that have blown up on the embankment and Ms. Thompson indicated she had already contacted a private landscape company to come out and clean that area again and she is possibly looking at some fencing that might help the debris from getting on the bank. She also mentioned the possibility of putting in surveillance cameras on the dumpster station to make the businesses that use those facilities more accountable. Other options discussed were the installation of bollards near the dumpster station so the trucks would not hit the station and working with the contractor to keep

those dumpsters pushed back into those facilities far enough so the gates can be closed. Some marking on the concrete pad to show where the dumpsters need to be placed in the station or replacing some of the larger dumpsters with smaller ones to make them easier for employees to access them were also discussed as other options. Prior to this meeting, Dustin Bray visited the Kroger dumpster facilities at Bonsack and Cave Spring which provided some of the options that we discussed with Ms. Thompson.

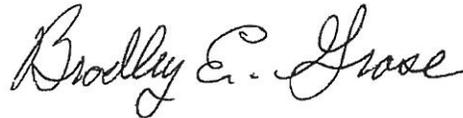
Council Member Scheid requested that the VML/VACo engagement letter that was pulled from the agenda be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting.

The Mayor commented that Brixmor seems to be making a real effort to remedy a difficult situation. Chief Foster and the Town Manager also commented that Ms. Thompson has been very accommodating in trying to work with the Town in making that shopping center more attractive. She has also indicated that she wants to work with Valley Metro to get a bus shelter there.

Council Member Scheid made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Liles and carried by the following vote, with all members voting: Vote 5-0; Yeas (5) – McCarty, Scheid, Stovall, Liles, Grose; Nays (0) – None. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

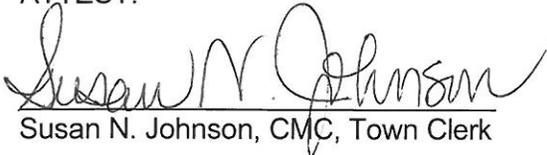
Meeting adjourned

APPROVED:



Bradley E. Grose, Mayor

ATTEST:



Susan N. Johnson, CMC, Town Clerk