

**Council Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**June 10, 2024 - 6:30 p.m. - 502 Front St. E, Coeburn, VA**

**Attendees:**

Upon roll call, the following members of council were present: Carles Collins, Jeff Kiser, Deventae Mooney and Sharon Still. Joe Still was absent. Jimmy Williams - Town Manager, Cathy Sharpe - Clerk/Treasurer, and William Sturgill - Town Attorney, were also present.

**Call to Order:**

Mayor Deventae Mooney called the meeting to order. The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were done earlier during the public hearing meeting.

**Public Expression:**

There was no Public Expression.

Public Expression was closed.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

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

**Reports:**

*Fire Department*

Mr. Logan Jackson, Assistant Chief, gave the monthly activity report for May 2024. There were 30 calls, 170.5 - man hours, 156 personnel responding and 380 training hours.

Sharon Still asked if the fire department would be able to clean the streets and parking lots before the Fourth of July celebration. Mr. Jackson said the department would do their best to get that done.

Mr. Jackson reported the department is waiting to get back a truck that is having lights installed. They will then send the other truck for striping and lights. He said both trucks will be equipped with fire and EMS equipment.

Assistant Chief Jackson asked if the land in Riverview was still being leased. He said he heard that the lease was returned to the town. Mr. Jackson said he would like to hold that lease in his name if the land could be leased. Ms. Still asked what he would use it for. Mr. Jackson said the section used for training purposes would still be used for training and he would fence part of it for

livestock. Ms. Still asked him to bring a plan to Council for discussion. Mr. Jeff Kiser expressed concern regarding a dual-purpose lease allowing both training and livestock pasture. Mr. Jackson said the lease in his name would be for the part separate from the training area. Mr. Jackson said there is a problem with people going onto the property on 4 wheelers and dirt bikes and he is worried this is a liability to the town. He said the fire department has placed no trespassing signs on the property, and there needs to be a gate as well. Mr. Kiser said there is a tenant on the property and doesn't want to deny the tenant access to the property. Mr. Jackson would like to know the dimensions of the property. Mr. William Sturgill, Town Attorney, will need to look into that.

### Police Department

Mr. Travis Mullins, Police Chief, distributed copies of the police report for May 2024 to Council. He said the call volume was slightly down from last month. The biggest change for the month was there were calls that were more time consuming, tickets, arrests, and criminal papers served were up. Chief Mullins said he is proud of the performance of the police department this month.

Mr. Mullins reported there is a new problem with bear sightings and people trying to see and feed them behind Marty Shopping Center. He said he has worked with the Game Warden to take care of the bear problem.

Mr. Mullins reported there was an issue with one of the vehicles and upon inspection from the dealership, he was told it is a common issue with that vehicle. The vehicle will be out of the shop in a couple of days.

Chief Mullins is going through applications and background checks to narrow down choices for new officers and hopes to make a decision in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Jeff Kiser informed Chief Mullins that there is a lot of activity at the parks after they are closed and asked for increased patrols of both parks. Mr. Kiser also asked for increased presence in the area because there are lots of speeders on that road. Mr. Mooney said that he was sent a message and video of a full-size car in the park and asked to have the entrances chained off so vehicles cannot be driven down into the park.

Mr. Kiser discussed camping within municipalities. He said there is a case concerning that issue that is possibly going before the Supreme Court. Mr. William Sturgill said that the case has been selected to be tried, but there has been no verdict yet. He said that is a significant issue in the area. Mr. Mooney said that had been discussed along with no soliciting and panhandling. He asked Mr. Sturgill and Mr. Mullins to get together and work on these issues. Ms. Still said that the camping issue will need an ordinance that specifically says camping is only allowed in designated camping areas. Mr. Sturgill said that the City of Bristol has an ordinance that specifically says no camping on sidewalks and agrees that specific wording will need to be used, but it will be good to wait until the Supreme Court ruling is in.

### Water Plant

There was no representative from the water plant present. Mr. Jimmy Williams informed Council that a tank went down last week. He said Mr. Markham contacted the company to replace it and it should be here on Thursday.

### Town Manager

Mr. Jimmy Williams, Town Manager, gave Council a breakdown of the PSN costs that were questioned on the accounts payable Council reviewed at the last meeting.

Mr. Williams contacted VRSA and spoke with a gentleman that used to be an OSHA inspector. The gentleman now works with VRSA to do training with towns about safety, flagging, and equipment use. This representative will do an inspection in the town as if he were still with OSHA to identify areas that need work. He will also be able to set up training classes. Mr. Williams said that there will be no cost for this. Ms. Still said she would like everyone to be OSHA certified. Mr. Matthew Robinette, a town employee, said that training is needed, and safety protocols need to be followed at the town shop. Mr. Williams said someone with VRSA should be coming by the week of the June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Still mentioned that the bridge to the park needs a step going down into the park put in place or a ramp because it is quite a step down into the park. Mr. Kiser said the wood is not fixed to the bridge and feels like there are stability problems. Matthew Robinette said the bridge is made from free floating lumber that slides into two traps. Ms. Still suggested checking to see if the wood is shrinking and causing issues.

Ms. Still asked Mr. Williams if he had any response to the certified letters he sent homeowners. Mr. Williams said he spoke with a homeowner who is in the process of contacting the family to try to get their property cleaned up. The homeowner wants to know what the town will charge her to do the cleanup. Mr. Williams is working with Mr. Livingston to price that job. Mr. Mooney asked about the property on Seventh Street that is caving in. Mr. Williams said he will work on contacting that homeowner. He said the house on May Avenue is owned by people that live in Florida and they are involved in an eviction process to remove the current tenants. Mr. Williams sent a letter about the property in Kiser, and it was returned undeliverable. Mr. William Sturgill suggested resending it to the address the Commissioner of the Revenue has on file. If that doesn't work, he suggested a public notice before taking any further action. Mr. Charles Collins said that Mr. Israel Hamilton has purchased lots adjoining the property and may know who to contact.

Ms. Still asked about the status of the bridges being stained. Mr. Kiser said the Job Corps assured him that the bridges will be stained this month.

Mr. Williams said that Hillcom installed some equipment at town hall. There is some work to be done to get approval from the railroad to allow Scott County to bore where they need to. The equipment at town hall will allow communication with the tower. Mr. Williams said Hillcom will be up and running soon. Ms. Still said having that going will allow internet for cameras to be

installed at the pool, park, depot and parking lot areas. Ms. Still would like to have the cameras accessed by the police department and allow them to get alerts.

Ms. Still asked if the new seat for the lifeguard stand at the pool had been ordered. Mr. Williams has not ordered that yet.

Ms. Still saw that the City of Norton received a large sum of money from the casino, and the county will receive a large sum as well. She asked if the county was going to divide that up among the towns and if Mr. Williams knew the plans for that money. Mr. Williams said the county is not going to divide the money up. He said it will be spent on schools and roads. Ms. Still is wondering if the town can send a list of roads that need repaired. Mr. Mooney suggested asking for documentation of what the money will be spent on. Mr. Kiser said that it would be beneficial for the Mayor and Vice Mayor to be on the agenda for a Wise County Board of Supervisors meeting and ask the questions regarding how that money will be spent and if requests can be made to have roads in town repaired.

Ms. Still asked where the town is in the SOMA process. Chief Mullins said that he should receive the contract this week.

Ms. Still asked where the town is in the process of identifying lead and copper lines. Matthew Robinette said that there are thirteen more pages front and back of homeowners to call. Mr. Robinette is working on the list but has had to spend time on water line repairs as well.

Ms. Still has contacted Mr. Marcus Sartin and he is going to send an email to release the lease on the piece of property Logan Jackson is interested in leasing.

#### Public Works

There was no representative from public works present.

#### Lane Group

There was no representative from The Lane Group present.

#### Treasurer

Ms. Cathy Sharpe, Clerk/Treasurer, reported a posted cash balance of \$215,697.55 as of 6/7/2024. She reported \$58,879.77 in outstanding checks, accounts payable due in the amount of \$1,888.25 and interim accounts payable in the amount of \$98,815.70. After deducting the accounts payable due and outstanding checks, the reconciled cash balance for \$154,929.53.

Ms. Sharpe presented meeting minutes for May 13, 2024, regular meeting.

Ms. Sharpe reported two additional deposits since reports had been presented for the meeting. Friday's deposit was \$9,759.57 and today's deposit was \$7,214.90 making the combined cash availability \$171,904.00.

Sharon Still made a motion to approve the accounts payable due 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 the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

Sharon Still made a motion to accept the May 13, 2024, regular meeting minutes as presented. Deventae Mooney seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes. Jeff Kiser abstained.

#### Attorney Report

Mr. William Sturgill, Town Attorney, wanted to make Council aware of a change in the law taking place July 1, 2024, that was just announced by the Department of Labor pertaining to the Fair Labor Standards Act and overtime requirements. The salary threshold was set at \$35,568.00 and will increase to \$43,888.00. The threshold will increase to \$58,656.00 in January 2025 and will be updated every three years. Exempt employees making less than the set amount are eligible for overtime.

#### **Old Business:**

- A. Solid Waste Management Agreement - Mr. Mooney pointed out that the second bullet point of the agreement says that only cans provided by the town will be picked up. He and other members of the Council thought they discussed that and changed it to read that cans of a comparable size that can be handled by the truck could be used but the town was not responsible for any damage to the can. Mr. Mooney asked Mr. Williams to get with Mr. Sturgill to change the wording in that section of the agreement. Mr. Carles Collins asked about disposing of cardboard. Mr. Yusef Thornton, a town employee, said that if the cardboard is not in the can, it will not be picked up. The cardboard will need to be broken down and placed in the trashcan. Ms. Still said that it will take a little time, but this will be better for everyone.

#### **Closed Session:**

Deventae Mooney made a motion to enter into closed session in accordance with Virginia Code §2.2-3711 (A1) to discuss performance of Town of Coeburn personnel, and Code §2.2-3711 (A8) to consult with legal counsel pertaining to specific legal matters. Sharon Still seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

Immediately following closed session, Ms. Cathy Sharpe, Town Treasurer/Clerk, 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.

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

Carles Collins - Aye

Jeff Kiser - Aye  
Deventae Mooney - Aye  
Sharon Still - Aye

There were no actions resulting from Closed Session.

**Council Comments and Concerns:**

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

Jeff Kiser - Mr. Kiser said that the signs at the Farmers Market are placed too high for people to see and he would like to see those lowered. He reminded everyone of the upcoming Fourth of July parade and celebration.


Sharon Still - Ms. Still said that June 25<sup>th</sup> is Food Truck Day at the pool.

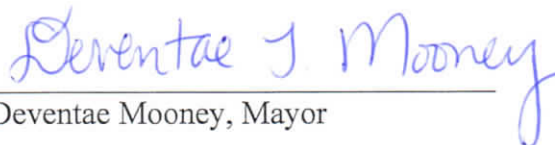
Deventae Mooney - Mr. Mooney had no comments or concerns.

**Adjournment:**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Attest: Cathy Sharpe, Clerk

  
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Deventae Mooney, Mayor