

TOWN OF SCOTTSVILLE

**Town Council
Working Session**
Monday, July 9, 2007
Victory Hall
401 Valley Street
Scottsville, Virginia

Mayor
R. Stephen Phipps

Town Council
Nancy E. Gill
James P. Hogan
Jeannette E. Kerlin
Robert E. O'Halloran
John R. Snoddy
Craig N. Stratton

MINUTES

Mayor Phipps called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Ms. Kerlin, Mr. O'Halloran, Mr. Snoddy, and Mr. Stratton. Ms. Gill arrived at 7:35 p.m., and Mr. Hogan was absent. Also in attendance were Town Administrator Clark Draper, Town Attorney James Bowling, and Town Clerk Amy Moyer. The items discussed were as follows:

Planning Commission Report: Ms. Kerlin reported that the Food Lion preliminary site plan application was continued to the next month because one member had not received all the materials; consideration of John Koski's request to purchase an adjacent right-of-way was also deferred. Mr. Stratton inquired regarding the size of the Food Lion sign. Ms. Kerlin noted that the applicant offered to create a computer enhancement to see how the sign would look. Mr. Draper stated that the applicant was entitled to a 12-foot sign, but the ARB recommended the sign be scaled back to 10 feet.

Streetscape/Drainage Improvement Project Report: Mr. Draper reported that Jack Hodge had communicated to him that two crews would be on site the next day, with plans to finish the storm drain and water connections by the end of the week. He stated that the status of the Main Street work order was in question, as VDOT had decided to use its own crew to do the storm drain installation. Mr. Draper reported that design work for accoutrements would be put out to bid, rather than by work order. Mr. Stratton asked what surplus would remain if the Main Street utilities were not done by work order. Mr. Draper stated that the remaining \$400,000 in grant funds could be used for sidewalks, trees, crosswalks, etc. Ms. Kerlin asked whether the contractor would face damages for not completing the project within the 180 days allowed by the contract; she also noted damage to 501 Valley Street and 358 Valley Street. Mr. Bowling stated that the bid bond and retainage should be held until the punch list is complete. Mr. Draper stated that storm drain and a drop inlet on the west side of Valley Street and new water connections on the east side remained.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Draper reported that the new communications tax had not been calculated in the FY 2008 budgeted; this correction reduced the \$18,000 deficit to \$10,000. He noted that the \$100,000 loan for the streetlamp purchase had been repaid to the general fund.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Phipps reported that Bob Warring was scheduled to evaluate timber on July 25. He commented that the parade went well, under the circumstances, and he liked the 10:00 a.m. start time.

Government Services Committee Report: Mr. Snoddy reported that the committee discussed trash options. He commented that a tag program would be difficult to implement with a small administrative staff, and the option of eliminating the trash service had received mixed reviews. He reported that the committee maintained its recommendation that the fee increase to \$28, with a smaller fee increase for those who met the county's criteria for real estate tax relief, as well as a litter control fee for all businesses who were currently exempt for excessive volume. In response to Ms. Gill's query regarding a pay-per-bag system, Mr. Snoddy stated that an article regarding the City of Charlottesville's implementation said that the gain was far overshadowed by increased administrative costs. Mayor Phipps expressed his preference for the town to discontinue trash service to eliminate the administrative hassle. Ms. Kerlin commented that the committee had reviewed an opt-out system with a list of approved haulers, but this option was not well received. Mr. Bowling reported that the warrants would have to be refiled for the non-payment cases which were erroneously nol-prossed by the court. Mr. Bowling noted other methods to collect delinquent fees. Mr. Stratton commented that fears of a trash problem could be allayed with a fine for allowing trash to accumulate. Further action regarding the sanitation fee was deferred pending the outcome of legal proceedings. Mr. Snoddy later reported that a committee member had commented that the percentage of transient occupancy receipts allocated to tourism expenditures was too high.

Public Safety Committee Report: Mr. Stratton reported that the Fourth of July parade went well, noting that campaigning politicians caused some delays. He stated that this was the last year the fireworks would be lit with a railroad flare; a safer method would be used next year. Ms. Kerlin commented that a tree in Dorrier Park obscured the view of the fireworks display. Mr. Stratton asked whether a time could be organized for youths to play basketball at the community center, as police had stopped them from entering the facility through an unlocked door. Mr. Stratton reported that two assaults occurred on July 4, and radio communications were problematic due to the lack of a repeater.

Architectural Review Board Report: Ms. Gill reported that repairs to 115 Moore's Hill had commenced, and ARB members thought that the proposed Food Lion sign was too large.

Tourism Committee Report: Mr. O'Halloran reported that he was working on copy for the Landmarks book. He stated that the Tourism Committee should work with the new events committee to make checklists for each event. Ms. Gill commented that she was especially concerned with the Batteau Festival. Mr. O'Halloran planned to attend a conference in Hampton in September. Mayor Phipps noted that gravel had been placed on the Levee Walk under the bridge, but the area was still stark. Mr. Stratton cautioned that the levee should be grass-covered, and stone could lead to erosion. Mr. O'Halloran reported that the new coffee mugs had been received.

Town Administrator's Report: Mr. Draper reported that a technician came to work on the air conditioning and found that the unit had been hit by lightning; he planned to submit an estimate and letter of explanation for insurance reimbursement. Mr. Draper reported that he had received a recommendation to consult a structural engineer regarding Cameron Crouse's building.

Town Attorney's Report: Mr. Bowling reported that he would assist Mr. Draper in seeking

reimbursement for traffic fines from the clerk's office.

Farmers' Market Grant Update: Mayor Phipps reported that he had met with Kent Ware regarding receipt of the \$99,000 grant; some paperwork was still outstanding. Mr. Draper reported that he was obtaining other estimates for the structure, as Buddy Spencer had recommended a building that was expensive and not much larger than the current tent.

Victory Hall Theatre: Ms. Gill planned to forward documents to Mr. Bowling regarding rental of the theatre. Ms. Kerlin asked that the Government Services Committee review any proposed rental. Mr. Stratton commented that there were not sufficient restroom facilities for event rentals. Ms. Gill explained possible arts uses that could be organized under the remodeling committee, with proceeds to benefit building maintenance.

Minutes – Working Sessions of April 9, 2007, and May 16, 2007; Regular Session of April 16, 2007, and Regular Session of May 21, 2007: Minutes were placed on the regular session consent calendar.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.