

TOWN OF SCOTTSVILLE

Town Council
Regular Session
Monday, September 16, 2013
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
Robert E. O'Halloran
Ronald L. Smith

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Grove called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
3. ROLL CALL of Town Council – Town Clerk Amy Moyer called the roll. Ms. Gill, Mr. Gritsko, Ms. Knotts, Mr. O'Halloran, and Mr. Smith were present. Ms. Kerlin was absent. Also in attendance was Town Administrator George Goodwin.
4. CONSENT CALENDAR
 - 4.1. Approval of Agenda
 - 4.2. Financial Report for August 2013
 - 4.3. Minutes – Working Session of June 10, 2013
 - 4.4. Minutes – Regular Session of June 17, 2013

Upon a motion by Mr. O'Halloran, seconded by Mr. Gritsko, the consent calendar was approved.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Grove reported that the new police car has arrived. Mayor Grove related that Community Day was a wonderful first-time event with 43 organizations represented, and he thanked Ms. Gill for organizing and originating the event. Ms. Gill recognized Brian LaFontaine as her partner in the event. Mayor Grove noted that a James River cleanup was held. He announced that the Yancey School Work Group will seek input on other uses and programs at a meeting to be held September 21, the Artisan Festival is planned for September 29, the Hamner Theater will present *As You Like It* on September 20 and 21, and the Scottsville Museum is planning a spirit walk featuring historical figures.
6. PUBLIC FORUM

Judy Brown introduced Kate Zirkle of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Virginia. Ms. Zirkle related that the organization has been in existence for 20 years, is based out of Charlottesville, and currently has three clubs in Charlottesville, one in Madison, and one in Orange. Scottsville would be the most recent addition to the family of clubs. Ms. Zirkle explained the Boy & Girls Club is a youth development organization dedicated to three major missions – on-time graduation, healthy lifestyles, and citizenship – with an after-school

program and a full-day summer program. They currently serve over 1,800 kids, with a multitude of programming and a fee of only \$35 per year. Ms. Zirkle stated that they work closely with Albemarle County Parks and Recreation and the schools, and children generally get to the clubs from school by school bus. They hope to open the Scottsville location in Summer 2014 with staffing for 50 kids and then grow in a purposeful and methodical way, with partnerships with the town and community organizations. Ms. Zirkle commented that they feel very supported in what they are doing, with an enthusiastic community response. This project has been under study by the board for 18 months. She asked the town to spread the word while they continue work on fundraising.

Mayor Grove thanked Ms. Zirkle, noting the tremendous need in the community for this kind of thing, as learned from the summer camp has been held here the past few years. He said there is a wonderful opportunity for a facility in the old Scottsville school, which takes approval from County Parks and Recreation, and he asked Supervisor Craddock to support this. His understanding is that preliminary fundraising is one-third of the way to the goal of funding club operations for 10 years.

Ms. Knotts asked where to direct donations. Ms. Zirkle replied that there will eventually be an annual campaign and fundraising drive, but the quiet phase is very active now trying to anchor the project with large gifts. Once everything is signed and sealed, then they will push the community for fundraising efforts here.

Ms. Knotts asked whether the population served is low income. Ms. Zirkle said that it is not all low income, there are some families that could pay more, but a good percentage are free and reduced lunch. Ms. Zirkle noted that many childcare options are hundreds of dollars a week, and the Boys & Girls Club is able to offer these services thanks to its many individual donors.

Mr. O'Halloran asked what geographical area will be covered. Ms. Zirkle replied that it will be tri-county – Buckingham, Fluvanna, and Albemarle. Ms. Brown noted they will cover the 24590 zip code. Ms. Zirkle invited members to visit the clubs in Charlottesville.

Claire Mellow, of 470 Harrison Street, read comments from her neighbors, Kit Decker and Maria Morrell, who were unable to attend. Mr. Decker and Ms. Morrell write that they and numerous residents have been affected by the extremely frequent, highly-amplified, distorted noise from James River Brewing. While they are aware of the flexibility and tolerance needed to live in a mixed-use area, they note that Scottsville's business district closely borders residential areas, and because of geography and architecture, noise carries easily. James River Brewing appears not to take this into consideration when they play amplified music several days a week, and the music can be heard town-wide. Ms. Morrell and Mr. Decker offer several suggestions to address the noise nuisance: turn down the music, offer acoustic music, sponsor a monthly concert series like Rhythm on the River, or reduce the concerts to one or two per week. Mr. Decker and Ms. Morrell express concern that the Town Council is favoring businesses over residents and voting constituents, noting that the viability

of a historic downtown depends on homeowners. They also ask that any council members who are shareholders in James River Brewing disclose that publicly.

Mayor Grove stated that the Town Council previously received a letter from these letter-writers, and he wrote to Ms. Morrell explaining what they are trying to do. They know about the concerns expressed by Ms. Morrell and others. The area where the brewery has the music is in a natural amphitheater that directs noise elsewhere. The town has been working with James River Brewing to attempt to mitigate the problem. The brewery agreed to not let the bands go past 10:00 p.m., to avoid the louder bands in future, and to install wiring to obviate the need for food vendors to run generators. Mayor Grove and Ms. Kerlin have arranged for the use of a decibel meter and plan to visit to take readings, as they have an ordinance specifying acceptable noise levels. Other localities have gone to a plainly audible standard, which is essentially a closing time ordinance, as no band could meet that standard, but the Town Council does have that under consideration. The brewery is looking into sound baffles to decrease the amphitheater affect. Mayor Grove assured that the Town Council is trying its best to do something about this problem, but yes, this council is business friendly, and the brewery is a substantial benefit to commerce in the town, so there are competing considerations. Mayor Grove stated that, as far as transparency is concerned, his wife owns \$5,000 of stock in James River Brewing, so he would consider recusing himself from any vote, but he does not vote unless there is a tie.

Ms. Knotts commented that the letter was well thought out, and it was nice to see someone offer solutions and ideas instead of just problems.

Ms. Mellow remarked that no one wants to see the brewery shut down, they are happy they are here, but they have had events like Rhythm on the River and Fridays after 5:45 without nearly the amount of loud music as from the brewery. She noted that Rhythm on the River was able to turn the speakers towards Buckingham without complaint.

Mayor Grove welcomed any suggestions from Duane Snow and Petie Craddock on how the county has handled similar issues. Mr. Snow said the county has worked on this for at least a year, with decibel limits after a certain time of night. Mr. Craddock commented that there was a limit of 100 feet from the property line, so property lines were of great confusion, so now they are looking at plainly audible inside of a house or building.

Mr. Gritsko thanked Ms. Mellow, Mr. Decker, and Ms. Morrell for expressing their concerns. The Town Council is not deaf to this issue, and he is interested in making businesses and residents happy.

Mr. O'Halloran remarked that this is the first time in his eight years on Town Council to hear that they are pro-business, he has heard quite the reverse, but they are just trying to do the right thing.

Scottsville District Supervisor William (Petie) Craddock expressed thanks for the invitation to Scottsville Community Day. He commented that all at the county are excited about the Boys & Girls Club, and it will be a good addition for all. Mr. Craddock noted the upcoming Scottsville District candidate debate. He then reported on recent county business including progress on development plans, stormwater management, the firing range, Hatton Ferry, water and sewer at Monticello, Route 53 road improvements, noise ordinance revisions, and approval of daycare for up to 12 children by right.

7. REPORTS OF CHARTERED COMMITTEES, PLANNING COMMISSION, AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

Planning Commission: No meeting was held.

Public Safety Committee: Mr. Smith reported that Spencer Marshall discussed closing earlier in light of safety concerns, a decibel meter is available if needed, the old police car was decommissioned, and a storage building will be purchased for police equipment with the \$350 donation from the Chamber of Commerce.

Architectural Review Board: Mr. O'Halloran reported that the ARB approved sign permits for the River Bend Day Spa and Tavern Novelties, gave tentative approval for renovations at 440 Valley Street after a site visit, and discussed the new Dollar General and renovations at James River Brewing. The board will hold a work session on design guidelines. A building survey is planned to evaluate maintenance issues.

Town Maintenance Committee: Ms. Knotts thanked Kim and Gene Yoder for their work on the memorial garden and Canal Basin Square. They plan to cut back the butterfly garden. A phone is being procured for the maintenance employee. There is continued interest in a dog park.

Tourism Committee: Mr. Gritsko recognized the organizers of the Community Day event. For the park project, they are looking at bridge designs related to the current grant, as well as doing preliminary work for a possible VDOT grant application. They will meet with the James River Association on October 10 regarding the park master plan. He has been speaking with the director of Ash Lawn about a possible partnership.

Government Services Committee: Ms. Gill reported that the committee has been asked to look into a tax issue.

8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mr. Goodwin reported that he met with Albemarle County regarding stormwater management, which would require an engineer on the town's part to calculate runoff, but the county is willing to take this on. Mr. Goodwin will meet with VDOT representatives tomorrow to look at grant eligible work, and Pat Groot will work on the grant application. Chief Layman is now looking for a storage building; they had been waiting for the Chamber of Commerce to work on the chain link fence first. He

picked up the police car today, and graphics will be applied in the next two to three weeks. James River Brewing is submitting incremental plans for exterior work, but the ARB has asked for a total master plan, which is not possible at this time. Tequila Sunrise is working on an ABC application.

9. ADJOURNMENT – Upon a motion by Ms. Gill, seconded by Ms. Knotts, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.