

Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
February 8, 2016 - 6:30 p.m. – 502 Front Street E., Coeburn, VA

Attendees: Upon a roll call vote all members of Council were present. Scott Brooks – Chief of Police, Christy McCoy – Clerk/Treasurer, Russell A. Mullins – Town Manager and William Sturgill – Town Attorney were also present.

Call to Order: Mayor Jeff Kiser called the meeting to order.

Harold Meade, Chaplin of the 8652 VFW post gave the invocation and the VFW post led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Expression:

Cindy Snodgrass, 617 Second Street, reported sewage backup, from the town's line into her home. After the town evaluated the situation, it was determined that the backup was on the town's side of the line. She is concerned about this happening to other residents and businesses within the Town of Coeburn.

There was no additional public comment and public expression was closed.

Approval of Agenda:

Deventae Mooney, stated that Friends of the Library wouldn't be at the meeting. They asked to be removed from the agenda. They have decided to go a different route. Deventae Mooney made a motion to remove item 'A' old business from the agenda. Sharon Still seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

Sharon Still made a motion to move new business item 'A' VFW Resolution # 16-004 to be discussed prior to reports. Jeff Kiser seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

Jeff Kiser made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Deventae Mooney seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

New Business

A. Resolution #16-004 in recognition of VFW post 8652 – Sharon Still read Resolution #16-004 in recognition of Coeburn VFW Post 8652 recognizing the commitment and service of the VFW Post. The VFW Post was awarded one of the VFW's most prestigious awards, the National Outstanding Community Service Award for 2015. Only sixty-one Posts nationwide were selected to receive the award and Post 8652 was the only Virginia Post to be so honored in 2015. Sharon Still made a motion to adopt Resolution #16-004. Jeff Kiser seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in all

Ayes. The Mayor and Vice Mayor presented the resolution to the post. Post 8652 does a lot of funeral services, parades and different events in the community. They currently have 3,263 members active. The post expended 9749 hours of service for the community.

Public Hearing

The Mayor recessed regular meeting to conduct a public hearing regarding the relinquishment of property. Virginia Department of Transportation needed the property to complete a bridge project. The town will render the property to VDOT but will retain easements for future use. The negotiated price for the property was \$6,500 for less than 800 square feet of property. The sale of the property wouldn't affect the fire department or the police department.

Public Expression

There was no public comment regarding the property relinquishment.

Closing

Mayor Kiser made a motion to close the public hearing. Sharon Still seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

The Mayor reconvened the regular meeting.

Reports:

Town Manager

Town Manager Mullins included language from Morgan Griffeth's office regarding the proposed Reclaim Act. The bill is to release \$1,000,000 from The Abandoned Coal Mines Fund and reinvest the funds in community revitalization.

There is a meeting scheduled with The Lane Group and the company providing the tank cleaning services for the upcoming cleaning project. The project will involve flushing, which will take approximately 5 days. The tank cleaning contractor is scheduled to start cleaning during the first week of March. The cleaning and flushing is expected to continue throughout the month of March. The town has contracted for all 3 tanks and the clear well to be cleaned. The town manager reported that currently the biggest issue is the water loss rate. Lane group recommended a loss rate of 70 to 80 gallon per minute. The town of Coeburn was estimating the loss rate to be around 180 gallons per minute. The public works department is evaluating lines for potential leaks.

The town manager reported that he was preparing the 2016/2017 budget for Council review. Each department submitted their budget requests for his review.

Sharon Still asked about the brush clean up on the cemetery located on School House Hill. She would like to see it cleaned up before spring arrives. She also asked if Wise County gave a reply regarding the reimbursement of The Line of Duty Act insurance. Mr. Mullins advised her that he was still working with the county for funding.

Sharon Still asked about the Safe Route to School grant. Mr. Mullins advised her that the grant has not been worked on yet. She also asked about the clean-up schedule for the fallen trees on the exit ramp. Mr. Mullins informed Ms. Still that VDOT prioritizes work that needs to be done. They have informed Mr. Mullins that there were higher priority items at the time. Mayor Kiser asked if there was an objection to the town cleaning up the trees. Mr. Mullins informed him that due to VDOT restrictions the town was advised not to clean up the trees.

Mayor Kiser asked if the town has received a reimbursement for the 2015 snow storm. Mr. Mullins stated that there was an application for assistance that was submitted but currently there was no funding received.

Jeff Kiser asked what was causing the sewer problems within the town and if there were any steps that could be taken to eliminate the problem. Mr. Mullins informed him that the problem was due to heavy rain. Inflow and infiltration (I&I) is the main problem of the overflow. The rain seeps into the sewer system through cracked pipes, leaky manholes, or improper storm drainage system. CNW also has an overflow within the system during rain and it creates a jam. The Snodgrass line blockage was contributed to old lines. There were rags in the private line and the lines were cracked on the town's side. It was a combination of the town and the owner's private line. New line was installed on the town's side. Ms. Snodgrass also had new lines put in several years ago. Mayor Kiser asked public works to evaluate the lines to ensure there were no foreign objects causing a backup in other parts of the system. Mayor Kiser asked if anyone could locate the results from the Veolia smoke tests that were performed. He stated that were problems identified at the time of the testing. No one was aware if any residents were notified in order to make corrections to their systems.

Public Works

Public Works Director, Danny Jordan reported that the public works department continued with snow removal. There will be a progress meeting regarding the Sheffield sewer project. The distribution line was very near completion and they were currently working on the wet wells. He should receive a projected completion date during the meeting. Public works will also continue to evaluate the flushing program for accuracy. The town manager stated that The Lane Group suggested flushing the lines 48 hours prior to the tank cleaning. Council requested that a notification be put on the water bills.

Jeff Kiser complimented the public works crew for keeping the roads clear during the snow storm. He asked how many employees covered snow routes. He inquired about the amount of time that was given for breaks throughout their shifts behind the wheel of the snow plow. Mr. Jordan informed him that on occasion he plowed 16 – 18 hours. Mayor Kiser also asked public works to begin addressing the ice and snow situation on the Depot roof. When the snow starts melting, it slides off onto the walkway and deck, causing a hazard to anyone standing under the eaves. Mr. Jordan would add the roof maintenance to the snow clean-up schedule.

Councilman Powers asked Mr. Jordan if the town was aware of the water discoloration that happened on January 18, 2016. Mr. Powers stated that it took about 326 gallons to flush his lines. Mr. Jordan was unaware of the discoloration issue. He informed Mr. Powers that he would look at the work orders to see if there were additional complaints.

The Lane Group

There was no representative and no report was given.

Treasurer

The treasurer reported accounts payable due in the amount of \$34,988.65 and the interim accounts payable due in the amount of \$38,988.65. The posted cash balance reported as of February 4, 2016 was \$108,218.89. After deducting the outstanding checks and accounts payable due, the reconciled cash balance was \$40,371.97.

As requested by Council, Ms. McCoy provided a report to council detailing the water usage and customer count for May 2015 – January 2016. Sharon Still suggested waiting until after the line flush to discuss any kind of discounts. The town manager will review the report and compare the usage. He will make a recommendation for a discount on each water bill based on usage.

Councilman Powers asked if a list of contributors to the Ringley Park Extension could be provided. The Coalfield reported and overhaul of the park and Mr. Powers was concerned that contributors would think that funds were being allocated to another project. Mr. Powers stated that he had a potentially large donor that was concerned about the proceeds not being used for the specific equipment outlined in the project. The clarification was made that all proceeds were going to the Ringley Park Expansion.

There was a question regarding the interest that CNW billed the town. Ms. Still requested a report showing all bills and payments that were made. There was a question regarding some of the interest that was billed for the months of September. Ms. McCoy will check with the accounts payable clerk and report the findings to the town manager. Mr. Powers serves as a member of the CNW board and will clarify the charges. It was agreed that future bills would be paid on or before the first of the month, providing funds continue to be available, to avoid late fees.

Mayor Kiser asked about the first payment on the Sheffield Sewer Project. The treasurer informed the mayor that a payment in the amount of \$36,675 would be due May 1, 2016. He asked if there would be cost savings by closing STP. The town manager will provide an expense list for currently maintaining the sewer treatment plant.

Sharon still made a motion to pay the accounts payable as presented. Deventae Mooney seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

Sharon Still made a motion to approve the interim accounts payable as presented. Deventae Mooney seconded, which resulted in all Ayes.

Council also discussed the option of going away from town decals. Ms. McCoy would talk with the other towns that have opted out of using decals. She will report back to Council regarding the suggestions of other towns. Ms. Still asked to discuss the topic more extensively prior to the budget presentation. She stated that she didn't want to raise another tax rate, but suggested adding a wheel's tax to the personal property tax ticket.

Police

Chief Brooks reported the activity that took place during the month of January 2016. He thanked Danny and his crew for all the work that was done during the recent snow storm. He also thanked the town manager and treasurer for all the work that was done on the budget. Chief Brooks asked about Council's consideration of the USDA Grant for the police cars. The town manager advised that the first step was to get prices on the vehicles that the police department was planning on purchasing. The chief and town manager will work on the project prior to presenting it to Council.

Sharon Still asked if Captain Williams was working on the Children's Speedway Grant. Ms. McCoy inquired about the grant because during the last meeting the attorney stated that the police department wouldn't be the ideal candidate to apply for the grant. Ms. Still stated that the police department was only helping write the grant. They would not be listed as the primary grant recipient.

Fire Department:

There was no representative present. The fire department is requesting a budget allocation of \$50,000 per year for the next few years in order to purchase a fire truck.

Council asked that committee report guidelines be added to the agenda. They wanted to discuss reporting requirements and set some guidelines for groups using the town's federal identification for purchases. If the groups are using the town's federal identification for purchasing, they are required to report to Council

Recess:

The Mayor recessed the meeting for 5 minutes.

Reconvene:

The Mayor reconvened the meeting.

Attorney report:

As instructed by council, the attorney gave his recommendation for changing the 1978 town code, which established guidelines for organizational meetings, regular meetings and special called meetings. The attorney provided Council with two revisions of the code for review. Council would like to add the item to the agenda for further discussion.

He advised Council that there would have to be public hearings because it was an ordinance change.

New Business:

A. Coeburn VFW Resolution #16-004 – Discussed and presented prior to reports

B. Clinch Ranger District Nettle Patch Project – The U.S. Forestry Service is proposing timber removal on property located in the Clinch Ranger District. The property is bordering Machine Creek, which the town owns. The town manager clarified that the Forest Service would not be timbering Machine Creek.

C. Clinch River State Park Budget Amendment - General assembly there is a bill that will actually fund the Clinch River State Park. All localities surrounding have been asked to contact committee members in support of the project. An email will be forwarded to Council with details.

D. RECLAIM Act – The town manager provided a draft of the proposed RECLAIM Act of 2016, which would accelerate the release of \$1 billion from the remaining, unappropriated balance in the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to revitalize coal communities impacted by abandoned mine lands and the recent decrease in coal mining. This legislation will enable States and Indian tribes to facilitate sustainable economic development in economically distressed communities. He suggested that Council consider a resolution in support of the RECLAIM Act.

Old Business:

A. Friends of the Library Committee – Removed from the agenda.

B. VDOT Bridge Project – Jess Powers moved to accept the VDOT proposal of \$6,500 for the less than 800 sq ft. of property belonging to the town. The property is identified

as Tax Parcel No. 021434 and more specifically described as follows: less than 800 square feet in front of the Fire/Police Department. Sharon Still seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted as follows: V. Buchanan – Aye, J. Kiser – Aye, D. Mooney – Aye, J. Powers – Ayes, S. Still – Aye.

Closed Session:

Sharon Still made a motion to enter into closed session in accordance with Virginia Code §2.2-3711 (A.7) surrounding active litigation. Deventae Mooney seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

Immediately following closed session, Christy McCoy, Clerk, read the “Certification of Closed Meeting”, which is attached to these minutes and made a part hereof. A roll call vote certifying that only business matters that were identified in the motion convening were discussed. The roll call vote resulted in all Ayes.

No action resulted from closed meeting.

Council Comments and Concerns:

Veronica Buchanan thanked the public works department for doing a great job with the snow removal. They helped make it safe for all the people traveling.

Deventae Mooney – No Comments

Jess Powers – Echoed Veronica Buchanan’s comments regarding snow removal. He also thanked the police department. He stated that he appreciated the work that everyone is doing for the town. He wished everyone a Happy Valentine’s Day.

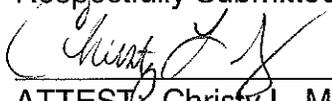
Sharon Still – Wished everyone a Happy Valentine’s Day. She reiterated the comments regarding public works and the police department. She thanked the treasurer and town manager for all the work that was being done on the upcoming budget.

Jeff Kiser – Reiterated the previous comments and thanked everyone for the work that they do for the town.

Adjournment:

Jeff Kiser made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Deventae Mooney seconded the motion, which resulted in all eyes.

Respectfully Submitted,



ATTEST: Christy L. McCoy, Clerk



Jeffery G. Kiser, Mayor