

Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
October 11, 2022 - 6:30 p.m. – 502 Front St. E, Coeburn, VA

Attendees:

Upon roll call, Carles Collins, Deventae Mooney, Joe Still and Sharon Still were present. Jeff Kiser was not in attendance. Cathy Sharpe - Clerk/Treasurer, Jimmy Williams - Town Manager, and William Sturgill – Town Attorney, were also present.

Call to Order:

Mayor Deventae Mooney called the meeting to order. Mr. Joe Still gave the invocation. The group remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Deventae Mooney.

Public Expression:

Mr. Thomas Bates, 507 Apple Street SE, addressed council about the lack of attention from the town to the residents of Apple Street. Mr. Bates said he is concerned about the lack of police presence on Apple Street, the difficulty he has had with the post office regarding moving his mailbox and the state of the road on Apple Street. Mr. Bates advised he has purchased gravel and patch to repair potholes on the road. He suggested that if council needs help running the town, they need to ask for help. Ms. Sharon Still informed Mr. Bates that the post office issue is not a town issue. She said it is a federal issue. Mr. Bates said he has filed a complaint on the post office. He said that he has only seen the police patrol one time on Apple Street and there are people selling drugs on Apple and Plum Street.

Ms. Jennifer Mathieson, 110 Lincoln Street, and Ms. Tracy Salyers, 108 Lincoln Street, addressed council concerning the altering of the floodplain in the Bondtown section of Coeburn. They said the lot across from the Valero has been elevated with fill dirt. Ms. Mathieson presented pictures of before and after the fill showing the difference the fill dirt made. Ms. Mathieson advised she has spoken with a Wise County Building and Zoning representative that informed her the lot was not to be filled or altered. She said the representative visited the site. Since that visit, additional material has been brought to the property. Ms. Mathieson questioned where the liability lies. Is it with Hill Construction, Valero, The Lane Group or the town? Ms. Mathieson said she is worried about homes being flooded due to the altering of the flood plain. Mr. Deventae Mooney advised Ms. Mathieson and Ms. Salyers that it is a legal issue council will be discussing during closed session and he will update them as information is made available to him. Mr. Jimmy Williams asked Ms. Mathieson to give him a call.

Ms. Tracy Salyers asked if the Lincoln Street Footbridge will be repaired. Mr. Williams said he has a report stating that the entire bridge will need torn out and replaced completely. Ms. Salyers also asked if there were any plans for the park. Mr. Mooney said not at this time. Ms. Sharon Still advised there is a slide that will be taken down there and that both parks need mulched.

Mr. Thomas Bates addressed the council again; stating the need for council to apply for grants to pay for the work that needs to be done. Ms. Still informed Mr. Bates that DHCD and Lenowisco will be having a community meeting regarding grants on October 17th.

Mr. Rick Mathieson, 110 Lincoln Street NE, spoke to council about the lack of sidewalks in the Bondtown area from Valero to the foot of Coeburn Mountain Road. Mr. Mathieson said this is definitely a safety issue because there are lots of people walking in that area with many pushing strollers. Ms. Still informed Mr. Mathieson that she has been working on a Safe Sidewalks to School project and that area is included. She said she has spent eight years working on this project.

There was no further public expression. Public Expression was closed.

Approval of the Agenda:

Mr. Jimmy Williams asked to remove Old Business (A.) Mobile Home Parks from the agenda as there is no new information to discuss.

Ms. Sharon Still made a motion to remove Old Business (A.) Mobile Home Parks from the agenda. Mr. Joe Still seconded the motion which resulted in all Ayes.

Mr. Deventae Mooney made a motion to add under New Business (B.) Community Meeting. Ms. Sharon Still seconded the motion which resulted in all Ayes.

Mr. Deventae Mooney made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Mr. Joe Still seconded the motion which resulted in all Ayes.

Reports:

Fire Department

Mr. Logan Jackson, Assistant Fire Chief, gave the monthly activity report for the months of August and September. During the month of August, the fire department had a total of 34 calls, 257 man hours, 188 total personnel responding, 342 training hours and 2 hours at the Back to School Bash.

For the month of September Mr. Jackson reported a total of 22 calls, 153 man hours, 130 total personnel responding and 340 training hours. The fire department also took part in the Guest River Rally and attended the Wise Regional Fire School.

Mr. Jackson reported that the new gear has been received and he was wearing the new suit. He said all fire department members have received their new gear. Mr. Mooney thanked council for purchasing the new gear and said the fire department members were pleased with the new gear. Mr. Joe Still thanked the fire department for all they do for the town.

Mr. Jimmy Williams, Town Manager, thanked Chief Hawkins and the fire department for their quick response to an incident at town hall. He reported that some lights in the back of the building had burning wires. Mr. Williams said without the quick response of the fire department, there could have been a fire.

Cliff Hawkins, Fire Chief, asked to have the October 31st Spooktacular put on the marquee. Ms. Still said everyone is invited to set up for Trunk or Treat. Chief Hawkins said the costume contest will start promptly at 5:30pm. He suggested the town get new road closure signs. Mr. Jimmy Williams said those signs have been ordered.

Police Department

Mr. Ryan Gardner, Police Captain, gave the report for the police department for the month of September. There were 787 total events.

Captain Gardner said there would be a drug takeback at Food City on Saturday, October 29th from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Mr. Joe Still asked Mr. Williams to post this event on the marquee.

Mr. Gardner reported that unit 602 was not in use for the month of September. He said it was being repaired.

Town Manager

Mr. Jimmy Williams, Town Manager, said much of what he has to discuss will need to be discussed in closed session. Mr. Mooney asked Mr. Williams if the latest copies of ordinances have been filed with the county. Mr. Williams stated he has not filed those. Mr. Mooney asked if Mr. Williams has had time to call other towns to see how they manage their trailer parks. Mr. Williams advised he will have that information by the next meeting.

Mr. Mooney asked if Mr. Williams has any information to share from the meeting he attended with Mr. Joe Still regarding wifi. Mr. Williams said they visited potential sites for a tower. He advised this would be done at no cost to the town. Mr. Mooney asked if this would be something that could be utilized for free wifi downtown. Mr. Williams said it would. He said Mr. Hill, that works with the wifi provider, stated everything is going well with the 1000 customers they have in Clintwood.

Mr. Mooney asked if Mr. Williams has checked on replacing the fountain and the fencing for the fountain. Mr. Williams said he is working on that.

Ms. Sharon Still asked if Mr. Williams has looked for an ATV or mule for public works. Mr. Williams said he has and is leaning towards a John Deere.

Mr. Joe Still asked when the term is up for the contractors working for the town. Mr. Williams advised he will have to get that information; he has just returned to the office after an illness.

Ms. Sharon Still said would like to get a list of the boards and their members. Mr. Williams said all the information he found was outdated. Mayor Deventae Mooney asked for a list of boards and members by the next meeting.

Mr. Mooney asked Mr. Williams about the lack of contact information for council available on the new town website. Mr. Williams said he did miss a training session but was able to familiarize himself with the website while he was home sick. He advised he is working on that and also on putting the meeting minutes on the website.

Ms. Still discussed replacing the lights in the town and showed pictures of lights that would work. She said the lights would have to be suitable for the Dark Skies initiative and cast the light down toward the sidewalk instead of up toward the sky. Ms. Still would like to get prices on a single bulb LED light.

Mr. Joe Still asked if the town has found information about who owns the sidewalk by the First Baptist Church. Mr. Williams said that the area would probably need to be surveyed to definitively establish ownership. Mr. William Sturgill said if the deed did not have a plat attached a survey would need to be done. Ms. Sharon Still said installing a handrail would probably be less costly than a survey but they would need to look into what that would involve legally.

Public Works

Mr. Jeff Livingston, Public Works Superintendent, gave a report for September. He said public works cut trees at 2nd Street and Chestnut Street, winterized the swimming pool, the Rally Shack and the Rally Shack bathrooms. He said locks were replaced and relocated at the Rally Shack bathrooms.

Mr. Livingston also reported a ¾ inch leak was repaired on Kale Ave, the fencing was removed at the fountain, sewer lines were jetted on Railroad Street and leaks were repaired in Bondtown and on Route 72. Mr. Livingston said that they have been working on patching holes and have plans to pave as long as the weather stays warm. Mr. Mooney advised he has the names of three locations that will need to be paved. Public works also completed 101 work orders.

Mr. Mooney asked if Mr. Livingston has a schedule for cleaning the park. Mr. Livingston said that the cleaning is being done along with the trash pickup.

Ms. Still said she is looking for a golf cart to use as Santa's sleigh for the Christmas Parade. Mr. Livingston reported he has the sides of the sleigh stored. Mr. Mooney reminded council that the Christmas Parade is December 2nd at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Still informed council that the theme was Winter Lights and Magical Nights.

Mr. Still asked about the 10-inch water line repair in Bondtown. Mr. Livingston reported the line had been drilled through during a tap installation. Mr. Still asked who pays for those types of repairs. Mr. Williams informed Mr. Still that the contractors pay for that.

Mr. Still expressed his appreciation for the public works crew and Mr. Livingston.

Water Treatment Plant

Brian Markham, Water Plant Supervisor, gave his report for September. Mr. Marham reported that the water plant project is all but completed. He advised some things still need to be wired up and the windows and doors need to be hung.

Mr. Still asked about having the generator installed. Mr. Jimmy Williams said that he spoke with Chris Mullins with the Lane Group about the generator. Mr. Mooney said that when the project is completed, he would like to know so he can come up and see what was done. Mr. Williams said that when this project is finished the town will have the most up to date water plant in the area.

Lane Group

There was no representative of the Lane Group present. Mr. Williams said that he had some information to discuss during closed session.

Treasurer Report

Ms. Cathy Sharpe, Clerk/Treasurer reported a posted cash balance of \$162,190.15 as of 10/7/2022. She reported outstanding checks in the amount of \$17,835.31, accounts payable due in the amount of \$38,563.42 and interim accounts payable in the amount of \$268,254.92. This amount included checks for the Water System Improvement Project. After deducting the accounts payable due and outstanding checks, the reconciled cash balance was \$105,791.42

Ms. Sharpe presented meeting minutes for September 12, 2022 special called meeting, September 12, 2022 regular meeting and September 26, 2022 workshop meeting.

Ms. Sharpe reported two additional deposits since reports were prepared for the meeting. Friday's deposit was \$12,981.10 and Monday's deposit was \$10,884.64 making the total cash availability \$129,657.16.

Mr. Mooney asked if the signs for the parks had come in. Mr. Williams said the signs are being made.

Mr. Joe Still asked if the delinquent tax payments were coming in regularly or sporadically. Ms. Sharpe said the payments are coming in sporadically.

Mr. Williams informed council that the town has two new salt spreaders.

Ms. Sharon Still made a motion to accept the total accounts payable due as presented. Mr. Joe Still seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

Ms. Sharon Still made a motion to accept the interim accounts payable due as presented. Mr. Joe Still seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

Ms. Sharon Still made a motion to accept the September 12, 2022 special called meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Deventae Mooney seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

Mr. Deventae Mooney made a motion to accept the September 12, 2022 regular meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Sharon Still seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

Mr. Deventae Mooney made a motion to accept the September 26, 2022 workshop meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Sharon Still seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

Attorney Report

Mr. William Sturgill, Town Attorney, requested to go into closed session under (A8). He said all his report would be in closed session.

Mr. Thomas Bates, 507 Apple St SE, asked Mr. Sturgill where the town was with their plan in dealing with abandoned cars. Ms. Sharon Still informed Mr. Bates that during the September 12, 2022 special called meeting there were 29 pages of updated ordinances approved. She told Mr. Bates he could come by town hall and pick up a copy.

New Business:

- A. Computers for Town Hall and Police Department - Mr. Williams said that 12 computers and 12 monitors would be needed for town hall and the police department. Mr. Williams said the Dell computers would be \$14,948.96 and the Lenovo computers would be \$19,127.68. He said installation is not included, but that can be taken care of in house or with the help of PC Tech/Bob Robbins. He advised Southern Software will need to be installed and that is a simple process.

Deventae Mooney made a motion to allow Town Manager, Jimmy Williams, to purchase the Dell computers at the price presented for town hall and the police department. Mr. Joe Still seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

- B. Community Meeting - There will be a community meeting about community revitalization held by DHCD and Lenowisco. Mr. Mooney said he already had several people RSVP to the event. The meeting will be October 17, 2022 at 6 p.m.

Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

Mr. Deventae Mooney made a motion to enter into closed session in accordance with Virginia Code §2.2-3711 (A8) to discuss with legal counsel pertaining to legal matters. Ms. Sharon Still seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

Closed Session:

Immediately following closed session, Mr. William Sturgill read “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 or considered. The roll call vote resulted in all Ayes.

Following Closed Session, Ms. Sharon Still made a motion to enter into a contract with Little B to take on a sewer repair costing \$9,500.00. The amount does not include permits and compaction testing. Mr. Deventae Mooney seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in all Ayes.

Council Comments and Concerns:

Carles Collins - Mr. Collins had no comments or concerns.

Joe Still - Mr. Still thanked everyone for all the work they do. He thanked Mr. Williams for the work he does and thanked Mr. Livingston and the public works crew and thanked Mr. Sturgill for keeping the town legal.

Sharon Still - Ms. Still said ditto to what Mr. Still said.

Deventae Mooney - Mr. Mooney echoed Mr. Still’s comments and thanked his fellow council members and town employees. He thanked Lisa from the Coalfield for attending the meeting and staying up to date on what happens in Coeburn.

Adjournment:

Mr. Deventae Mooney made a motion to adjourn this meeting. Ms. Sharon Still seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sharpe
Attest: Cathy Sharpe, Clerk

Deventae Mooney
Deventae Mooney, Mayor