

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE VINTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2020, AT 7:00 P.M. BY ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 15.2-1413, CODE OF VIRGINIA (1950), AS AMENDED, AND ORDINANCE NO. 1016

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, Finance Director/Treasurer
Donna Collins, Human Resources Director/Risk Manager
Chasity Barbour, Community Programs & Facilities Director

OTHERS PRESENT: Debbie Adams, The Vinton Messenger

The Vinton Town Council meeting was held via Zoom with livestreaming on the Town of Vinton, Virginia Government Facebook Page. 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 and announced there was a quorum of Council. The Town Clerk next announced the names of staff and others present, confirmed that the meeting was being held in accordance with Ordinance No. 1016 and Amendment 28 to House Bill 29 adopted at the 2020 Reconvened Session of the Virginia General Assembly and that everyone present was participating by electronic means.

Roll call

After a Moment of Silence, Vice Mayor Liles led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Under awards, introductions, presentations and proclamations, the Mayor announced that that a Proclamation was prepared recently for National Safety Month for the Month of June.

The next item on the agenda was the consideration of public comments regarding the proposed FY 2020-2021 Town of Vinton Budget. The Mayor opened the Public Hearing at 7:07 p.m.

Public Hearing Opened

Anne Cantrell reviewed a PowerPoint presentation, which is on file in the Town Clerk's Office as a part of the permanent record. Ms. Cantrell first commented that the FY2021 Proposed Budget totals \$11,663,773, which is a 4.51% decrease from the adopted FY2020 budget. The Capital Fund represents the largest decrease at 65% which is followed by the General Fund at 4.77%. The Grant fund has no change from last year, the Utility Fund has an increase of 2.79% and the Stormwater Fund contains an increase of 6.41%.

Ms. Cantrell next commented the preparation of this budget was drastically different due revenue impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic and reviewed the Proposed Budget Highlights, the General Fund and Utility Fund Revenues and the General Fund Expenditures. The recommended budget reductions total \$263,189.71.

With regard to the CIP, due to the loss of revenues, the only item recommended for funding is the \$175,000 match for the Mountain View Road Improvement Project. If revenues improve during the budget year, an amended plan will be included in the final budget document as a resource for Council for possible appropriation during the year.

Ms. Cantrell next commented on recommended changes from how the proposed budget was advertised. Following the briefing at the May 19, 2020 Council meeting, staff is recommending to eliminate one Refuse Collection Position and reduce the Refuse Budget by \$40,000; unfreeze one vacant Highway Street Crew Position and increase various Public Works Department accounts for the Refuse employee moving to this position; revise CIP Multi-Year Plan to remove the \$175,000 funded portion of Mountain View Road Match and to add supplemental funding of \$145,000 for a contingent project overage and revise the CIP Multi-Year Plan to move Clearview/Hardy Road Traffic Signal Upgrade from Year Eight to Year One.

Under public comments, the Town Clerk read into the record a called-in comment from Linda Short of 626 East Augusta Avenue that she would rather see the bulk pickup continue each week and eliminate the recycling because she felt that more citizens use the bulk pickup.

Vice Mayor Liles asked if the bulk pickup was just temporary. The Mayor responded that he hoped so if and until revenues increase. He thought the public comment was very valid and that is something we are going to have to watch closely. Council Member Stovall commented that he agreed with the Mayor and Vice Mayor. Everything that we are experiencing right now under the COVID-19 Pandemic is temporary because we were forced to make some changes. Once we get back up and running, it could go back to like it was.

Council Member Stovall next asked how long will the position with the Police Department be 100% grand funded, before the Town has to make a decision if that position goes back into the operating budget. Ms. Cantrell responded that originally the grant was to be for five years from 2016, which would get us through this budget and three months of another budget because they are on a federal fiscal year. There has been some pushback over the past year and it was difficult to get the funding secured in this fiscal year. The Police Department is working to try and get it figured out now. Obviously, that grant has not been functioning during COVID-19 Pandemic and is vacant and will not be filled right now.

The Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 7:26 p.m. with action to be taken on June 16, 2020.

Public Hearing Closed

The next item on the agenda was the consideration of public comments regarding the Town of Vinton's intention to apply for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for a local project to support the local response to COVID-19 pandemic. The Mayor opened the Public Hearing at 7:27 p.m.

Public Hearing Opened

Pete Peters commented that in early April the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) appropriated approximately \$6.5 million towards local governments to address health and economic conditions that were worsened because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. There are several projects that the Town can consider for these funds and staff has been looking at different avenues and ways that we could respond and do something for our local economy. We have identified a project and will share more details at the next Public Hearing scheduled for

June 16, 2020. The intent of tonight's public hearing is to solicit comments from the public on the Town's intention to apply as a general application.

There were no public comments.

The Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 7:28 p.m. with action to be taken following the Second Public Hearing on June 16, 2020.

Public Hearing Closed

The next item on the agenda was to consider adoption of a Resolution to approve the updated Vinton Farmers' Market Policy & Procedures. Chasity Barbour briefly reviewed the key highlights of the updated Policy & Procedures and fee schedule.

Council Member McCarty asked if any other vendors had contacted her about a space. Ms. Barbour responded before the COVID-19 Pandemic, they were on track for Saturdays to have at least up to 10 vendors. When COVID-19 started, all of the Farmers' Markets in the State shut down and we just received the approval to open back up a few weeks ago. They asked us to try to keep it to one vendor unless we could space them out 20 feet apart. With the beginning of Phase II, she will be able to start contacting more vendors to see if they are interested. She has a Zoom meeting this week with all of the farmers' market managers in the State that will give her more details.

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

Adopted Resolution No. 2359 to approve the updated Vinton Farmers' Market Policy & Procedures

The next item on the agenda was to consider adoption of a Resolution authorizing the renewal of the Town of Vinton Employees' group health insurance coverage with The Local Choice Program for the contract year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The Town Manager first commented that several meetings ago, Council was briefed on the renewal. In summary the insurance premiums received a 4.8% renewal increase effective July 1, 2020. In past years, we had offered the 250 Plan and the Key Advantage 1000. Moving forward with this renewal, the 500

Plan and the Key Advantage 1000 will be offered. Council was gracious enough to absorb the health insurance increase in the upcoming budget to keep the employee premiums at the same level.

The Town is required to submit a renewal acceptance to the Virginia Department of Human Resource Management. The Town has been with The Local Choice Health Benefits Program since 1990.

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

The Town Manager commented on the reopening of the Municipal Building to the public. Staff met with Servpro today about doing a deep cleaning of all of our buildings on June 18th and 19th and reopen the building back up to the public on Monday, June 22nd. We feel like the deep cleaning of the buildings is very important for the safety of our employees and the public when they come back into the building. We are working on updating our policies for reopening and will be sharing those with Council in the next week.

With regard to the CARES Act, the allocation that the Town will receive will flow through Roanoke County. Staff has been in communication with the County because the actual use of that money has been vague, we are all trying to figure out what the funds can be used for. We do understand that it cannot be used for revenue replacement, which is unfortunate. Once we have a better handle on that we will update Council.

The Town Manager next turned the meeting over to Pete Peters for comments regarding e-bikes. Mr. Peters commented that there is legislation that will take effect on July 1st regarding e-bikes. The General Assembly has redefined electric powered bikes to allow them to be treated as a regular pedal powered bike. In a lot of jurisdictions, motorized vehicles are not permitted on greenways or trails and now the e-bikes will no longer be considered motorized vehicles and it would change how we look at e-bikes in the Valley. The Town can take

Adopted Resolution No. 2360 authorizing the renewal of the Town of Vinton Employees' group health insurance coverage with The Local Choice Program for the contract year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

action in the future to prohibit e-bikes from our improved surface trails or greenways, but it will require a Public Hearing. Town staff has discussed this and had consultation with the Greenway Commission and recommends that we wait to see how Roanoke City and Roanoke County intend to address the new legislation. They have more linear mileage of greenways than the Town, but we do tie into both of their greenways. Roanoke City had a work session yesterday, but no real consensus was reached on which direction to go. They scheduled a Public Hearing for June 25th.

Council Member Scheid commented that this is going to be quite an issue on the Greenways. There is a lot of merit for e-bikes in terms of the disabled, but there is a lot of concern about the speed. They can go up to 20-25 miles an hour. We are going to have to see how this goes forward, but it is something to think about.

Mr. Peters further commented there has been some discussion with the Greenway Commission and the other jurisdictions about putting speed limits in place on the Greenways to somewhat regulate the e-bikes. It will be an enforcement issue, but if we prohibit them, that would also be an enforcement issue.

Vice Mayor Liles commented that he has a few citizens that walk from his neighborhood down to Wolf Creek Greenway with their animals quite regularly. They have asked about getting some lights behind the former beauty salon due to some nighttime activity going on down there in the parking lot at the trailhead. Council Member Scheid responded that the Greenway far as she knows closes at dusk, so there should not be people out there at night. If there are, then that is a police matter. The greenway commission has no enforcement ability.

Under appointments to Boards/Commissions/Committees, the Mayor commented that the Vice Mayor's term on the Planning Commission will expire on June 6, 2020 and he is interested in being re-appointed to a new four-year term beginning June 7, 2020 and ending June 6, 2024. Also, Bob Patterson resigned from the Planning Commission on November 12, 2019 before he passed away. Andrew "Ty" Braxton has submitted an application

to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Patterson's resignation. If appointed, Mr. Braxton's term would be for four years beginning June 2, 2020 and ending on June 1, 2024.

Council Member McCarty made a motion to re-appoint Keith Liles to the Planning Commission to a new four-year term beginning June 7, 2020 and ending June 6, 2024 and to appoint Andrew "Ty" Braxton to a four-year term beginning June 2, 2020 and ending on June 1, 2024; 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.

The Mayor commented on the building reopening to the public and was glad there will be a deep cleaning to assure them that they will be as safe as possible and on the recent recognitions of the 2020 high school graduates as well as those that graduated from other grades through parades and other recognitions.

Comments from Council Members: Vice Mayor Liles commented on all of Town Staff's work on the budget especially in these times and the way everyone has adjusted to get things done without not eliminating a lot of the services to our citizens. Vice Mayor Liles also thanked Pete Peters for a recent tour of Gish's Mill and Vinyard Station and commented on the recent events in Town for the various graduations.

Council Member McCarty commented on the Farmers' Market and that she was looking forward to the COVID-19 Pandemic going away so we can get back to our events and the fun buzz that we have had in Town for the past several years. She thanked all of Staff for the work on the budget and the fact that we did not have to eliminate any jobs and did a good job of restructuring some services.

Council Member McCarty next asked Pete Peters for update on the Billy Byrd apartments. Mr. Peters responded they are at approximately 50% occupied and the owner is pleased considering the economic environment we are in. She also thanked the Town Manager for keeping Council informed the last couple of days of unfortunate things that were going

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on and thanked Chief Foster and the Police Department for doing what they could do.

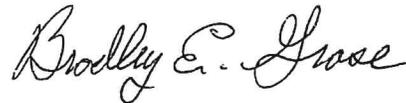
Council Member Stovall expressed thanks to the Town employees and the fact that in the midst of the Pandemic and the budget situation that all current employees will remain employed. He also commented on the parades held around Town for the different school graduations.

Debbie Adams asked if all town buildings would open on the 22nd or just the Municipal building. The Town Manager responded that the scheduling would be different at the War Memorial and Community Center.

Vice Mayor Liles made a motion to adjourn the meeting; 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. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Meeting adjourned

APPROVED:



Bradley E. Grose, Mayor

ATTEST:



Susan N. Johnson, CMC, Town Clerk