

TOWN OF SCOTTSVILLE

**Town Council
Working Session**
Monday, February 9, 2015
Victory Hall
401 Valley Street
Scottsville, Virginia

Mayor
Jesse B. Grove III

Town Council
Nancy E. Gill
R. Daniel Gritsko
Jeannette E. Kerlin
Elizabeth M. Knotts
Graham N. Prichard
Ronald L. Smith

MINUTES

Mayor Grove called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Gill, Mr. Gritsko, Ms. Kerlin, Ms. Knotts, Mr. Prichard, and Mr. Smith were present. Also in attendance were Town Administrator George Goodwin, Town Attorney James Bowling, and Town Clerk Amy Moyer. The items discussed were as follows:

Police Chief's report: Chief Robert Layman related that he learned today of an unreported larceny but no report has been filed yet. Officers have added the Van Clief Nature Area to their patrol routes. Ms. Knotts asked about the upcoming Scottsville Elementary 5K; Chief Layman will speak with the organizers about the required approvals from VDOT.

Chamber of Commerce report: Mr. Smith reported that the Chamber of Commerce has scheduled a general meeting for Tuesday, February 17.

Architectural Review Board report: Mayor Grove reported that ARB representatives met with the owners of 371 Harrison Street regarding exterior alterations to be discussed at the upcoming board meeting on February 12. Representatives also met on site at James River Brewery to discuss repainting and other plans.

Planning Commission report: Mr. Smith reported that Planning Commission recommends approval of the special use permit application for residential use at 501 Valley Street, with a five-year review. The Planning Commission found plans for the Van Clief Nature Area to be in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan.

Treasurer's report: Mr. Goodwin reported that cash flow is tight right now but on track for the year. Mayor Grove asked for a forecast through the end of the fiscal year.

Sheridan's Raid Commemoration: Ruth Klippstein spoke regarding the Scottsville Museum's event marking the 150th anniversary of Sheridan's raid on Scottsville. Activities include a visit from the Virginia HistoryMobile, reenactors, museum exhibits, and lectures to be held March 6 to March 8. Hundreds of volunteer hours have gone into planning the event, which has been supported by donations from businesses and community organizations. Ms. Klippstein asked the Town Council to consider a financial contribution towards the event costs. The appropriation was placed on the regular session agenda.

Farmers' Market: Ms. Knotts explained that controversy regarding resale at the market arose at the committee meeting, so they elected to come to Town Council for final approval before adopting the new policy. Mayor Grove noted that any vote would come at the regular session next week. Shannon Bostic, the market manager, has compiled a tentative contract and resale form, as well as community feedback. Ms. Knotts reported that the committee voted 10-2 in favor of the policy. Mayor Grove stated that the previous policy that goods must be grown by the vendor or purchased from the person who grew them was basically established by him, and the committee has now recommended a 75/25 rule.

Mayor Grove opened the floor for comments.

Jerry and Laura Jernigan of Buck Island Creek Farm, market vendors for six years, encouraged a more lenient resale policy. Mr. Jernigan said that the market dwindled when resellers were disallowed, and it is difficult to sell for the full market season from May to October without supplementing with other top-quality produce. Mr. Jernigan estimated that he grew 40 to 50 percent of what he sold last year.

Mr. Prichard agreed with the need for variety but expressed concern that consumers are being misled about the origin of resale products.

Ms. Knotts asked about determining origin for products bought at wholesale from the Amish. Mr. Jernigan said they cannot provide phone or email contact information for the resell form.

Mary Parham and Teddy Pitsiokos of Living Culture Farm spoke in favor of a producer-only market. Mr. Pitsiokos noted that they supply a variety of produce from April to Christmas. Mr. Pitsiokos said that the lack of a policy restricting the resale of wholesale produce dissuades vendors from coming here, and other area markets such as Nelson and Charlottesville are producer-only. Ms. Parham stated that it is difficult to attract high-quality vendors without a policy, and she asked that resale products be labeled honestly and fairly if allowed.

Eileen Morris of Buckingham commented that as a market customer she assumed that she was buying locally-grown produce from local farmers. She commented that reselling affects pricing and the ability of small farms to compete, and produce origin must be known for traceability and food safety.

Josh Peck spoke in favor of a producer-only market.

Bebe Williams, a previous market manager for the Chamber of Commerce, spoke regarding his experience with farm inspections and origin rules.

Jacyln Mahone of Mountain Dream Farm encouraged that resale be permitted in order to provide options for consumers. She stated that their resale products are clearly labeled, people mostly did not have a problem with it, and they are there because there is customer demand.

Nancy Bruce commented that 75/25 is generous, and she supports the move to a producer-only market. She noted the availability of locations such as the market across from Food Lion for resale vendors to set up.

Mr. Gritsko commented that there are successful vendors with different models, and he asked who decides what the market should be. Mayor Grove commented that the committee should be given deference.

Ms. Kerlin suggested adding a mailing address to the resell form for Amish suppliers without telephones or email. Ms. Bostic said that you may not know even the name of the farm or grower for produce from the Amish-Mennonite auction.

Mr. Gritsko encouraged accommodation or grandfathering for current vendors. Ms. Parham asked for a decision in time to attract vendors for the market season.

After further discussion, council members agreed to place the topic on the regular session agenda.

Mayor's report: Mayor Grove reported that he presented the Van Clief Nature Area plans to the Planning Commission and studied the cell tower lease. He and staff have spent a great deal of time preparing for the Albemarle Properties trial.

Town Maintenance Committee report: Ms. Knotts reported that the committee set March 28 as the date for the spring trash cleanup, worked on a weekly calendar for the maintenance employee, and asked Mr. Goodwin to send out letters regarding trash burning. Mr. Goodwin said he has talked with the property owner and the burner. Ms. Knotts related that the committee is working with Fred Oesch on the Butterfly Garden plan. Ms. Kerlin asked that the asphalt lip repair at her house be placed on the weekly maintenance list.

Tourism Committee report: Mr. Gritsko said the committee meets this week.

Arts & Culture Committee report: Ms. Gill noted the gallery opening at Focus this week. The committee has prepared a calendar of events for the year.

Public Safety Committee report: The committee did not meet this month.

Government Services Committee report: The committee did not meet this month.

Town Administrator's report: Mr. Goodwin reported that the Dollar General site owners are addressing a number of outstanding issues.

Town Attorney's report: Mr. Bowling reported that he has contacted the Charlottesville city attorney about special tax districts.

Noise Ordinance: The ordinance has been advertised for public hearing at the regular session.

Cell tower buyout proposal: Mayor Grove reported that he received a proposal, but he is not satisfied with it yet, as it leaves out sections from the previous lease that may be favorable to the town.

Completion of packet boat at Canal Basin Square: Mr. Goodwin will contact interested contractors. Tim Small is out of town until March 1.

SUP-14-01: Residential use in Commercial district, 501 Valley Street: This application has been advertised for public hearing at the regular session. Mayor Grove asked Mr. Goodwin to invite the applicant to attend to discuss whether commercial use is possible.

Amendments to Vehicle License Tax Ordinance: Mayor Grove noted that these technical amendments are necessary to conform to the county ordinance, as the town has voted to allow the county to collect the tax on the town's behalf.

Closed session: Mr. Gritsko moved that this council now meet in closed session for the following purposes: consultation with legal counsel pertaining to litigation with Albemarle Properties, LLC, regarding access easement for Van Clief Nature Area, as permitted by Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(7); personnel matters regarding farmers' market manager compensation, as permitted by Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(1); and personnel matters regarding a member of the Architectural Review Board, as permitted by Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(1). Ms. Knotts seconded the motion. The motion was approved, with Ms. Gill, Mr. Gritsko, Ms. Kerlin, Ms. Knotts, Mr. Prichard, and Mr. Smith voting in favor and none against.

Upon returning to open session, Mr. Smith moved to adopt a resolution certifying the closed session. Ms. Gill seconded the motion. The motion was approved, with Ms. Gill, Mr. Gritsko, Ms. Kerlin, Ms. Knotts, Mr. Prichard, and Mr. Smith voting in favor and none against. The following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, this council convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the council hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies.

Mr. Goodwin encouraged council members to look at the progress at the old F&M building.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.