

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF VINTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT 6:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE VINTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING LOCATED AT 311 SOUTH POLLARD STREET, VINTON, VIRGINIA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bradley E. Grose, Mayor  
Matthew S. Hare, Vice Mayor  
I. Douglas Adams, Jr.  
William W. Nance  
Sabrina M. Weeks

STAFF PRESENT: Christopher S. Lawrence, Town Manager  
Theresa Fontana, Town Attorney  
Susan N. Johnson, Town Clerk  
Ryan Spitzer, Assistant Town Manager  
Ben Cook, Police Chief  
Donna Collins, Human Resources Specialist  
Barry Thompson, Finance Director/Treasurer  
Mary Beth Layman, Special Programs Director  
Gary Woodson, Public Works Director  
Joey Hiner, Public Works Assistant Director  
Mark Vaught, Lieutenant, Police Department

**The Mayor called the work session to order at 6:00** p.m. for further review and discussion of the proposed FY2015-2016 budget. The Town Manager first commented that the one remaining issue from the last work session was for Council to evaluate keeping the pool open beyond this summer and how to fund it.

The pool budget as recommended is \$45,000 which funds the pool for this upcoming summer and then closes it in August. This represents a \$35,000 reduction in the total pool budget. The direction received from Council was to increase the fees to bring in a potential increase of \$8,000 in new revenue. We also looked at the War Memorial budget to see if there were some funds there that can be shifted to the pool budget. To keep what we have today, there is approximately \$25,000 that we can shift from the War Memorial, part from salaries and benefits and the other from contract services, advertising and electrical services.

Our traditional budget is approximately \$70,000 and there is a \$25,000 difference. From our operating numbers, we would be okay, but from a budgeting standpoint the issue for next year which we budgeted for this year is the cost to repaint the bottom of the pool. If we were to keep the pool open, it will need to be painted at a cost of \$8,000 for the paint with the hope of using volunteer labor.

The Town Manager next commented that the allocation of Mary Beth Layman's salary to the pool budget is \$8,428 which will be allocated somewhere else. The water expenses to fill the pool and maintain water levels are

approximately \$3,000. Concession sales pay for a part-time employee plus make a profit which we are able to share with the volunteer groups at the churches.

Outside of cutting items that have already been discussed such as RVTV, something in the Police Department or the buses, the only other place that does not cut a service is the paving budget. We increased paving \$75,000 this coming year over our current year. To do this increase we recommended cuts throughout the budget to focus on a priority of roads. We could move the money from paving to do this one-time maintenance on the pool or from fund balance. However, we have structured the budget to not use fund balance except for some capital project equipment replacement.

The other topic from the last work session was the Police budget and from the direction of Council we shifted money from salaries.

With regard to the Valley Metro issue, we have a meeting next week to look at two options to adjust the routes which we will present at a community meeting. Then we will present the findings formally to Council and what the recommendations from the community are and ultimately there will have to be a Public Hearing on whatever recommendation Council would like to consider if there is to be a change. This is probably a three-month process, so we will need to act on what is currently in the budget, but will have the ability to evaluate and amend the budget after we are into the next budget year.

The Mayor commented that when we considered the revenue enhancement, the tax increase, it was primarily to fund the salaries and the expenses of two additional firefighters plus some paving. The Town Manager commented that part of the tax increase of \$60,000 went to paving and we were able to shift another \$15,000 from other areas in the budget for a total of \$75,000 new money in paving over what we have in our current year.

Vice Mayor Hare asked about the \$5,000 that we will not need to spend to fertilize the grounds at the War Memorial. The Town Manager responded that was included in the suggested reduction of contract services. As far as the reporting side, there are probably some more funds in contract services in Planning and Zoning that we could shift over to the pool. We did not suggest reducing the Planning and Zoning contract services line item because those funds will probably be needed for other items that relate to stormwater, for example.

Vice Mayor Hare next commented that Council currently has \$4,000 in its travel budget. With regard to RVTV,

he asked if Council realized how much the Town spends on getting our information out. It is not just R/TV, but we have gone into another contract with the Chamber to give them more money to get our message out and we pay for at least three websites, the Town's, the War Memorial's and the Police Department's. Council Member Adams commented that we should look at those costs to see if we can bring them together to send out the message and get it out effectively. A lot of organizations that he belongs to are going away from websites to very limited websites and using Facebook and other social media.

The Town Manager responded that the Police Department's website, which is linked through ours, costs nothing virtually except to have the registered domain. On the other side, the War Memorial website costs \$1,000's and if one thing needs to be changed or updated, they have to call the company. We did not have Civic Plus that we have today when the War Memorial website was created. There would be upfront costs to create a new website and shift it over to Civic Plus, but then it gets incorporated into the umbrella of our total website. We can look at this to see what the savings would be.

The Mayor next commented that in order to balance the budget now, we still need to come up with \$10,000. Another \$5,000 would be needed to pay for the paint to repaint the pool interior. Ms. Layman commented that the paint would cost from \$7-8,000. The Mayor next commented that he does not think we could say our budget is so accurate that there is not \$5,000 in it. There are always variations in the revenue and other items such as snow removal expense. As a matter of procedure, he would be in favor of taking \$5,000 out of paving with the hope that some other items that are variables throughout the year could be used to replace that amount.

Vice Mayor Hare commented that Mr. Woodson will go out to bid for paving with whatever amount we say we want to spend. With the \$60,000 from the increased tax rate that we put in paving, we should not forget that we are still over \$100,000 less than what we need to stop falling behind. The Town Manager commented that he can find \$5,000, but philosophically does Council want to keep the pool or not is the question.

Vice Mayor Hare commented that we are delaying the inevitable. We have a serious capital needs issue in this Town and are getting closer to where we are going to have to replace huge pieces of equipment that cost millions of dollars with no way to do it. The only people who can make that decision sit right up here. Our staff will keep giving us budgets based on the services we tell

them to do. Anything we do is going to impact people and it is going to be services like this.

We need to be spending several hundred thousand dollars a year on capital or either saving for new fire trucks and backhoes or getting ourselves to the point we can pay cash for some items. It is scary to think, just as we voted on in the last meeting, that may have to be financing every piece of equipment that we need and eventually our payments are going to kill us. The War Memorial debt service is already hurting us because it is not bringing the revenue that we hoped it would, so there is nothing to pay for it except the General Fund. We have taken from paving roads, fixing the sidewalks and fixing the infrastructure and now we are stuck here. He realizes that no one wants to get rid of the pool including him. We can cut how much we subsidize the War Memorial and even if we got the subsidy to zero, it does not get rid of the \$180,000 debt payment that comes every year.

Council Member Nance commented that we just spent 30-35 minutes raiding the War Memorial, Planning and Zoning and now Public Works budget to paint the pool. What will happen next year and what department will we take from next year to keep a 69 year old pool open another year. This is an amazing amenity that we have been able to provide for decades, but can we afford it anymore. The Vice Mayor mentioned investing in infrastructure, but there is also the ability to invest in an opportunity when it comes our way. If we have no flexibility with this budget, there is no ability to change the dynamic of what this Town is doing.

The Mayor commented that if we are not going to keep the pool open and it has to be painted this year, rather than evaluating what the increase in fees is going to do, maybe this is the year to make the call. Council Member Adams commented if people do not want to pay the extra fees and do not come, then the funds to paint the pool should be transferred back to the paving line item.

Council Member Nance next commented that Council needs to define what success is now. What will happen nine months down the road when we are looking at the numbers and instead of \$8,000 in more revenue from the raised fees it is \$6,000 or \$4,000, but we feel that we can make up the difference. There are a lot of variables that you will not know until you get to the finish line and look back. Council Member Adams commented that staff needs to let us know what would be considered a good rainy summer, a bad rainy summer or a good sun summer so they will have something to base their decision on. Vice Mayor Hare asked why we keep doing this for the citizens instead of making a decision to keep it

or not. The focus will always be are we going to keep the pool this year if we do not make a decision.

The Mayor commented that going back and forth on this issue does a lot of damage. What makes it difficult is that none of us really want to close the pool, but the point is the decision needs to be made. He has been a proponent to keep the pool open, but there are a lot of things that the Town needs. He is afraid what is going to happen next year is that we are going to have to close the pool whether we like it or not.

Council Member Nance commented that even when he moves, he is going to have a Vinton address. So until then he is going to make the best decisions and give the best opinions that he can and he probably will make them even when he is no longer a member of Council because he cares so much about this community. He does not want the pool to close, but this Town has to prioritize where its future is and he does not think it is with a 65 plus year old pool. He does not want to push that off to another Council member; he wants to make the tough decision.

Council Member Weeks commented that Vice Mayor Hare told her recently that she should look at the Town budget just like she looks at her own. Sometimes we try to make everyone happy, but unfortunately we are in a position where we cannot do that. She does not want to see the pool close and wishes we did not have any of this to deal with.

The Mayor commented that personally, there is a part of him that realizes it is not going to get any cheaper to maintain the pool and we have to keep in mind that staff did recommend the closure of the pool. The Town Manager responded that it was his recommendation to close the pool because they have gone through a priority list and a lot of different scenarios. They are trying to continue to invest in recreation that adds value to tomorrow in terms of people being attracted to a community with greenway trails and high quality recreation. We have very good recreation in our community all around us, whether through Roanoke County Parks and Rec, the Schools or the parks in Town.

Vice Mayor Hare commented that the \$25,000 the Town Manager has been able to identify plus the additional \$5,000 needs to be kept to deal with the closure of the pool. The Town Manager responded that the cuts he identified are cuts that he feels can be sustained.

Council Member Adams commented that agreed with what everyone else has said with regard to the pool. The

money is getting tight, and he wants to make sure the Town survives. At the end of the day, we do not have a choice and we cannot just keep putting it off.

**The work session ended at 7:00 p.m. Council recessed for a ten minute break.**

**The Mayor called the regular meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.** The Town Clerk called the roll with Council Member Adams, Council Member Nance, Council Member Weeks, Vice Mayor Hare and Mayor Grose present.

**Council Member Nance made a motion to amend the agenda to include a Closed Session at the end of the meeting;** the motion was seconded by Council Member Adams and carried by the following roll call vote, with all members voting: Vote 5-0; Yeas (5) – Adams, Nance, Weeks, Hare, Grose; Nays (0) - None. The Mayor announced that the Closed Session was in reference to a real estate matter.

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

**Under upcoming community events/announcements,** Council Member Weeks commented on the success of the Wine and Food Festival this past weekend. The Mingle at the Market Concert Series will start on June 13<sup>th</sup> and be sure and check the Town calendar for upcoming Senior events. Also, there will be a dedication ceremony at the Vinton Fire House on Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m., rain or shine.

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

**Under awards, recognitions and presentations, the first item was a Proclamation for GBS and CIDP Awareness Month,** which was read by Vice Mayor Hare. Rick Forney, the liaison for the local area chapter, who has been diagnosed with the illness, expressed thanks to Council and made brief comments. After comments from Council, the Proclamation was presented to Mr. Forney.

**The next recognition was a Proclamation for Click It or Ticket.** Council Member Adams read the Proclamation and presented it to Lieutenant Mark Vaught.

**Council Member Nance read two Memos from Chief Cook naming Detective Todd Bailey and Officer Michael Caldwell as Officers of the month for April.**

Consensus of Council to close the swimming pool after the 2015 summer season

Roll call

Approved amending the agenda to include a Closed Session at the end of the meeting

Approved minutes for the Special Budget Work Session of April 16, 2015 and the regular meeting of April 21, 2015

**The next item on the agenda was to consider public** comments regarding the proposed FY2015-2016 Town of Vinton Budget. The Mayor opened the Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m.

Public hearing opened at 7:30 p.m.

The Town Manager began by commenting that the presentation he will be making has been reviewed in several prior Council meetings. After commenting on the budget priorities, the proposed budget totals \$12,658,190 made up of \$9,040,040 in the General Fund and \$3,618,150 in the Water and Sewer Fund.

In the General Fund which is made up of taxes and fees collected, Council earlier approved a real estate tax increase of \$0.04 for a total rate of \$0.07. The Personal Property and Machinery and Tools tax remained the same and we maintained the same cigarette tax rate of \$0.25. Revenues are from a very diverse stream. Our expenditures are spread out with Public Safety and Public Works being the predominate areas. The Community Development budget has a large number of grants in it for sidewalks, trails and the downtown revitalization.

As proposed, this budget is a 5.53% increase over the current budget due to the downtown grant, RSTP funds for the Walnut Street sidewalk improvements and VDOT Revenue Sharing funds for the Glade Creek Greenway project. With regard to capital needs, we have well over \$1 million in capital needs and this year capital is funded at \$61,500. Milling and paving is a total of \$345,438, which is an increase of \$75,913 from this year's budget. About \$60,000 of the tax increase will go toward paving.

Our fixed expenses of fuel and electricity remain the same. We continue to invest with Roanoke County for the purchase of the property for the library and our downtown revitalization is continuing to move forward with probably a January 2016 completion of the final Farmers' Market project. We have Community Organization contributions as well as our Joint Local Government Services which are all detailed in the budget.

This year the health insurance premiums will have no increase, but we always expect at least a 10% increase and will probably have to deal with even more the next fiscal year. We continue to invest in our employees and the new VRS hybrid plan was implemented in January of 2014. The CIP Program is made up of gateway enhancements of \$5,000; replacement of Medic 23 (in partnership with Roanoke County and the State) of \$45,000; replacement of a zero-turn lawnmower of \$7,500 and the Walnut Avenue Corridor Improvement Project (our continued partnership with VDOT) of \$4,000.

The Town Manager further commented that the proposal is to use \$26,100 of the Capital Reserve fund balance to fund the CIP. Operating needs continue to grow and we have recommended a 2% salary increase for all of our full-time and permanent part-time employees.

Under Public Safety, we are hiring two additional firefighters to implement our 24-hour fire coverage of career staff which is about \$120,000 of the \$0.04 real estate tax increase. Roanoke County is also hiring five additional firefighters.

The swimming pool was discussed in detail during our work session and at our last meeting, Council directed staff to return with some funding ideas of how to keep it open beyond the 2015 summer season. The amount needed was \$35,000 which included physical improvements to paint the inside of the pool. We did propose shifting some funds from the War Memorial, but based on the discussion during the work session, there are some more challenges to this and after the Public Hearing, we will ultimately get some direction from Council in this regard.

With regard to Police Department reductions, a number of cuts were recommended such as the K9 Unit, overtime, training, meeting expenses and ammunition. Based on Council's direction, funds have been shifted within the department to fund all of those areas. Our direction from Council is that the K9 unit is safe and will be fully used next year as well as restoration to other areas that were recommended to be cut. There were also recommended cuts to the War Memorial as a special event venue to begin to start reducing the subsidy.

A slide showing community contributions and our contributions to our Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad was reviewed next as well as one showing joint local government services.

The Town Manager next commented that the Utility Fund is \$3,618,150, which is now 100% funded by the users based on Council's decision to increase the water and sewer rates over the past three fiscal years. This is a 4.88% increase over last year's budget which includes the 8.9% rate increase approved by Council in June of 2014. Another cost to the Town is our portion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and this year's amount decreased by \$69,731 based on historic trends. The driving factor there is how much it rains in a three-year cycle.

The wastewater maintenance and repair of inflow and infiltration has been increased by \$10,000 and our debt

service is \$715,459. The CIP in the Utility Fund totals \$317,000 which is made up of meter reading system upgrade and the purchase of deployment leak detectors and correlating equipment as well as several water line projects and a sewer main on Blandford Avenue.

We started this budget process in December with staff and the formal department presentations started in April. This evening is the Public Hearing and we traditionally evaluate any public comments and will schedule the adoption of the budget for the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

The Mayor next welcomed any public comments. Chris Craft of 1501 East Gate Avenue in the City of Roanoke, and also as President of the Wildwood Civic League which is the neighborhood association that joins Vinton at the border, spoke in favor of keeping the swimming pool open. Paul St. Clair of 960 Colbourne Avenue in Vinton, commented that he has started a website on Facebook to save the Vinton pool and has a "Go Fund Me" site as well. He serves on the CIP Committee and thinks it is a mistake to close the pool because there are not a lot of activities for the kids in Vinton. He asked some local realtors what separates us from anyone else. It used to be the schools. The new library, which is exciting for the Town, but in a time where kids do not want to go outside and play, the pool is an outside activity for them.

The Mayor next asked for comments from Council. Vice Mayor Hare began by commenting that it is a fascinating and terrifying thing, but a responsibility and privilege too in deciding how to invest 8,000 people's money back into the Town that they love, care about and want to see grow and prosper as a place where their kids can play and grow up and enjoy the same benefits that they did. He is honored to get the opportunity to do that and as always, it is not easy. We have major challenges in the future and they may not show up in this budget, but they do show up in the appendices to this budget and in our auditor's comments about the underfunding of our pensions.

The tax increase that we did impacted everybody and part of the reason why he supported it is because it meant everyone was paying a share of increasing public safety. With regard to the pool, if we were to raise \$35,000 this year, then what happens next year and the year after that and so on. We would have to constantly go back and ask the same people who already pay for the pool to continue to pay for it. Eventually they wear out and the volunteers lasted a lot longer than we expected after the first closure. We need to make sure that we focus on and are funding the core services. None of Council wants to close the pool and we do not take it lightly.

With that said, there are a lot of neat things we are doing with this budget for this community. Our investment in infrastructure is public safety. If someone were to ask him what distinguishes Vinton from the rest of the communities that we live, he would say our public safety. Recently a citizen who complained about the tax rate increase to him took it all back and said she called the police and before she hung up with 9-1-1 they were at the door. You are not going to get that anywhere else in this area and that is what separates us. The pool is an awesome amenity, but the level of service we are providing to keep people safe is Vinton's number one reason to exist as we do.

Council Member Nance next commented that the words he has used six different times are about to be used by him again this year of maintenance budget. He remembered how many times we have looked at our department heads and apologized there is not money for a pay increase for the employees that really make this Town government work. Fortunately, we have been able to give a 2% raise in this budget and it is certainly something that is well deserved.

At our work session before this meeting, we were trying to come up with \$35,000 to keep the pool open and that is for half of the season, opening next year until July 1<sup>st</sup>. We were going to be taking from the War Memorial, which he fully supports because we have got to stop losing so much money from that building. Then we were discussing taking money from Planning and Zoning and decreasing the amount to pave our roads for the pool. He knows how much it means to everyone in this entire community. Unfortunately we had the same conversation five years ago and our faith-based organizations stepped up to the plate and we lost less money because of that. We cannot take from other departments to sustain the pool for one more year to leave it to yet another Council to decide.

We cannot continue to simply do maintenance budgets because that will only maintain what Vinton is now. But if we want to transform it into a Town that will keep our children and our grandchildren continuing to live in, nearby or travel to, we have to have the financial flexibility to grab an opportunity when it comes to us and a maintenance budget does not allow us to do that. Just like many members of this Council took the risk of investing money to keep a library in Town and to pull it downtown where we can hope it will help our local businesses. We need to make a tough decision now so we do not keep having this tough decision year after year. As much as he appreciated the comments that were

made, he feels that the proposed recommended budget in that area is correct.

Council Member Adams commented that he came into the meeting tonight and pretty much had his mind made up to stand, fight and disagree peacefully with some of the things that have been said. At the end of the day, he looked at what this Town is with regard to water lines, fire hydrants, an aging ladder truck and the cost of a medic truck. He was surprised when we increased the taxes of how little money it brought in. We have to have the 24-hour fire and EMS coverage.

He wants to keep the pool, but we can no longer afford it. We have got to start building a savings account to replace some of items and if an opportunity comes by that can improve our Town and bring more things in for people to do, we have to be able to look at that and have to have some funds to do it. We have cut every year and have asked our employees to do more with less and there is no fat in our budget. As much as he really wants the pool, in good conscience he supports its closing.

Council Member Weeks commented again that one of the Council members told her in a conversation to look at her personal budget and see if she would be able to afford something, for example a Jacuzzi in her backyard, if she did not have the funds to pay her electric bill. Unfortunately we have to look at the big picture and no one cares as much for Vinton as the members of Council. She loves Vinton and wants to keep things open and keep things going, but sometimes we have to take a reality check and tonight the reality check is that we can no longer keep open the pool. She appreciated those that came and made comments.

The Mayor commented that Council is very well informed about the budget and they are very careful with the taxpayers' money and this is just about a year around process now. Vinton is a very special place and Mr. St. Clair made a good point in saying what makes us different. He often thought the entire War Memorial area was the kind of physical evidence of what makes Vinton special. But he thinks really and truly what makes Vinton special is how the people feel about this Town. We do not always have everything we want, unfortunately.

He came to the meeting tonight as a proponent for keeping the pool, but sooner or later reality sets in. The only responsible thing for us to do is to close the pool because it has gotten to the point where it is actually taking funds from other departments and sooner or later it is going to start eating into our core services. It would be

irresponsible for us to do anything that is going to endanger our core services.

We have been very blessed and very fortunate to have some volunteers that have prolonged the life of the pool for about five years or so and he is thankful for that, but that situation can only go on for so long. There are important things that we are not doing in this Town, things that we have to do to be fair with our staff. We have to maintain at least competitive salaries and we have to properly fund our retirement fund. It is time we close the pool because there are other needs in our Town that must be addressed.

Hearing no further public comments, the Public Hearing was closed at 8:20 p.m.

The Mayor announced that action is scheduled to be taken on the budget at the next Council meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Public Hearing closed at 8:20 p.m.

The Mayor commented that not only has Council been working on the budget all year, but staff as well. He tells people often that the Town went through a really tough recession and this Town got through it without eliminating any of the core services we have talked about so much. A lot of the credit for that goes to our staff in a lot of different ways. First, our staff, along with Council and our Finance Committee, has really worked hard for years on this budget and they have kept Council informed and educated. Second, the Town's survival during the recession was really on the backs of our employees. We really need to step up to bat for our staff because they have really brought us through a tough time. The recession has left us with a new norm and this is the funding that we are going to have until we can grow our way out of this. Not by expansion of our territory, but expansion of our economy and we cannot save much more.

**The next item on the agenda was to consider adoption** of a Resolution awarding a bid and authorizing the Finance Director/Treasurer to execute a contract with Brown Edwards & Company, L.L.P. for professional auditing services. Barry Thompson, Finance Director/Treasurer commented that the Town is required by the State of Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts to conduct an audit each year by an independent auditing firm. This year we went out with a Request for Proposal in March and received two proposals and two declinations. A Selection Committee comprised of himself, Ryan Spitzer, Assistant Town Manager; Candace Poling, Accounting Manager; and Lydia Verdillo, Financial Analyst interviewed the two firms that submitted proposals.

The Committee had selection criteria to rate the two firms and once they were rated, they did a professional negotiation on the price with the top contender. Staff is recommending Brown Edwards & Company, L.L.P. to continue with our auditing services. They have been the Town's auditor for a number of years and have represented their services well to the Town. After checking references on both firms, they are comfortable with continuing with Brown Edwards. This recommendation was reviewed with the Finance Committee at their meeting on Monday night.

Vice Mayor Hare commented that the Finance Committee spent some time reviewing this and Ms. Verdillo came to the meeting and walked them through the process. Ms. Verdillo went so far as to call some of the clients of the other firm to see if they had received the GFOA awards and they had not. He was impressed at the Committee's tenacity to look deeper into things that matter to Council because that gives a level of confidence that there are professional people who are running this Town and are meeting standards similar to the standards of our Police Department.

Vice Mayor Hare made a motion to adopt the Resolution as presented; the motion was seconded by Council Member Nance carried by the following roll call vote, with all voting: Vote 5-0; Yeas (5) – Adams, Nance, Weeks, Hare, Grose; Nays (0).

**The next item on the agenda was a review of the Financial Report for March 2015.** Vice Mayor Hare commented that the Finance Committee reviewed the March report last week at their meeting. The General Fund is just above the projection at 104%. Expenditures are under, but we have overspent the absolute dollars versus what we have brought in year-to-date. That overspending can be attributed to the Fire House improvements as well as the CDBG grant. We have expended a good bit of cash, but we will be receiving reimbursement for half of the Fire House improvements and 100% of the CDBG grant funds. However, there is a timing issue and this has caused some constraints with cash flow.

Overall total revenues for the General Fund are good. The cigarette tax continues to under-perform, currently we are off about \$70,000 from where we thought we would be at this time. Meals tax up \$77,000 and sales tax is up about \$95,000. At the last Council meeting, we mentioned that we are keeping our eyes on the business licenses and those are coming in just fine.

Adopted Resolution No. 2107 awarding a bid and authorizing the Finance Director/Treasurer to execute a contract with Brown Edwards & Company, L.L.P. for professional auditing services

Vice Mayor Hare next commented on the projections of where we think we will end the year. Mr. Thompson broke this down between the General Fund and Utility Fund, which is important because we took specific actions on the Utility side to build a fund balance that would help support future investments in capital as well as future bond issues.

We started this fiscal year, July 1<sup>st</sup>, in the General Fund with \$3.5 million cash divided between investments and cash on hand. Mr. Thompson is projecting that we would end the year at \$3.1 million. So, that would be \$400,000 in cash that we would have consumed. Some of it will come back as reimbursements. We still have over \$3 million sitting in investment accounts. This is out of the operating fund that Council decided with our Funding Policy how much we are going to keep in our operating fund and how much we are going to put away to earn a higher interest rate.

On the Utility Fund side, we started the year with just under \$240,000 and are projecting to end the year just under \$530,000. So we are doing exactly what we expected to be able to do and in the direction we thought we would be going.

It is positive to end the year with \$3.1 million when we have increased our service levels, done a fairly significant renovation to an old building and will be replacing several HVAC units and a boiler.

On the Utility side, revenues are up at 101% and spending is down when you take into account some of the payments with the bond issues. A consumption report provided by Mr. Thompson showed that based on the 8.9% rate increase effective July 1, 2015, we are essentially realizing a decrease in consumption on the water side with an increase of 6.99% in revenue. On the sewer side the 8.9% rate increase reflects a 6.48% increase in revenue over the same periods last year with a reduction in consumption of 3.01%.

We discussed the War Memorial with regard to any potential changes to the business plan. It is operating exactly as the current business plan says it will. The Town Manager and staff will be looking at alternatives to scaling back the service level. It is a fantastic building and has a lot of potential uses, but the elegant meeting space and business plan that we have is probably not in the future. We will not get the subsidy down to zero but we need to make some significant cuts to what we are currently doing.

The Town Manager commented that he is going to put a team together to get into the financials, the usage and pull it back one step. It is not just the War Memorial building, but we have a lot of special programs and activities that relate to that whole property and a lot of those are at the Senior Center. We also talked about marketing. We have marketing funds scattered all throughout the Town's budget in different departments and they will be reviewed as well and what are the best ways to leverage marketing funds. At the War Memorial it is people and fixed costs. The fixed costs do not go away, but how do we best use them to work the facility and meet ultimately Council's and the community's expectations of how the building should be used.

Vice Mayor Hare made a motion to approve the Financial Report for March 2015 as presented; the motion was seconded by Council Member Nance carried by the following roll call vote, with all members voting: Vote 5-0; Yeas (5) – Adams, Nance, Weeks, Hare, Grose; Nays (0).

Approved the Financial Report for March of 2015

**The Mayor congratulated the Chamber for a very successful wine and food festival.** The Town Manager commented that 800 tickets were sold prior the event and around 1,800 people attended the event.

**Comments from Council Members: Council Member Adams** asked about the left turn on Walnut Avenue. The Town Manager commented that Mr. Woodson and his staff have worked very closely with VDOT in that area. They have trimmed back the hillside, mulched and put in some very low-growth evergreens, so now you can see. Mr. Woodson commented that the sign was removed today. Council Member Adams next asked about the water pressure issues off of Jefferson. The Town Manager commented that the matter was discussed in the last Council meeting and he will be glad to sit down and share the details with him.

**The next item was to consider an appointment to the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission.** Council Member Nance made a motion to appoint Mayor Brad Grose to the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission for a new three-year term to expire June 30, 2018; the motion was seconded by Council Member Adams and carried by the following vote, with all members voting: Vote 5-0; Yeas (5) – Adams, Nance, Weeks, Hare, Grose; Nays (0).

Re-appointed Mayor Brad Grose to the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission for a new three-year term to expire June 30, 2018

**Council Member Nance commented on the news that has been about him recently.** Unfortunately, his career in Bedford County has started to slowly pull him away from the Town in many respects. He does not know the

exact timing, but he did not want there to be a "For Sale" sign in his front yard and people not know what is going on.

The timing is not going to be right for the Town and he apologized for that and it looks as if he will be leaving about a year early into his second term. When the exact timing is known he will work with Council to make the transition as smooth as possible. Whenever it is best for this Town is when his last meeting will be. He has appreciated serving on Council for the past seven years.

**Council Member Nance made a motion that Council go into a Closed Meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711 A of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body as authorized by subsection 3.**

The motion was seconded by Council Member Adams and carried by the following vote, with all members voting: Vote 5-0; Yeas (5) – Adams, Nance, Weeks, Hare, Grose; Nays (0) – None. Council went into Closed Meeting at 8:50 p.m.

At 10:17 p.m., the regular meeting reconvened and the Certification that the Closed Meeting was held in accordance with State Code requirements was approved on motion by Vice Mayor Hare; seconded by Council Member Weeks and carried by the following roll call vote, with all members voting: Vote 5-0; Yeas (5) – Adams, Nance, Weeks, Hare, Grose; Nays (0) – None.

**Council Member Nance made a motion to adjourn the meeting;** the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Hare and carried by the following vote, with all members voting: Vote 5-0; Yeas (5) – Adams, Nance, Weeks, Hare, Grose; Nays (0) – None. The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Certification of Closed Meeting

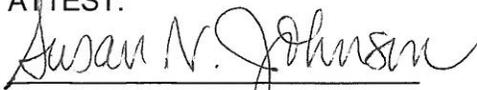
Meeting adjourned

APPROVED:



Bradley E. Grose, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Susan N. Johnson, Town Clerk

**AT A CLOSED MEETING OF THE VINTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE VINTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 311 SOUTH POLLARD STREET, VINTON, VIRGINIA.**

**CERTIFICATION THAT A CLOSED MEETING WAS HELD  
IN CONFORMITY WITH THE CODE OF VIRGINIA**

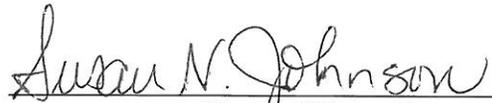
**WHEREAS,** the Town Council of the Town of Vinton, Virginia has convened a closed meeting on this date, pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and,

**WHEREAS,** Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Vinton Town Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Vinton Town Council hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge:

1. Only public business matters lawfully exempted from opening meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification applies; and
2. Only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Town Council.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hare, and seconded by Council Member Weeks, with all in favor.

  
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Clerk of Council