

Council Minutes
Workshop Meeting
February 26, 2024 - 6:30 p.m. - 502 Front St. E, Coeburn, VA

Attendees:

Upon roll call, the following members of council were present: Carles Collins, Deventae Mooney, Joe Still and Sharon Still. Jeff Kiser was absent. 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. Reverend Steve Baker, Coeburn Presbyterian Church, gave the invocation. The group remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Mooney.

Public Expression:

There was no Public Expression

Public Expression was closed.

Response to Public Expression:

Vice Mayor Sharon Still responded to Ms. Linda Lane's concern regarding the suggestion about charging what she feels to be an excessive fee if a property must be cleaned up by the town. Ms. Still said that near the end of that conversation she was informed that a more appropriate price would have to be set. Ms. Still feels that it's possible Ms. Lane didn't hear that part of the conversation.

Approval of the Agenda:

Mayor Deventae Mooney made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Vice Mayor Sharon Still seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

Reports:

Fire Department

There was no representative from the fire department present.

Police Department

Mr. Travis Mullins, Police Chief, provided a handout to Council. Chief Mullins has been working with William Sturgill, Town Attorney, on updating the traffic ordinances. There are traffic

ordinances by state code and ordinances specific to the town. Chief Mullins has a working draft that is based on the ordinance in use at the Town of Wise. The town ordinances can be adopted based on the state code and as the state code changes the town ordinances will follow. Chief Mullins said this will be a faster way to get the ordinances updated and meet state requirements. Violations can be enforced on a local level once the updates are in place. Mayor Mooney asked Mr. Sturgill about advertising for a Public Hearing regarding the ordinances. Mr. Sturgill said that the Virginia Code does not require two weeks' notice. Mr. Mooney said that the Public Hearing could be advertised and held before the March 11th meeting and placed on the agenda for a vote during the regular meeting.

Ms. Still thanked Chief Mullins for talking to some kids at the park. There is no signage prohibiting climbing on top of the caboose. Ms. Still thinks there will need to be a discussion about that.

Mr. Williams asked Chief Mullins about how ordinances are numbered and if they must be dated. Mr. Mullins said he modeled his after the Town of Wise ordinance with TC and the date, and said he expects to do something similar in order to keep the date tied to the ordinance.

Water Plant

Mr. Brian Markham, Plant Supervisor, was absent.

Town Manager

Mr. Jimmy Williams, Town Manager, provided Council with an updated Solid Waste Collection Agreement. Mr. Mooney said that the agreement could be voted on at the next meeting and will be made effective July 1st. Ms. Still said that would give everyone from March 11th until July 1st to be made aware of the change to the policy and after July 1st noncompliance will result in trash not being picked up.

Mr. Williams has been taking pictures of properties in the area and will be informing homeowners of what action will be taken. Mr. Williams informed Council that he was attacked by a dog while he was out. Mr. Mooney spoke with a citizen that was also involved in a dog attack. Mr. Sturgill said that the ordinance can be worked on ASAP. Chief Mullins said that he can start with the most pressing ordinances and those can be updated.

Ms. Still advised there is a car parked by the First Baptist Church that has been there since October. She said that it is unknown if the vehicle runs. Ms. Still said that it was not long ago that this was an issue on High Street and the vehicle was towed. She said the problem is with long term parking of a vehicle. Chief Mullins said proper signage and an updated ordinance in place will be helpful to enforce the moving of the vehicle.

Ms. Still is concerned that people climbing on the caboose will eventually fall through the roof and is wondering if there is some sort of way to deter people from climbing up on it.

Ms. Still is wondering if there is a way to make VDOT keep up the roads they are supposed to maintain.

Ms. Still asked Mr. Williams if he had a chance to look over the power bills to set a rate for food trucks. Mr. Williams said he has not because he has been out of the office.

Mr. Mooney asked Mr. Williams if he had spoken with anyone from Hill Com. Mr. Williams said he has not; he has been getting voicemail when he calls. Mr. Charles Collins asked if the tower had a beacon on top of it. Mr. Williams said that he thinks that will go on to the next section but will try to find out for sure.

Ms. Still asked about progress on the lead and copper issue. Mr. Williams said the town is at the stage of identifying lines. Ms. Still said she heard that PSA received a grant to do the study. Mr. Williams said October 16th is the next deadline and he wants to get the survey on the website and Facebook page to get the community involved to help identify lines and reduce time spent on this project. Ms. Still said she is concerned about how compliance will be tracked. Mr. Williams will also have a packet at town hall for people to take, fill out and return. Ms. Lisa Woodruff asked Mr. Williams if he had spoken with Cody at the PSA, because there is supposed to be something online for the customer to answer all the questions and reduce the time spent going door to door.

Ms. Still asked if the hydrant was repaired at Coeburn Primary School. Mr. Williams said the hydrant will be replaced and moved. He said the hydrant going into Crab Orchard will need to be moved and put on a riser and a new hydrant will have to be purchased.

Mr. Williams reported he has a list of things that are needed for public works in the amount of \$8,000.00. Ms. Still said Council will need to be provided with a list of things needed and it can be voted on. Mr. Williams said public works is in the process of replacing registers on water meters. He said that the town is in a loyalty program with Consolidated Pipe and gets a better price on registers.

Mr. Williams has a webinar and will know more about some upcoming grants. Ms. Still asked about the Mainstreet America deadline. Ms. Still is concerned about missing the deadline. Mr. Williams said he needs to get in touch with Mr. Jimmy Adkins about the grant. Ms. Still asked about the Downtown Revitalization grant. Mr. Sturgill said that the deadline for that grant is April 14th. Ms. Still said that enough time has passed, and the town is eligible for that grant.

Public Works

Mr. Jeff Livingston, Public Works Supervisor, reported that leaks were repaired on Chatham, Chalet, and Hanover streets and sewer lines were repaired on Columbus Street and Laurel Avenue and the line was jetted on Wise Mountain Road. The sewer lines were repaired behind the church in Bondtown.

Ms. Still asked if the inventory was finished. Mr. Livingston said he is working on it, and it should be ready by the next meeting.

Mr. Livingston is waiting for a quote from Mr. David Carter to see how much it will cost to replumb the slides at the pool to circulate with the rest of the pool water.

The Lane Group

There was no representative from The Lane Group present.

Treasurer

Ms. Cathy Sharpe, Clerk/Treasurer, reported a posted cash balance of \$184,586.36 as of 2/22/2024. She reported outstanding checks in the amount of \$49,898.06, accounts payable due in the amount of \$610.19 and interim accounts payable in the amount of \$227,139.97. After deducting the accounts payable due and outstanding checks, the reconciled cash balance was \$134,078.11.

Ms. Sharpe informed Council the minutes from the January 8, 2024, regular meeting and February 12, 2024, regular meeting will be distributed with the March 11, 2024, council packets.

Ms. Sharpe reported three additional deposits since reports were presented for the meeting. Thursday's deposit was \$6,111.30, Friday's deposit was \$504.50, and today's deposit was \$6,864.76 making the total cash availability \$147,558.67.

Ms. Sharpe included copies of the cash disbursements in the packets.

Ms. Still said she thought Council had voted to take the remaining amount of the Ringley Expansion Project fund and put it toward paving. Mr. Mooney and Mr. Sturgill remember a discussion. Mr. Sturgill thinks that it needs to be brought up at the voting meeting along with dissolving the Ringley Park Committees. Ms. Still asked to have that put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Attorney

Mr. William Sturgill, Town Attorney, informed Council that he has been researching the legalities of driving golf carts in town. This was a topic of discussion at the last meeting. Mr. Sturgill said golf carts can be operated on a designated public highway and need to be travelling at 25mph or less and can cross highways at an intersection designated with a golf cart crossing sign. Carts must be operated by a driver with a valid driver's license and a slow-moving vehicle emblem and be operated on public highways between sunrise and sunset. There are additional limitations put in place by the code but not all are applicable for the town. Mr. Sturgill said the governing body of any town may also impose ordinances for the town regarding golf carts. Ms. Still asked about lawn mowers being used as a vehicle. Mr. Sturgill will need to look into that.

Mr. Mooney reminded Council that Mr. Sturgill is working with Chief Mullins to update the town ordinances and is working on a Resolution for the ambulance service. Mr. Sturgill said he is working on that, and Mr. Mooney asked if Mr. Sturgill could provide a sample Resolution for Council to review.

New Business:

There was no new business to discuss.

Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

Closed Session:

There was no reason to go into Closed Session.

Council Comments and Concerns:

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

Joe Still - Mr. Still gave his condolences to Cathy Sharpe, and said he appreciates all the town workers and all they do. Mr. Still said that last week was a bad week for everyone, and he wants everyone to be careful and he appreciates everyone.

Sharon Still - Ms. Still appreciates all the work everyone does to have the town run as well as it does and is looking forward to improvements in the town to provide a safer, more beautiful, enjoyable town. Ms. Still reminded everyone the Great American Cleanup is coming up in April.

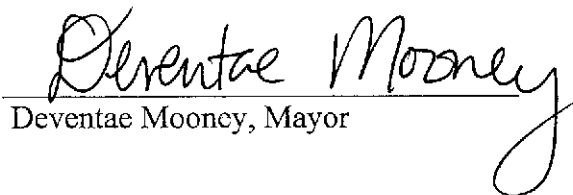
Deventae Mooney - Mr. Mooney echoed Mr. Still’s condolences to Ms. Sharpe and told her they had all been thinking of her and praying for her. Mr. Mooney appreciates all the work of the employees and thanked Chief Mullins for being proactive and staying on top of everything. Mr. Mooney congratulated the Lady Spartans and wished them luck in the state championships.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully Submitted,


Attest: Cathy Sharpe, Clerk


Deventae Mooney, Mayor