

TOWN OF SCOTTSVILLE

**Town Council
Working Session**
Monday, May 11, 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, and Mr. Smith were present. Mr. Prichard arrived shortly thereafter. Also in attendance were Town Administrator George Goodwin, Town Attorney James Bowling, and Town Clerk Amy Moyer. The items discussed were as follows:

Remarks from Supervisor Dittmar: Scottsville District Supervisor Jane Dittmar related that she is not seeking reelection. She will help orient the new person especially on road projects. Ms. Dittmar reported on her attendance at a mayors and chairs meeting at TJPDC and learned about the state's withholding of local traffic fines. The Board of Supervisors passed a standing water ordinance to which she and Brad Sheffield objected because the ordinance seemed too comprehensive and not defined well enough, and this ordinance did not exclude the Town of Scottsville, whereas the town was excluded from regulations concerning nuisance vegetation.

Mayor Grove said they should seek the town attorney's advice on this, as it is unclear whether the county has the right to impose that kind of legislation on the town. Mr. Bowling commented that he is not familiar with the legislation, but the town should be able to pass opposing legislation if desired.

Ms. Dittmar reported on efforts to expand broadband access. She also suggested that the town write to Attorney General Mark Herring about the police car funding needs.

Police Chief's report: Police Chief Robert Layman reported that the Public Safety Committee reviewed the police department budget and discussed events. He explained that VDOT issues permits for events like the recent 5K saying that the Scottsville Police Department will work traffic and secure the event, with no input from the police department on the route, and people choose to run in ways that block traffic on several avenues through town. He emphasized the need for police department input into these events early in the process before permits are granted, because they do not have the funding for 5-6 officers to work 5-6 intersections.

Ms. Gill noted that the town passed an ordinance concerning special events several years ago. Mayor Grove suggested notifying VDOT that permits should not be granted without prior town approval. Mr. Goodwin said that Chief Layman and the town office are supposed to sign off on applications before VDOT issues the permit, and the Scottsville Volunteer Fire Department has makes such a request for the annual Fourth of July parade certifying they will have litter pickup,

uniformed officers, etc., whereas the 5K was planned before seeking town approval. Mayor Grove asked Mr. Goodwin to write to VDOT about this.

Ms. Knotts asked if volunteers can monitor intersections or if police officers must do so. Chief Layman replied that in order to be insured they have to be traffic certified, and the organizers provided volunteers at some intersections who did not know how to direct traffic. Chief Layman outlined concerns with the chosen route. Mr. Gritsko suggested that the town set recommended routes and estimate costs for those routes, as they would like to do things like this from a tourism perspective. Chief Layman agreed. Chief Layman noted that the help of the Sheriff's Office reserves makes the Scottsville Fourth of July parade possible, while the Crozet Fire Department gets its volunteers certified in traffic control. Mr. Goodwin related that Brandon Shelton of Payne Paving is a certified instructor and is willing to train a group in traffic control; he will set this up once a list of interested volunteers is compiled. Chief Layman explained how changing the route of the Fourth of July parade to return via Harrison Street would decrease the number of intersections and open up the road sooner, decreasing the inconvenience to through-travelers and ensuring that emergency vehicles can get through, but the fire department has not been receptive to this suggestion in the past. Chief Layman suggests Harrison Street be used as the route for the Christmas parade as well.

Chief Layman also reported that the committee discussed the potential police car grant, and he met with Mr. Goodwin and Perry Hickman of USDA about this today.

Mr. Smith expressed appreciation for the state trooper working radar on Saturday morning. Chief Layman said that town officers are trying to do occasional mornings as well, but it is difficult with only the three of them.

Mr. Gritsko asked about the boat landing so far this year. Chief Layman related that county police, state police, and DGIF are making an effort to patrol the river and would like to attend the June 15 meeting to discuss plans for this.

Chamber of Commerce report: Mr. Smith reported that the chamber is orienting its new board members. A business-after-hours event is scheduled for May 20 at James River Inn.

Architectural Review Board report: Mayor Grove reported that the board considered improvements to the beer garden at James River Brewery, which may be complicated by floodplain regulations. No action was taken because the board has not received sufficient information, nor has the brewery secured the necessary building permits and surveys. The ARB is following deteriorating buildings in the historic district, including the Doll House and 135 Warren Street. Ms. Kerlin asked about enforcement options. Mayor Grove outlined the options: demolition at the owner's expense; make repairs, charge the owner, and place a lien on the building if he does not pay; or go to court to request the imposition of penalties. Ms. Kerlin commented that she certainly does not want to see the building demolished. Mayor Grove agreed that the ARB hopes for an option that would save the building.

Planning Commission report: Mr. Smith reported that the commission did not meet this month.

Treasurer's report: Mr. Goodwin reported that they are doing fairly well for the year. They will end where expected if cell tower check and the county flood control reimbursement come through. The cell tower payment is expected the third week of June. Mr. Goodwin will follow up with the county this week.

Mayor's report: Mayor Grove related that aside from enjoying all the events this past month, especially the Art Walk and the bluegrass at the farmers' market, he has been spending most of this time on the Van Clief Nature Area, including corresponding with DCR and drafting bid forms and contract documents. He met with Hurt and Proffitt and the VCNA committee about the project scope, and he is awaiting DCR approval and final plans. They are soliciting DBEs and small businesses. Mayor Grove hopes that they are on track to take bids very soon.

Tourism Committee report: Mr. Gritsko reported that the Young African Leaders Initiative is interested in visiting Scottsville again on July 11, and Ms. Gill has agreed to facilitate their visit in his absence. An intern from UVA is working on the VCNA master plan, with a possible public meeting on the plan in July or August. Accessibility issues are unresolved, and he is soliciting input on this. He hopes to open the Monacan Trail this summer with community help.

Town Maintenance Committee report: Ms. Knotts reported that the Butterfly Garden has been turned over to the Boys and Girls Club, and the kids have been planting and pulling weeds. They have a plan for a possible gazebo if funding is available. The committee is considering three litter cleanups per year, and they will be working by Mink Creek on Saturday. Ms. Knotts also noted that the farmers' market opening went well, and market manager Shannon Bostic is doing a great job.

Arts and Culture Committee report: Ms. Gill reported that the first Second Saturdays went well, with thanks to committee members Claudia Pinto, Elizabeth Liebermann, Kristen Freshwater, and Michelle Gagliano. This event will be held monthly through December. Ms. Gill reviewed the lineup for this year's Jammin' on the James concerts.

Government Services Committee report: Mr. Prichard reported that the committee discussed its history and how best to be of use. The committee will next meet on Thursday, June 4.

Public Safety Committee report: Ms. Kerlin noted that Chief Layman covered the committee's discussions in his report.

Town Administrator's report: Mr. Goodwin reported that he met with a county planning commissioner and the fire department regarding the acquisition of land to expand the station. He expressed interest in the broadband initiative. Mr. Goodwin noted the contribution of volunteers from the Methodist Church in extending the litter cleanup into Buckingham. The new heat pump has been installed at the police station. FEMA has proposed new maps reflecting levee accreditation.

Ms. Gill asked for an update on the leak downstairs. Mr. Goodwin replied that a contractor will look at it tomorrow. Ms. Gill noted that she has complained about this issue for several years.

Ms. Kerlin asked about the special trash pickup. Ms. Moyer replied that the special pickup is scheduled for May 20.

Mr. Goodwin suggested that events like the 5K use VCNA so that the run can be held without using the police department.

Town Attorney's report: Mayor Grove noted that the final order in the Albemarle Properties case is with the judge but not filed yet. Mr. Bowling said that the appeal period starts when the order is signed; he will follow up on this tomorrow.

Completion of packet boat at Canal Basin Square: Mayor Grove related that Mr. Goodwin received the plans and specifications from Tim Small in March, and Lithic Construction has indicated an interest, but they have not taken bids. Mr. Goodwin stated that he has three interested parties, and he asked if he should ask these contractors for bids or advertise first. Council members agreed to solicit bids from the identified interested parties.

FY 2016 Budget: The budget has been advertised for public hearing on May 18.

Recreational Trails Program grant amendment: Mayor Grove asked the council to ratify his signature on the grant amendment reflecting the increased project costs, noting that the effect of this is to commit the town to 20 percent of what they spend under the grant. This was placed on the regular session agenda.

USDA Grant/Loan for police car purchase: Mayor Grove confirmed that Mr. Goodwin has proceeded with pursuing the USDA funding. He asked Mr. Goodwin to coordinate with Jane Dittmar on the possibility of additional OAG asset forfeiture funds.

No smoking corridor on Valley Street: Mr. Gritsko related that Revolution Health Center is looking at relocating to the former Dollar General location and has asked the town to consider an ordinance or dialog about creating a non-smoking corridor between the town parking, the clinic entrance, and VCNA to protect patients and encourage healthier lifestyles. Mr. Bowling stated that he does not know of any authority to regulate smoking on the sidewalk, but a business can do so on its own premises. Ms. Knotts noted that the Smokehouse Grille has successfully discouraged smoking in front of its entrance. Several council members expressed reservations about the restricting smoking, particularly in light of the revenues the town receives from cigarette taxes. Mr. Gritsko encouraged a continued dialog on the topic.

Closed session: Ms. Knotts moved that this council now meet in closed session for the following purposes: personnel matters regarding staff evaluations, as permitted by Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(1); and personnel matters regarding appointment of a member to the Architectural Review Board, as permitted by Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(1). Mr. Smith 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, Ms. Kerlin moved to adopt a resolution certifying the closed session. Ms. Knotts seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was conducted. 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.

Upon a motion by Ms. Gill, seconded by Ms. Kerlin, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.