

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF VINTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT 6:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE VINTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING LOCATED AT 311 SOUTH POLLARD STREET, VINTON, VIRGINIA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bradley E. Grose, Mayor  
Sabrina McCarty, Vice Mayor  
Laurie J. Mullins  
Michael W. Stovall

MEMBERS ABSENT: Keith N. Liles

STAFF PRESENT: Pete Peters, Town Manager  
Cody Sexton, Assistant Town Manager  
Susan N. Johnson, Executive Assistant/Town Clerk  
Mike Lockaby, Town Attorney  
Fabricio Drumond, Police Chief  
Tim Lawless, Deputy Police Chief  
Mike Caldwell, Police Sergeant

**The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00** p.m. The Town Clerk called the roll with Council Member Mullins, Council Member Stovall, Vice Mayor McCarty and Mayor Grose present. Council Member Liles was absent.

Roll call

**After a Moment of Silence, Council Member** Stovall led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

**Under upcoming community events/** announcements, Vice Mayor McCarty announced the following: April 8 - 8:00 p.m. – Jared Stout Band; April 9 - 8:00 p.m. – Jordan Harman; April 15 - 8:00 p.m. – The Frequency; April 16 – 8:00 p.m. – Star City Pianos – all at Rosie’s; Saturdays – 7:30 p.m. – open ice skating – Lancer Lot; Wednesdays – 6:30 p.m. - Hump Day Bingo; Thursdays – 6:30 p.m. - Trivia; April 8 - 6:30-9:30 p.m. – music by TJ Ellis; April 15 – 6:30-9:30 p.m. – music by Adam Markham – all at Twin Creeks Brewery and April 9 – 5:00-9:00 p.m. – HeRow Expo Car Show – Downtown Vinton; April 28-May 1 -Dogwood Festival - Carnival at Billy Byrd field, arts and craft show, crowning of the Queen at 12 noon - Municipal Building and the parade at 2:30 p.m. and April 28 – 12-2:00 p.m. – Pizza with the Police – New York Pizza. Sergeant Caldwell announced the DEA Drug Take Back Event on April 30 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Vinton Kroger.

**Vice Mayor McCarty made a motion to approve** the Consent Agenda as presented; the motion was

Approved minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of March 15, 2022; adopted

seconded by Council Member Mullins and carried by the following vote, with all members voting: Vote 4-0; Yeas (4) – Mullins, Stovall, McCarty, Grose; Nays (0) – None; Absent (1) - Liles.

Resolution No. 2482 appropriating funds in the amount of \$1,307.20 received for scrap metal to the Public Works budget; adopted Resolution No. 2483 appropriating funds in the amount of \$1,128,016 from the Capital Outlay Fund to the General Fund Expense accounts for approved American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds projects; adopted Resolution No. 2484 appropriating funds in the amount of \$54,755.00 from General Fund Revenues to the General Fund Expense accounts for personnel adjustments to match the current job market

**Under awards, introductions, presentations** and proclamations, Council Member Mullins read a Proclamation for National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Kathryn Sowers with the GFWC Woman’s Club commented on the pinwheel garden that was planted in front of the Municipal Building prior to the meeting with the assistance of the Police Department. Following additional comments by Ms. Sowers about the GFWC, statistics relating to child abuse and World Autism Awareness Day, the Mayor presented Ms. Sowers with the Proclamation.

**The next item on the agenda was the public** opening of franchise bids for a competitive cable franchise to operate a cable system to provide cable service within the territorial limits of the Town of Vinton. The Mayor asked the Town Clerk to open and read any bids that have been received for a Competitive Cable Franchise. The Town Clerk commented that only one bid was received from Shentel Cable Television, LLC (dba Glo Fiber) for the franchise as advertised and offered the sum of \$500.00. The Mayor next asked if there were any other persons desiring to submit a bid at this time. There being no further bids, the bidding was closed.

Bidding Opened

The Mayor next commented that later in the meeting Council will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed Ordinance to sell and grant one or more competitive cable franchises to operate a cable system to provide cable service within the territorial limits of the Town of Vinton, Virginia.

Bidding Closed

**The next item on the agenda was the** consideration of public comments regarding setting of the real estate, personal property and machinery and tools tax rates for calendar year

2022. The Mayor opened the Public Hearing at 6:22 p.m.

Opened Public Hearing

Cody Sexton first commented that the real estate assessment that occurred this past year showed an 8.55% increase for the Town. After removal of new construction, the increase becomes 8.03%. Pursuant to State Code, the required Notice of Public Hearing was advertised on March 3, 2022, which was 30 days prior to the Public Hearing. The current real estate tax rate is \$.07 per \$100.00 of assessed value and no change is being recommended for calendar year 2022.

Mr. Sexton next commented that the current personal property tax rate is \$1.00 per \$100.00 of the assessed evaluation of all personal property excepting there from household furnishings, and 50% or \$.50 per \$100.00 of the assessed valuation of one motor vehicle owned and regularly used by a disabled veteran, subject to certain qualifications and no change is being recommended for calendar year 2022.

Hearing no comments, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 6:24 p.m.

Public Hearing closed

**Council Member Stovall made a motion to adopt the Ordinance setting the real estate tax rate for calendar year 2022 as presented; the motion was seconded by Council Member Mullins and carried by the following roll call vote, with all members voting: Vote 4-0; Yeas (4) – Mullins, Stovall, McCarty, Grose; Nays (0) – None; Absent (1) - Liles.**

Adopted Ordinance No. 1042 setting the real estate tax rate for calendar year 2022

**Vice Mayor McCarty made a motion to adopt the Ordinance setting the personal property and machinery and tools tax rates for calendar year 2022 as presented; the motion was seconded by Council Member Mullins and carried by the following roll call vote, with all members voting: Vote 4-0; Yeas (4) – Mullins, Stovall, McCarty, Grose; Nays (0) – None; Absent (1) - Liles.**

Adopted Ordinance No. 1043 setting the personal property and machinery and tools tax rates for calendar year 2022

**The next item on the agenda was the consideration of public comments concerning the proposed issuance of bonds by the Town of Vinton in the estimated maximum amount of the bond is \$710,808 to pay the Town's share of costs of capital improvements to the Western Virginia Water Authority's regional wastewater treatment**

plant and costs of issuing the bonds. The Mayor opened the Public Hearing at 6:25 p.m.

Public Hearing Opened

Cody Sexton first commented that Council was briefed on this matter at their March 18, 2022 meeting. This loan is for our share of capital improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant owned by the Western Virginia Water Authority and it is contemplated that this loan would transfer to the Water Authority upon the transition of the Town's utility system on July 1, 2022.

Hearing no comments, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 6:26 p.m.

Public Hearing Closed

**Council Member Mullins made a motion to** adopt the Resolution as presented; the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor McCarty and carried by the following roll call vote, with all members voting: with all members voting: Vote 4-0; Yeas (4) – Mullins, Stovall, McCarty, Grose; Nays (0) – None; Absent (1) - Liles.

Adopted Resolution No. 2485 approving issuance of bonds by the Town of Vinton in the estimated maximum amount of the bond is \$710,808 to pay the Town's share of costs of capital improvements to the Western Virginia Water Authority's regional wastewater treatment plant and costs of issuing the bonds

**The next item on the agenda was the** consideration of public comments concerning approving an Ordinance proposing to sell and grant one or more competitive cable franchises to operate a cable system to provide cable service within the territorial limits of the Town of Vinton, Virginia. The Mayor opened the Public Hearing at 6:27 p.m.

Public Hearing Opened

The Town Attorney first commented that there is one incumbent cable operator (Cox) in the Town limits that has substantially built out their system. Other cable providers are allowed to petition Town Council for access to the rights-of-way in order to compete with them, which helps to ensure that there is some competition in terms of prices and service. Shentel (dba Glo Fiber) contacted the Town and asked us to advertise for bids, which is something they are allowed to do under State law. They submitted a bid that was just opened and the Town Attorney has been negotiating with them. This franchise is substantially similar to the existing franchise with Cox, which is again required by federal law.

The Mayor commented that although the action to be taken tonight may appear to be happening rather quickly, it has been going on for several months and Council has been briefed on the matter several times.

Hearing no further comments, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Public Hearing Closed

**Council Member Stovall made a motion to** adopt the Ordinance as presented; the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor McCarty and carried by the following roll call vote, with all members voting: Vote 4-0; Yeas (4) – Mullins, Stovall, McCarty, Grose; Nays (0) – None; Absent (1) - Liles.

Adopted Ordinance No. 1044 selling and granting a competitive cable franchise to Shentel Cable Television, LLC, dba Glo Fiber to operate a cable system to provide cable service within the territorial limits of the Town of Vinton, Virginia

**The next item on the agenda was to consider** adoption of a Resolution setting the allocation percentage for Personal Property Tax Relief (PPTRA) in the Town of Vinton for the 2022 tax year. Cody Sexton commented that the PPTRA was first established in 1988 as a statewide program to help combat the rising prices of vehicles. In 2004 and 2005, the General Assembly set a block grant amount that each locality receives and the Town's share of that grant is \$203,096. Each year with the assistance of the Roanoke County Finance Office, a calculation is done to determine how much of that grant gets allocated among the personal property of our citizens. This year the rate is 48.42%, which is in line with what we see in a number of other localities and is one percent different from Roanoke County as a whole.

**Council Member Mullins made a motion to** adopt the Resolution as presented; the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor McCarty and carried by the following roll call vote, with all members voting: Vote 4-0; Yeas (4) – Mullins, Stovall, McCarty, Grose; Nays (0) – None; Absent (1) - Liles.

Adopted Resolution No. 2486 setting the allocation percentage for Personal Property Tax Relief in the Town of Vinton for the 2022 tax year

Council Member Stovall commented on the grocery tax being currently debated in Richmond and what effect that could have on localities.

Mr. Sexton further commented that the 48.42% is not necessarily what the citizens should expect their relief to be, but the percentage used to calculate the discount applied to vehicles valued at \$20,000 and lower.

**The next item on the agenda was to consider** adoption of a Resolution appropriating funds in the amount of \$146,335.16 to pay off the loan with Signature Public Funding Corp. for the 2019 Ravo 5-iSeries Compact Sweeper. Cody Sexton commented that the Master Equipment Lease can be paid off twice a year in April or October. Staff

recommends paying off this debt in April so the full benefit of the debt payments will be realized on July 1, 2022 at the beginning of FY2023. It also helps to make the budgeting a little cleaner than waiting for until October. This pre-payment will be approximately \$38,000 in the budget as on-going operational savings.

Council has been provided a revised Resolution reflecting some changes to the debts and credits, but not to the amount. There were comments on the cost of a street sweeper and how it helps on our stormwater management best practices.

**Council Member Stovall made a motion to** adopt the Resolution as revised; the motion was seconded by Council Member Mullins and carried by the following roll call vote, with all members voting: Vote 4-0; Yeas (4) – Mullins, Stovall, McCarty, Grose; Nays (0) – None; Absent (1) - Liles.

**The next item on the agenda was to consider** adoption of a Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to execute Amendments to Memoranda of Understanding with the Town of Vinton for the Vinton/East County Hotel, Vinyard Station, and Gish Mill redevelopment projects. The Town Manager commented that Council was briefed on this matter at a previous meeting and Roanoke County has already taken formal action.

The three MOUs were created between the developers, the Town and Roanoke County to assist these three projects with some financial challenges based on real estate assessments. Reimbursements are based on the increased property values for each site, but when the formulas were originally created, we were unable to determine the timing of the re-assessments after the construction is completed.

Sometimes the re-assessments are behind until the building permits are fully closed. The first instance of this was the Vinyard Station project. In January we realized this was the first year that they could request reimbursement. When we did the calculations, the re-assessment did not capture the new building valuation.

We contacted Roanoke County to request that they amend all three MOUs to delay each of the projects an additional year. The Performance

Adopted Resolution No. 2487, as revised, appropriating funds in the amount of \$146,335.16 to pay off the loan with Signature Public Funding Corp. for the 2019 Ravo 5-iSeries Compact Sweeper

Agreements are not changed, it is just the mechanism for which we claim the property assessment increases and return that back through the Roanoke County Economic Development Authority to the developer.

Council Member Stovall asked about the estimated start date on the hotel. The Town Attorney responded we are looking at late summer to break ground.

**Vice Mayor McCarty made a motion to adopt** the Resolution as presented; the motion was seconded by Council Member Mullins and carried by the following roll call vote, with all members voting: Vote 4-0; Yeas (4) – Mullins, Stovall, McCarty, Grose; Nays (0) – None; Absent (1) - Liles.

**The Town Manager gave Council an update on** the utility system transfer with the Western Virginia Water Authority. Currently, our attorneys are reviewing the Transfer Agreement and an asset inventory is being prepared. Some additional public communications will go out in the near future targeting dates in May to start opening some valves to release Carvins Cove water into the Vinton system. All of the larger water users in the Town have been contacted so they are aware of the transition. There will be a phase where Water Authority employees will start responding to some of our water calls for breaks to shadow our staff. Also, we are starting to plan some activities for the final signing of the Transfer Agreement in early June. All of the billing has been worked out and we will be communicating that to our customers with an insert in their last two bills from the Town.

**Under reports from Council Committees, Cody** Sexton first commented that the Finance Committee met on March 15, 2022. The Committee reviewed the items that were already approved under the Consent Agenda.

With regard to the January 2022 Financial Report Summary, the Revenues and Expenditures are still in a very good position. In looking at our two operational funds, the General Fund and Utility Fund, revenues are coming in higher than where we would expect them to be year-to-date and expenditures are running lower. All of our major sources of revenue are also running fairly strong at this point in the year. The Committee will meet

Adopted Resolution No. 2488 authorizing the Town Manager to execute Amendments to Memoranda of Understanding with the Town of Vinton for the Vinton/East County Hotel, Vinyard Station, and Gish Mill redevelopment projects

next on April 11<sup>th</sup> and will review the February financial reports. With seven months of history, we should be able to do some really solid projections of where we will end up at year end and determine if we need to do any mid-year appropriations to start targeting those projections.

Mr. Sexton next commented that the cash position is materially unchanged from December with \$10.1 million cash on hand, \$4.6 million restricted and \$3.3 million in investments. We would expect those numbers to be roughly unchanged until we start receiving the two largest collections of personal property in May and real estate in June.

**Vice Mayor McCarty made a motion to approve** the January 31, 2022 Financial Report as presented; the motion was seconded by Council Member Mullins and carried by the following vote, with all members voting: Vote 5-0; Yeas (5) – Liles, Mullins, Stovall, McCarty, Grose; Nays (0) – None.

Approved the January 31, 2022 Financial Report

**The Mayor commented on the success of the** Senior Expo on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and the Route 24 Bike/Ped Plan Community meeting held on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Chief Drumond made comments on the success of the Coffee with a Cop held on March 31<sup>st</sup> at Bojangles.

**Council Members commented on the YouTube** video of the State of the Town, the Route 24 Bike/Ped Community meeting and Our Daily Bread, one of our local Vinton restaurants.

**Vice Mayor McCarty made a motion to adjourn** the meeting; the motion was seconded by Council Member Mullins and carried by the following vote, with all members voting: Vote 4-0; Yeas (4) – Mullins, Stovall, McCarty, Grose; Nays (0) – None; Absent (1) - Liles. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Meeting adjourned

APPROVED:



Bradley E. Grose, Mayor

ATTEST:



Susan N. Johnson, CMC, Town Clerk