

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF VINTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT 6:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 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
Keith N. Liles
Laurie J. Mullins
Michael W. Stovall

STAFF PRESENT: Pete Peters, Town Manager
Cody Sexton, Assistant Town Manager
Susan N. Johnson, Executive Assistant/Town Clerk
Jeremy Carroll, Town Attorney
Andrew Keen, Finance Director
Fabricio Drumond, Police Chief
Tim Lawless, Deputy Police Chief
Anita McMillan, Planning & Zoning Director
Nathan McClung, Assistant Planning & Zoning Director
Fayula Gordon, Associate Planner

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00

p.m. The Town Clerk called the roll with Council Member Liles, Council Member Mullins, Council Member Stovall, Vice Mayor McCarty and Mayor Grose present.

Roll call

After a Moment of Silence, Cody Sexton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Under upcoming community events/ announcements, Vice Mayor McCarty announced the following: every Wednesday – 6:30 p.m. – Bingo; every Thursday – 6:30 p.m. – Trivia – every Friday and Saturday night – Live Music - Twin Creeks Brewery; December 9 – Christian Quesenberry Band and December 10 – 369 Music – all at 8:00 p.m. at Rosie’s; December 12-23 – Monday-Friday – 1:00-3:30 p.m. – Open Ice Skating and December 10 and 17 – 8:00 p.m. – Open Ice Skating, all at the Lancelot; December 10 – 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Holiday Craft Pop Up – Farmers’ Market. And December 10 – 9:00-11:00 a.m., December 17 – 9:00-11:00 a.m. and December 22 – 9:00-11:00 a.m. – Festival of Trees – Vinton War Memorial. Vice Mayor McCarty also commented on the success of the Christmas Parade

Under requests to postpone, add to or change the order of agenda items, the Town Manager requested to add Item 6 under Section K, Items Requiring Action, to consider a Resolution to support a funding request for improvements to I-81.

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

Approved minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 15, 2022 meeting

Under awards, introductions, presentations and proclamations, the next item on the agenda was the introduction of Ginny Rhodes, Records Manager. Following comments by Deputy Chief Lawless and Ms. Rhodes, the Mayor and Council welcomed Ms. Rhodes to the Town.

Chief Drumond next recognized Officers Grant Shepherd and Brandon Charlton for their heroic actions during a call for service on August 7, 2022. The Mayor and Council made comments and congratulated the two Officers.

The next item on the agenda was the consideration of public comments concerning the proposed amendment to the Town of Vinton's FY 2022-2023 budget to appropriate funding for the Capital Fund and the projects budgeted therein from the Utility Fund balance in the total amount of \$2,984,236.25. The Mayor opened the Public Hearing at 6:19 p.m.

Public Hearing Opened

Cody Sexton commented that the negotiations and ultimate transfer of the Utility System to the Western Virginia Water Authority resulted in the Town being able to keep its Utility Fund balance. These funds were revenue generated over the years from the Utility System that were deposited into the fund balance in surplus of the year's operations. We had estimated that the remaining fund balance would be approximately \$2.5 million for us to use primarily for capital projects.

As we have moved through the first five and a half months of the fiscal year and have begun closing out the books on the Utility Fund by giving refunds and issuing any remaining bills, we have come to a good point to see where the fund balances are going to end up. The Resolution before Council will allow us to transfer \$2,984,236.25 from the Utility Fund into the Capital Fund. Later in the year, Council will be asked to take final action to close out the remaining balance after the completion of the two ongoing projects.

Hearing no public comments, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 6:22 p.m.

Public Hearing Closed

Council Member Liles 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 5-0; Yeas (5) – Liles, Mullins, Stovall, McCarty, Grose; Nays (0) - None.

Adopted Resolution No. 2524 amending the Town of Vinton’s FY 2022-2023 budget to appropriate funding for the Capital Fund and the projects budgeted therein from the Utility Fund balance in the total amount of \$2,984,236.25.

The next item on the agenda was to consider adoption of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 62, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, and Section 62-1, Definitions, of the Vinton Town Code. Nathan McClung commented that this section governs the abatement of overgrowth on private property. The amendment of the definition of property expands it to also mean the area between the private property line to the curb line, improved portion of roadway or the centerline of any alley or unimproved street. Having this definition refined will allow for the Code to match current practices and policies that are already in place in both the Planning & Zoning and the Public Works Department and the way they are enforced. Overall this current practice requires the abatement of the overgrowth within reasonable areas of the right-of-way.

Council Member Stovall made a motion to adopt the Ordinance as presented; the motion was seconded by Council Member Mullins and carried by the following roll call vote, with all members voting: Vote 5-0; Yeas (5) – Liles, Mullins, Stovall, McCarty, Grose; Nays (0) - None.

Adopted Ordinance No. 1048 to amend Chapter 62, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, and Sec. 62-1, Definitions, of the Vinton Town Code

The next item on the agenda was to consider adoption of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 10, Animals, Article III, Animals Other Than Dogs and Cats, Sec. 10-97, Fowl, Chickens and Other Domestic Birds, of the Vinton Town Code. Fayula Gordon commented the Town has received approximately 11 inquiries from residents over the past year requesting to have chickens. The main restriction of the Code was the requirement of one (1) acre of land, which a lot of our residents would not be able to meet. Upon research we found that the Town had the most restrictive requirements and decided to make these amendments to remove the one (1) acre requirement. We also made additional changes to make sure it would not disrupt other neighboring properties.

Ms. Gordon next commented the major changes are the requirement that the pen has to be 15 feet from neighboring property lines, approximately 40 feet from any adjacent residential dwelling and a minimum of three feet behind the rear property building line. The amendments also state that no rooster may be permitted at any time and the definition of “pens” was expanded to include the coop itself and to increase the size of the pen to 128 square feet maximum. Also, we kept the restriction of only allowing six (6) chickens. There is an application for a permit and a one-time fee of approximately \$35.00. The pens have to be inspected before they are allowed to have chickens and we still have a strict standard of care to make sure everyone is keeping up with proper procedures. Any violation from the Ordinance can be reported and individuals can have their permits revoked.

Council Member Liles 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 5-0; Yeas (5) – Liles, Mullins, Stovall, McCarty, Grose; Nays (0) - None.

The next item on the agenda was to consider adoption of a Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Roanoke and the Town of Vinton for the City of Roanoke’s Glade Creek Stream Restoration Project. Anita McMillan commented as a follow-up to the Council briefing on November 15, 2022, the project will involve five (5) Town-owned properties within the City limits. They have requested Council action early because the tree clearing needs to be done before April 1, 2023 and the pre-construction for the meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2022. Staff has been working with the Town Attorney on the Agreement since last year and we will continue working with Roanoke City and Roanoke County personnel on the project. The sixth parcel, which is located at the Glade Creek Greenway Phase 2A, will be handled separately because the Town has an easement on the property.

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 5-0; Yeas (5) – Liles, Mullins, Stovall, McCarty, Grose; Nays (0) - None.

Adopted Ordinance No. 1049 to amend Chapter 10, Animals, Article III, Animals Other Than Dogs and Cats, Sec. 10-97, Fowl, Chickens and Other Domestic Birds, of the Vinton Town Code

Adopted Resolution No. 2525 authorizing the Town Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Roanoke and the Town of Vinton for the City of Roanoke’s Glade Creek Stream Restoration Project

The next item on the agenda was to consider

adoption of a Resolution dissolving the Economic Development Committee and Public Safety Committee and establishing a new Community Development Committee. The Town Clerk commented that Council was briefed at their November 15, 2022 meeting regarding the current four Council Committees: Finance, Economic Development, Public Works and Public Safety. Town Staff recommends dissolving the Public Safety Committee and referring any public safety items to the Public Works Committee or the Highway Safety Committee; dissolving the Economic Development Committee and establishing a new Community Development Committee. The new Community Development Committee will fulfill a need for a Committee to review items from the Planning & Zoning and Community Programs & Facilities and the Office of Economic Development. At the organizational meeting on January 3, 2023, Council Members will be appointed to the three Committees.

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 5-0; Yeas (5) – Liles, Mullins, Stovall, McCarty, Grose; Nays (0) - None.

Adopted Resolution No. 2526 dissolving the Economic Development Committee and Public Safety Committee and establishing a new Community Development Committee.

The next item on the agenda was to consider a

motion to cancel the December 20, 2022 Council meeting. The Town Manager commented that since there are no urgent or pressing items to come before Council on December 20th, he recommends cancelling the December 20, 2022 Council Meeting.

Council Member Liles made a motion to cancel the December 20, 2022 meeting; the motion was seconded by Council Member Stovall and carried by the following roll call vote, with all members voting: Vote 5-0; Yeas (5) – Liles, Mullins, Stovall, McCarty, Grose; Nays (0) - None.

Cancellation of December 20, 2022 meeting

The next item which was added to the agenda

was to consider adoption of a Resolution in support of the application for and funding of Interstate 81 Southbound widening between Exit 137 and Exit 128. Cody Sexton commented that Town Staff was contacted last week concerning a proposed application that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) was planning to discuss at their meeting today and tomorrow to move forward to fund a gap in the widening of the I-81 project.

Between Christiansburg and Exit 150 in Daleville, there is only one remaining nine-mile section (southbound from Exit 137, the Wildwood Road to Exit 128 at Ironto), that would not have a widening project in the entire 32 mile length. Between funding from the region, Smart Scale and grant funding from the I-81 Commission everything else has been funded. At the request of CTB Member Ray Smoot and in coordination with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Salem District and Roanoke County transportation staff, Council is requested to adopt this Resolution in support of this project.

Council Member Mullins made a motion to adopt the Resolution as presented; the motion was seconded by Council Member Stovall and carried by the following roll call vote, with all members voting: Vote 5-0; Yeas (5) – Liles, Mullins, Stovall, McCarty, Grose; Nays (0) - None.

The Town Manager commented on the Code RED Emergency Notification System that was launched last week and expressed appreciation to Debbie Adams for the news article and to Julie Tucei, Project Coordinator. The Garthright Bridge maintenance project continues after modifications for the Thanksgiving break and upcoming modifications for the Christmas break.

The Town Manager next commented on the new traffic signals that were installed at the Hardy/By-Pass, Vinyard/Hardy and Niagara/Hardy intersections last week. The next step is to have a traffic engineer properly program them so they are all synchronized together. In addition, at the January 3, 2023 meeting, Staff will be making a presentation and recommendation to Council for the replacement and addition of Opticomms at all of our intersections. Details will be shared at that meeting and Deputy Fire Chief Campbell will be present to provide some additional information on the advantages and benefits of having these installed.

With regard to the Walnut Avenue project from th5th Street to the Town limits, we are through the most difficult phase and the Town Manager expressed appreciation to the citizens for their patience and understanding. This project is going to be a great improvement once it is completed and will change this entrance into Town to make it safer for pedestrians and existing traffic to flow through this critical intersection.

Adopted Resolution No. 2527 in support of the application for and funding of Interstate 81 Southbound widening between Exit 137 and Exit 128

Council Members commented that it had been a good year in the Town and are looking forward to see what lies ahead; the success of the Christmas Parade; a recent event for special needs students at the Vinton Moose Lodge that the Police Department participated in and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

The Mayor commented on the success of the Town and the entire Valley this year, the recent Regional Legislative Luncheon and the Community Church Service on November 20, 2022 and the Christmas Tree lighting and Parade and wished everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Council Member Mullins made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Council Member Liles and carried by the following vote, with all members voting: Vote 5-0; Yeas (5) – Liles, Mullins, Stovall, McCarty, Grose; Nays (0) - None. The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

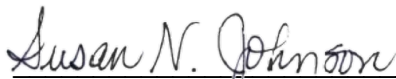
Meeting adjourned

APPROVED:



Bradley E. Grose, Mayor

ATTEST:



Susan N. Johnson, CMC, Town Clerk