

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 20, 2007
TOWN HALL, 156 E. JACKSON ST.
6:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mark Jenkins called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Jenkins
Vice-Mayor Tipton
Council Perry
Council Hurt
Council Cassell

ABSENT: Council Herron

III. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation: Father Rollie Hautz
Pledge of Allegiance: Chuck Newton, Sergeant at Arms

IV. PROCLAMATIONS, CONGRATULATORY RESOLUTIONS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS AND CONFIRMATIONS, ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS.

- A. Mayor Jenkins thanked Rhonda Stacey, Jessica Kaarlela and other town employees for painting the main office in the Town Hall.
- B. Mayor Jenkins complimented the Veteran's Day celebration and announced the plan to make the Veteran's Day celebration an annual event.
- C. Mayor Jenkins thanked Billy Egan for the Christmas tree.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Andy Miles cancelled due to illness and the communication was re-scheduled for the December 2007 meeting.

*Mayor Jenkins closed the Communications session and opened the Reports session.

VI. REPORTS

A. Manager

None

B. Police Department

Jason Cox said the Council members should have a copy of the police/K-9 report for the month of October 2007. Mayor Jenkins thanked Jason for cracking-down on speeding. Mayor Jenkins asked about litter citations and Jason explained that Bo had issued at least on of the littering citations. Mayor Jenkins complimented the Halloween function for Operation Cops & Kids. Jason replied that approximately 500 people visited the police department on Halloween and three organizations were involved. Mayor Jenkins thanked Jason for his work with the Christmas parade.

C. Public Works

Stoney Falin said the public works department had an average month for October 2007. Mayor Jenkins thanked the public works department for all their hard work.

D. Water Plant

Mayor Jenkins thanked the water plant employees for all of their hard work. Council Cassell asked why the water loss percentage was up on the report. Loretta Cruby said there was a water main break that lasted at least 14 hours. She also explained how walks will be taken along main water lines to check for leaks. She explained how the Grant was officially announced. She also mentioned that the water usage figures are now correct due to the correct report being produced by Rhonda Stacey. Stoney Falin said the line at the armory will need repair soon. Loretta Cruby mentioned the use of a leak detector.

E. Sewer Plant

None

F. Planning Commission

Council Tipton discussed the denial of a special use permit for the auction house on Highland St. She said a permit was needed for the Co-op signage. She discussed the need to find a copy of the building permit before any further action is taken to determine if the Co-op is a C1 or C2 business. She added that Greg McDavid should be attending the next Planning Commission meeting so things can be straightened out. She explained that the Planning Commission was working on the wording for the solicitors/peddlers ordinance, and that the parking lot had been left out. She said the Planning Commission was also working on the wording for the Liquor-By-The-Drink.

G. Street Committee

Council Cassell reported that he and Council Tipton went to Hales Chapel where Wallace W. Ross wants the road opened up. He explained that Wallace W. Ross also went to the location while they were there. Council Cassell suggested having a survey done and helping the Church if it were financially possible. He explained that the project probably exceeds the capabilities of the public works department. He also suggested the need to determine where the right-of-way is located. Mayor Jenkins said that James Langrel's land appears to be land-locked. He said there is need to determine exactly where the road is located. He explained that no decisions have to be made right away, but there is need to establish boundaries and determine where the streets are if there are streets in those areas. He mentioned that there were a couple of calls for street patching that the Street Committee needs to look at.

H. Sanitation Authority

Council Hurt said he talked to Rhonda Stacey about printing a report regarding how many people are on the sewer line and only pay a water bill. He said she would try to have the report by the next meeting.

I. Economic Development Committee

Council Tipton explained that the Economic Development Committee had met and discussed items, but no action was taken.

J. Water Committee

Council Cassell explained Stoney Falin's comments to him regarding water tap fees. Stoney Falin explained how the water tap fees do not cover the cost of all the materials and supplies, as well as labor costs. Council Cassell suggested having a public hearing regarding tap fees. Stoney Falin commented about going in the hole financially. Council Cassell recommended changing fees/figures. Mayor Jenkins suggested creating a packet for the next meeting.

K. Park Committee

None

L. Council Reports

Council Tipton discussed a phone call she received from Angie Sproles from the RADA regarding interest in working with the town towards economic redevelopment. She said Angie Sproles wants to meet next Tuesday or Thursday. Mayor Jenkins mentioned how they are experienced grant writers.

Mayor Jenkins thanked Council Cassell and Loretta Cruby for researching dump truck prices.

M. Treasurers Report

Cindy Coates reported that the tax tickets were mailed out at the end of October, and the town has already collected on many accounts. Council Cassell asked about business license payments. Cindy Coates reported that there are still a few businesses that have not paid. She said some have refused to submit the required documentation of gross receipts. Mayor Jenkins suggested that he and Cindy will contact businesses to try and meet with them personally to get the situation resolved. Mayor Jenkins explained that the town should avoid shutting down a business in town, but that it is unfair to the businesses that pay taxes while others are not paying. He also thanked Cindy, Rhonda and Jessica for all of their hard work.

Council Cassell complimented Cindy Coates' leadership relating to the surprise painting project. Cindy Coates explained how surprised she was by the paint job. Mayor Jenkins commented on how if other businesses are to be influenced to improve, the Town Hall should be no exception.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

*Mayor Jenkins closed the Public Comment session and opened the Consent Agenda.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the Consent Agenda with the amended meeting minutes.

VOTE:	Yeas,	5
	Nays,	None
	Absent,	Council Herron

- A. Approval of Town Council meeting minutes of October 9, 2007.
- B. Approval of Public Hearing/Special Called Meeting minutes for October 30, 2007.
- C. Approval of bill payments for October 2007 in the amount of \$119,413.31.

*Mayor Jenkins closed the Consent Agenda and opened the Unfinished Business session.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Dump Truck Purchase

Mayor Jenkins mentioned that a dump truck was budgeted for this year. Council Cassell distributed information regarding the dump truck and apologized for the item information not being in the agenda packet. He explained his research regarding the dump truck and detailed several of the best choices for the Council. He explained how the dump truck from GoodPasture would be available immediately because it is already on the lot of the dealership. He explained how another truck choice would have to be ordered and could take 60-90 days or longer for delivery. He explained that both trucks are comparable in price and build. He mentioned that Stoney Falin had requested a truck with electric torque. Stoney Falin remarked that the current dump truck used by the public works department can only be started by using ether. Stoney Falin mentioned that VDOT would install a plow on the truck. Council Cassell recalled how he had put a lot of time and cell phone minutes into researching the trucks. He said VDOT and a lot of other people are using Chevrolets. He mentioned Dillard preferred pricing and special pricing for the town. He also mentioned the Sanitation Authority paying half of the cost. Cindy Coates explained how \$1000/mo. is budgeted for the purchase of a truck. She suggested borrowing against a Certificate of Deposit at New Peoples Bank. Mike Carrico asked if

GoodPasture had a 2008 truck. Council Cassell explained that since emissions went up, GoodPasture could not touch the price on a 2008.

MOTION: Motion by Tipton, Seconded by Perry
To open discussion on the dump truck to the Council.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, None
Absent, Council Herron

Council Hurt explained that a big engine is needed to maneuver on the hills. The Council discussed the comparability of horsepower, torque, warranty, price, year, availability, brand and trade-in value of the truck options. Mike Carrico said the legal requirements have been met regarding bids and it is up to the Council to make a motion on a dump truck purchase.

MOTION: Motion by Tipton, Seconded by Perry
To purchase the Good Pasture dump truck.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, None
Absent, Council Herron

MOTION: Motion by Cassell, Seconded by Tipton
To borrow against a Certificate of Deposit for the dump truck purchase.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, None
Absent, Council Herron

B. Hiring of Park Engineering Firm

Mayor Jenkins explained how this item had been tabled from the last meeting to give the Council time to review all the bids that had been submitted. Mayor Jenkins said the park committee had made a recommendation towards one of the firms. Council Cassell discussed an individual who had mentioned pulling a contract that was signed giving legal authority to hire who they wanted and the Council would have no say in the matter. Mayor Jenkins suggested the issue could not be discussed during this section of the meeting. Council Tipton asked if the matter was between the Park Committee and the town. Council Cassell mentioned that he explained to the individual why certain actions were taken and that the individual was ok with the explanation. Mike Carrico said that he did not sign anything regarding the individual's claim.

MOTION: Motion by Tipton, Seconded by Cassell
For the Park Committee to secure Stapleton Landscaping Architecture and Lane Engineering as the park Engineer.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, None
Absent, Council Herron

*Mayor Jenkins closed the Unfinished Business session and opened the New Business session.

X. NEW BUSINESS

*Mayor Jenkins moved Joe Fuller to the beginning of the New Business session.

A. Joe Fuller

Mayor Jenkins thanked Joe Fuller for accepting the position as Grand Marshal for the 2007 Christmas parade. The Council received a communication from Joe Fuller regarding The Wilderness Road. He explained the tourism concept of The Wilderness Road: Virginia's Heritage Migration Route. He passed out brochures and mentioned the website. He explained how he is going to the General Assembly in January to request funding for 1000 signs. He is hoping to gain \$250,000 for signs. If denied, he will seek federal grants. Mayor Jenkins commented on the importance of tourism. Joe Fuller explained how he is not asking for funding, just a resolution.

MOTION: Motion by Perry, Seconded by Tipton
To pass The Wilderness Road resolution.

VOTE: Yeas, 4

Nays, None
Absent, Council Herron

B. Steve Whiten

The Council received a communication from Steven Whiten regarding a division of property across from the quarry pond. He explained that he wants to divide the property into two lots. He passed out a map of the property. The Council discussed the layout of the property and examined the map passed out by Mr. Whiten. Mike Carrico said the division does not hurt anything.

MOTION: Motion by Cassell, Seconded by Tipton
To approve the subdivision of the property proposed by Steve Whiten.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, None
Absent, Council Herron

C. Overtime Amendment

Mayor Jenkins discussed the public works department being on call 24 hours a day. He suggested paying overtime for anything over 8 hours a day. He gave an example of a water line that had to be repaired at 2am. Council Cassell asked if the amendment would pertain to all hourly employees. Mayor Jenkins responded that the amendment would exclude the police department. Cindy Coates explained that shift times for the police department vary from 8 to 12 hours. Council Cassell gave an example of how AEP employees get at least 2 hours of pay, no matter how little time they work, when responding to emergency maintenance matters. It was recommended that the Personnel Committee look into the issue. The overtime amendment was tabled until the January 2007 meeting.

D. Proposal of Tobacco Tax

Tabled until the December meeting.

E. Main Street Applications

The Council discussed forming a Board of Directors for the Main Street project. Council Tipton asked Mike Carrico if they are working towards the articles of incorporation. Cindy Coates said the Board has to be appointed. Council Tipton explained that everyone needs to be thinking about people to appoint to the Board. She suggested that candidates should be dedicated and go to all the meetings. She suggested the Council be careful when electing people for the Board. Mike Carrico asked about Marion and Abingdon Main Street programs. He suggested getting a copy of their by-laws as a guideline. He explained that the by-laws need to be established before the articles of incorporation can be pursued.

F. Sandra Williams

The Council discussed the matter of Sandra Williams old water account.

MOTION: Motion by Cassell, Seconded by Tipton
To abate Sandra Williams water bill and follow procedure on Ivan Dockery's account.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, None
Absent, Council Herron

G. Concrete wall on Moccasin Ave.

Council Hurt explained that he has received complaints on the wall crumbling. He said there are kids walking by and the wall is leaning badly. Mayor Jenkins said he would make a request tomorrow to have VDOT inspect the wall to see if it is VDOT's responsibility. If it is not the responsibility of VDOT, the town will look into repairing the wall.

H. Dogs on ball fields

Council Hurt explained that some people are using the ball fields as a training ground for dogs and it is a sanitary issue. Mayor Jenkins mentioned that signs are posted. Council Hurt suggested putting signs on the fences. Council Perry mentioned that signs are in place that require people to clean up after their dogs. Mayor Jenkins suggested asking officers to address the issue. Council Hurt suggested the police department patrol the park more often. Council Perry suggested different hours for the park for different seasons of the year. Mayor Jenkins explained that the High School has designated areas for specified uses. Mike Carrico mentioned changing the park hours and suggested the Park

Committee make a recommendation. Council Hurt mentioned moving the little grey building beside the ball field to the area between the ball fields.

I. American Legion

Mayor Jenkins discussed how nice the Veteran's Day celebration was and how those involved with the American Legion did such a nice job. He suggested donating some funds to the American Legion.

MOTION: Motion by Hurt, Seconded by Perry
To donate \$150.00 to the American Legion.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, None
Absent, Council Herron

Council Perry explained that the donation would not be a reimbursement because the town requested them to come. She felt they should be compensated in some way. Cindy Coates said there is money in the donation section of the budget available.

XI. ADJOURN

MOTION: Motion by Hurt, Seconded by Tipton
To adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, None
Absent, None

*Mayor Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.

Mayor Mark Jenkins

Town Clerk Jessica Kaarlela