

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF VINTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT 7:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2019, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE VINTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING LOCATED AT 311 SOUTH POLLARD STREET, VINTON, VIRGINIA

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Keith N. Liles, Vice Mayor

STAFF PRESENT: Barry W. Thompson, Town Manager
Jeremy Carroll, Town Attorney
Pete Peters, Assistant Town Manager/Director of Economic Development
Joey Hiner, Public Works Director
Thomas Foster, Police Chief
Anne Cantrell, Finance Director/Treasurer
Chasity Barbour, Community Programs/Facilities Director
Lydia Verdillo, Senior Financial Analyst

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

Roll call

After a Moment of Silence, Council Member Stovall led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Under upcoming community events, Council Member McCarty announced the following: March 26 – Senior Expo - Vinton War Memorial.

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 4-0; Yeas (4) – McCarty, Scheid, Stovall, Grose; Nays (0) – None; Absent (1) – Liles.

Approved the minutes of the Special Called Work Session of February 25, 2019

Chief Foster made comments and then read a quote from Lieutenant General Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller, “The enemy is to our left, they’re to our right, they’re in front of us, they’re behind us-- there is no way they will get away from us this time”.

Under awards, introductions, presentations, the first item was a request for funding presentation from the Vinton Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Richard Oakes first commented that the Department

is requesting \$13,000 for the upcoming fiscal year. The breakdown was \$4,400 for contractual services for Chief's pay; \$3,000 for training such as the Chief's Conference; \$600 for active 9-1-1 dues and \$5,000 toward continued recruitment.

The next request for funding presentation was from the Dogwood Festival Committee. Mary Beth Layman first commented that the Committee is requesting financial support of \$2,500 for the upcoming fiscal year. Ms. Layman expressed thanks to Council for their support over the past years as well as Public Works, Police, Fire and Rescue. This will be the 64th anniversary of the Festival with over 100 vendors and she commented on the different aspects of the Festival. The Mayor and Members of Council expressed thanks to the Committee and the direction that they are going this year with the Festival.

The next item on the agenda was the presentation of Certificate of Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2018 awarded to the Treasurer/Finance Department. Anne Cantrell expressed thanks to everyone who assisted with the budget and commented that last year they scored 8 out of 12 and this year it was 11 out of 12. She also commented that Brandon Gann of her department, who has been involved with the budget process this year, stated it is like opening up a 120 piece jigsaw puzzle and finding out you have 125 pieces. Council Member Scheid commented about serving on the Finance Committee with the Mayor and all the hard work that Ms. Cantrell and her team does. The Mayor then congratulated Ms. Cantrell and Lydia Verdillo, the Senior Financial Analyst, who was present at the meeting.

Under citizens' comments and petitions, George Baldwin, a resident of Montgomery Village, requested that Council consider a dog park in the Town limits. He commented on the dog park at Thrasher Park and that one was needed in a better area. Jim Bown of 1030 Howell Drive, also spoke in favor of a dog park. Mr. Baldwin made additional comments on the possibility of Powell's fencing cutting a deal on fencing.

The Mayor commented he has been approached by several citizens about a dog park and he thought it was something that should be looked at. Council Member Stovall commented that it was a great idea and thought it should be a community activity and a community dog park where we could solicit

donations as much as possible to build the park. After further discussion about the possibility of the property on 3rd Street as a location, which the Town owns, the Mayor requested the Town Manager to look into the matter further.

Bob Steel of 850 Olney Road first commented on the condition of Mountain View Road and on certain parts of Town that need touch up of the center lines such as the one by the Farmers' Market as you come around the curve.

Mr. Steel next commented about the letter received concerning the changes in the trash collection and asked what is considered bulk services. Joey Hiner responded that refers to bulk and brush. Brush is like tree limbs, branches and yard waste. Bulk items are furniture and light items such as appliances, washers and dryers. Recycling, refuse, bulk and brush are collected on the same day with recycling being every other week.

Mr. Steel asked what someone would do if they have more garbage than would go in the container and you get another one, but it still not enough. An additional cart is \$5.00 per month and is there another option such as buying one from the City. He sees other people that have those type that they use and look similar, but he is assumes they will not have their garbage picked up.

Mr. Steel next asked if cardboard boxes needed to be placed in a bag to put into the trash container and would they be considered bulk; if extra service for the elderly was still available and if the Code Enforcement Officer is a new hire for the Town.

In response to a question regarding the type of refuse truck, Mr. Hiner commented it is a rear loader truck with flippers that will still have a refuse crew. Mr. Steel commented that the refuse employees give great customer service and he hoped it would continue.

Council Member Scheid commented that for at least the past 10-15 years, it has not been legal to put bags out without being in a can. Residents have been doing that, but we have never enforced it. The new ordinance does require that the trash be bagged and the bags be put in the town issued trash cart. If a resident cannot maneuver the large can, they can request a smaller one. Also, if one of the 96-gallon cans is not enough, they can be issued another can at a monthly rental of \$500. The

Town does not recycle cardboard, but there are other places in area that do.

Council Member Scheid next commented that the Town would still provide service to those who are elderly or physically challenged. They can call Public Works and request a form that must be filled out and returned along with a statement from their doctor. With regard to the question regarding the Code Enforcement Officer, we have always had that position on Town staff; however, the position is now a part of the Police Department and enforcement of the refuse ordinance would be one of the duties of that Officer.

Council Member Stovall commented that he lives on Mountain View Road and Council Member McCarty lives in the Meadows and they are both aware of the condition of Mountain View Road. At the last Council meeting there was discussion about the cut in the road which was done by a contractor with the gas company.

Mr. Hiner commented cardboard boxes can be broken down and flattened out and placed in the carts. They do not have to be in a bag. Any type of bag that can be tied up can be used in the carts.

The Town Attorney commented on the possibility of the Town participating in some of the multi-claimant opioid litigation that is going on around the state. Some claims are being brought in State Court for a variety of reasons by a lot of Virginia jurisdictions, cities and counties primarily. There are larger federal claims going on in Ohio that some Virginia jurisdictions have joined in and that would be an option for Vinton. The decision to participate would be based on the amount of the damages and towns in particular do not have as many damages as cities or counties. For example, we do not have a school system and most of the larger jurisdictions are able to point to increased expenses or costs with regard to their schools, social services, regional jail or jail expenses, which we do not have in Vinton. The areas we could look at would be increased calls for Police services, EMS responses and the use of Narcan. Some smaller jurisdictions have found that their damages did not justify the burden of going forward and he was not aware of any towns that have joined in. If the Town decided to join in with one of the multi-claimant litigation groups, legal counsel representing those grounds is not charging a fee, but will receive a percentage of any recovery. The burden would be

on the Town Manager, Chief Foster and the Fire Chief to find out what those damages are.

The Town Manager turned the meeting over to Chief Foster for an update on two code enforcement issues. Chief Foster first commented on property at 840 Pollard Street, which is under foreclosure and had a tenant that refused to leave. Through the eviction process, the occupant has been removed from the property. With regard to the large amount of trash and debris outside the property that we have been getting complaints on, a letter was sent to the representative of the property management company giving a 10-day notice to remove the debris from the property or the Town would contract with someone to remove it and place a lien against the property. The response back was they would have a contractor there within 48 hours, which was today.

With regard to the Kroger property, Brenda Thompson, the property manager for Brixmor, advised that this Thursday a contractor will assess the dumpster facility for necessary modifications to put in a bollard system so the trucks emptying the dumpsters do not run into the fence and damage it. Also, they will begin painting all of the light posts on the property. On April 1st they will begin a \$3.2 million renovation of the entire Kroger facility and a landscaping project of the entire property to take care of some issues. They will be involved in a substantial litter collection activity prior to Clean Valley Day on April 6th.

Under reports from Council Committees, Anne Cantrell commented that she would be giving an update from the March 5th Finance Committee meeting. The update from today's meeting will be presented at a later date.

At the March 5th meeting, they covered two big topics and spent a considerable amount of time reviewing the preliminary budget requests and set out a plan for the budget work session. There is included in this year's budget the funding to do a utility rate study. The Finance Office obtained three quotes, which were reviewed by the Committee. The quotes from VML/VACo and Davenport were essentially the same dollar amount and since the Town had previous experience with Davenport, the Committee recommends going with Davenport.

The Town Attorney has reviewed the engagement letter and the Committee agreed it contains

everything that is important to the Town, specifically looking at our current bi-monthly collection versus a monthly collection so we can analyze cash flow. They will also look at our infrastructure and different ways to fund it, whether with debt or cash and variable rate versus fixed rate. Council Member Scheid commented that the Committee would ask for approval by Council at the next meeting.

The Mayor commented on the success of the budget work session and that the work being done at the Rosie's Gaming Emporium.

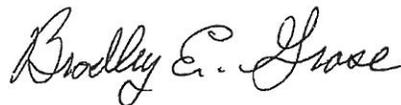
Comments from Council: Council Member Scheid thanked Chief Foster for the update on Lake Drive Plaza and reminded the Town Manager that a Public Works Committee meeting needs to be scheduled soon. Council Member McCarty asked Pete Peters about scheduling a tour of the Billy Byrd apartments again and Rosie's. Pete Peters responded that the open house for the apartments is set for May 7th and he is working with the management of Rosie's for their open house, but he would be happy to coordinate a tour. Council Member McCarty next commented that when the Valley Metro bus stops at McDonalds, it is causing traffic to back up across the intersection. The Town Manager commented that he noticed it today as well and that Nathan McClung is working on scheduling a ride on the bus leaving from the library and riding the reciprocating route to see exactly the dynamics. Council indicated they would like to be included in that bus ride.

Council Member Stovall introduced Brian Holohan, who is running for Roanoke County Commonwealth's Attorney.

Council Member Scheid made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Council Member McCarty and carried by the following vote, with all members voting: Vote 4-0; Yeas (4) – McCarty, Scheid, Stovall, Grose; Nays (0) – None; Absent (1) – Liles. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

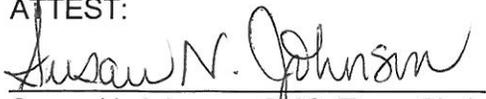
Meeting adjourned

APPROVED:



Bradley E. Grose, Mayor

ATTEST:



Susan N. Johnson, CMC, Town Clerk