

Council Minutes
Special Called Meeting
September 23, 2024 - 6:30 p.m. - 502 Front St. E, Coeburn, VA

Attendees:

Upon roll call, all members of Council were present. 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. Mr. Joe Still gave the invocation. The group remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Deventae Mooney.

Public Expression:

There was no Public Expression.

Public expression was closed.

Approval of the Agenda:

Deventae Mooney made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Sharon Still seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes. Mr. Mooney withdrew the motion after realizing that reports were not on the agenda.

Deventae Mooney made a motion to add reports to the agenda before new business. Sharon Still seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

Deventae Mooney made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. 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, reported that it has been a busy time at the department and Officer Gross has completed a course and is now certified to be a field training officer. The DCJS audit went well. The department has been dealing with several thefts and has placed some charges for those and more charges and the press release will be done over the next couple of days. Chief Mullins commended the officers for their hard work handling the situation and recovering some

of the property. Chief Mullins attended the Special Needs Fall Ball and said it was good to represent the department there.

Water Plant

There was no representative from the water plant present.

Town Manager

Mr. Jimmy Williams, Town Manager, reported that there is a pump down at the Flatwoods Pump Station by Sheffield. The pump is beyond repair and Mr. Williams was sent a quote for a new pump and is waiting for other quotes for comparison. Ms. Still asked if this is a sewer pump and Mr. Williams confirmed that it is. Ms. Still asked if this would be a good time to look into getting a pump with a chopper. Mr. Williams said that is a possibility; the company will come out and look and it's possible that both pumps will need to be replaced at the same time. Ms. Still said she would like to get prices to replace the whole pump set up at the Flatwoods Station for a pump with a chopper. Ms. Still would like that information and see if there is any sort of aid or grant available.

Mr. Mooney asked if there was an issue with the Maytown Pump Station because he was told there was no water out there today. Mr. Jeff Livingston said that he received a call about 6 a.m. from a resident with no water. Mr. Livingston said that public works found and repaired a leak in the area.

Ms. Still asked Mr. Williams when Hillcom would be ready for camera installation throughout the town. Mr. Williams and Chief Mullins met with them but are waiting to hear back from them. Ms. Still is concerned about the continuing issue of people leaving items at the Farmers Market and she considers it to be littering. Mr. Mullins said the police department made a Facebook post about it and hopes that will help. He said Hill Com had another company that does cameras and is awaiting quotes of cameras from that company and another he contacted at the Executive Summit. Ms. Still said that there needs to be a sign advising of the fine for littering placed at the Farmers Market. Mr. Mullins said there is a camera facing Route 72 and the old Crooked Road, but it is not online. Once it is up and running there will be an opportunity to see its perspective.

Mr. Williams said that he left a message for Boyd's about the paving project and is waiting for him to call him back.

Mr. Mooney said Mr. Williams said the quote for paving the road to the track is \$19,400.00. This quote is for 97 tons of pavement at \$200.00 per ton. Mr. Mooney made a motion to authorize Boyd's Construction to pave the road leading up to the track and baseball field; not to exceed \$20,000.00 and paid with ARPA funds. Sharon Still seconded the motion. Mr. Jeff Kiser expressed concern that the ARPA funds are getting very low and is concerned that there won't be funds available for the sewer project. Mr. Mooney said that he was in a meeting with the PSA and was promised that if any cuts were necessary, they would be made on the PSA side and not the towns. Mr. Mooney said the town promised the school system that the project would be done, and he would rather spend that ARPA money than use the general fund. Mr. Kiser said that PSA may have said they'll make the project happen but are only responsible for 2,200 feet and the town is

responsible for the rest and is concerned about funding that. Ms. Still said the town did agree to this and if the town doesn't follow through and the county takes back control of the property, they could gate it off and no one would be able to use it. This would end use of the walking track, and the Peanut Football would need to be relocated so this must be fixed. The only options for funding are the general fund, ARPA or the Redi-Access account. There was another quote that was a little higher. Ms. Still asked Mr. Kiser where he would like to take the money from, and he responded that he would rather not do the project. Ms. Still asked if he had driven up the road to the track, and Mr. Kiser said he has not and will try to do so tomorrow. Mr. Mooney asked if all the reimbursements have been received for payments made to the ARPA fund. Ms. Cathy Sharpe, Treasurer, said those reimbursements have not been received. A roll call vote resulted as follows:

Carles Collins - Aye
Jeff Kiser - No
Deventae Mooney - Aye
Joe Still - Aye
Sharon Still - Aye

Public Works

Mr. Jeff Livingston, Public Works Supervisor, reported that a 2-inch water line was replaced on Plum Street, a setter installed on Crab Orchard Road, a meter removed from Martin Street, the pump was pulled in Cordertown and leaks repaired on Starla Lane and Chatham Street. The sewer line at the football field was jetted.

Mr. Livingston said that the line needs to be replaced in the area of the Maytown pump. The existing line is thin and cracks under pressure leading to frequent outages. Mr. Still asked how many feet of line need replaced. Mr. Livingston said he plans to measure the line this week. Mr. Matthew Robinette suggested running a 4-inch pipe. The pump is designed to run six times an hour and is currently running six times every four minutes. Mr. Kiser suggested contacting The Lane Group to see if there are grants available for projects under \$50,000.00. Mr. Kiser said that the line does need to be replaced with the 4-inch line because there are twenty-five or so potential home sites up that way.

Mr. Livingston said there were 125 work orders completed.

Ms. Still asked about the fire hydrant in Crab Orchard owned by the county that is below grade and asked Mr. Livingston if there are any plans for the county raising it up. Ms. Still suggested having the fire department call the county and discuss that.

The Lane Group

There was no representative from The Lane Group present.

Treasurer

Ms. Cathy Sharpe, Clerk/Treasurer, reported a posted cash balance of \$221,501.71 as of 9/20/2024. She reported outstanding checks in the amount of \$74,898.30, accounts payable due in the amount of \$54,076.00 and interim accounts payable in the amount of \$64,996.22. After deducting the accounts payable due and outstanding checks, the reconciled balance was \$92,527.41.

Ms. Sharpe informed Council the minutes from the September 9, 2024, regular meeting will be distributed in the October 15, 2024, Council packets.

Ms. Sharpe reported two additional deposits since reports had been presented for the meeting. Friday's deposit was \$15,039.43 and today's deposit was \$10,188.13. Ms. Sharpe reported \$15,000.00 of these deposits was State Fire Fund money and was transferred to the Fire Department account leaving a balance of \$102,754.97. In the amounts of \$15,039.43 (\$15,000 of this was State Fire Fund money and was transferred to the Fire Department account) and \$10,188.13 making the total cash availability \$102,754.97.

Mr. Jeff Kiser looked at the cash comparison report and was very concerned. Mr. Kiser warned everyone to be conservative and not buy anything that is not needed.

Mr. Williams informed Council that when the town converted to storing information in the Cloud, the lag time of Southern Software has increased. It takes much longer to complete any task now with the time to save information increased. Mr. Williams is going to look into purchasing a new server or see if there is a better way that is faster.

Attorney

Mr. William Sturgill, Town Attorney, discussed the changes to the ordinance about covering the windows of properties zoned as commercial to include all commercial buildings and not just the ones on Front Street. Mr. Sturgill asked if there needs to be any changes before voting at the meeting next month. He said it is difficult to include exceptions without changing the purpose of the ordinance. Mr. Kiser brought up residential homes that exist in a commercially zoned area. Mr. Sturgill had some concern about that, and said there needs to be some exceptions for residential properties. He said there could be some rewording to clarify that the ordinance is for commercial buildings. Mr. Kiser asked about decals that obscure windows. Ms. Still asked about how you define ample space. Chief Mullins suggested saying something measurable; for example, half a window needs to be uncovered. Mr. Kiser said there needs to be clarification that the clear portion needs to be a portion of the window that can be seen through on patrol and not covering the bottom of the window and leaving the top clear. Mr. Sturgill will go back and work on the wording and will present the updated ordinance at the next meeting. Mr. Mooney said there would be no need for a public hearing until the wording is updated on the ordinance.

New Business:

- A. Coeburn Police Department Personnel Policy to Reallocate Pay Structure - Chief Mullins worked with Mr. Jimmy Williams to reallocate the pay structure of the department and

was able to stay within the budget. Mr. Mooney went over the numbers with the group. Mr. Kiser said in the past Council has been approached with proposals like this and approved them and then it did not work out. Mr. Kiser said he thinks Chief Mullins is doing a great job and he trusts him when he says he is going to do something.

Mr. Jeff Kiser made a motion to change the pay journal from the budgeted amount to what is presented with changes. Ms. Still seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted as follows:

Carles Collins - Aye
Jeff Kiser - Aye
Deventae Mooney - Aye
Joe Still - Aye
Sharon Still - Aye

Closed Session:

There was no need to enter into Closed Session.

Comments and Concerns:

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

Jeff Kiser - Mr. Kiser asked everyone to tighten their belts and avoid unnecessary spending. He thinks all departments are doing a good job at this time. He said he is proud of the town of Coeburn. Mr. Kiser reminded everyone that tax money will be coming in and will provide a temporary increase in the town's bank balance. Mr. Kiser reminded everyone of the events coming up.

Joe Still - Mr. Still said he echoes what Mr. Kiser said.

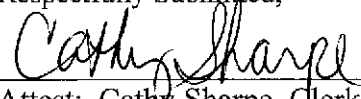
Sharon Still - Ms. Still thanked everyone that works for the town and said she appreciates everything they do. .

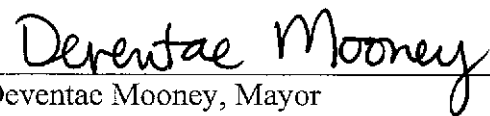
Deventae Mooney - Mr. Mooney had no comments or concerns.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully Submitted,


Attest: Cathy Sharpe, Clerk


Deventae Mooney, Mayor